

# Licensing Committee

## 24 May 2023

### Boat Licence Conditions

#### For Decision

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr L Beddow, Culture and Communities

**Local Councillor(s):** N/A

**Executive Director:** J Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

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**Report Status:** Public

**Brief Summary:** To approve an amendment to the conditions attached to a specific Boat Licence in the Purbeck area to extend the time it can be operated in line with the lease from Dorset Council.

#### Recommendations:

- (1) That the Committee approve Wareham Boats Ltd to operate in line with their lease.
- (2) That any future amendments to Boat Licence conditions are delegated to the Service Manager for Licensing & Community Safety.

**Reason for Recommendation:** To allow the service to function in an effective manner.

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Boats and Boatmen licences have been issued in the former Purbeck and East Dorset under the Public Health Amendments Act 1907.

- 1.2 Section 94(1) of the Act states that “the local authority may grant upon such terms and conditions as they may think fit licences for pleasure boats and pleasure vessels to be let for hire or to be used for carrying passengers for hire, and to the persons in charge of or navigating such boats and vessels, and may charge for each type of licence such annual fee as appears to them to be “appropriate”. The full part of the Act is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 Boat licensing is primarily concerned with public safety and suitability of the person operating the hiring business. Checks are made on their competence and training, with further checks required by qualified boat inspectors for each craft to ensure it is safe.
- 1.4 There is currently one licence in Wimborne and five licences in Wareham.
- 1.5 There is no overarching Dorset Council Boat Licensing Policy in place, therefore all decisions relating to boat licensing sit with the Licensing Committee. A new policy is timetabled for introduction in 2024.
- 1.6 It is understood that decisions in the former Purbeck area were previously taken by officers. There are standard conditions that have been attached to any licence granted which included the condition that licences should run from 1 April (unless Good Friday is earlier) to 31 October.

## 2. **Amendment to Licence Conditions**

- 2.1 A new licence has been granted for Wareham Boat Hire who offer kayaks and other boats for hire from Wareham Quay. The licence has been granted, but the licence holder has requested that the term of the licence be extended to correlate with the lease agreement. The change would mean extending the licence term from the existing April to October period to a February to November period.
- 2.2 Officers are unable to locate any supporting documentation as to why the current restrictions were adopted in Purbeck.
- 2.3 Checks have been made on other local authority websites on the south coast and a common feature of them is that they are annual licences, which allows for the renewal of licences, rather than applying for a new licence every year.
- 2.4 Officers will include recommendations within the new policy when it comes before Members for consideration.

3. **Financial Implications**

There are no additional financial implications arising from decisions in relation to this report.

4. **Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications**

There are no negative implications arising from the recommendations contained within this report in terms of meeting the Council's climate change obligations.

5. **Well-being and Health Implications**

There are no additional well-being and health implications arising from decisions in relation to this report.

6. **Other Implications**

There are no other implications arising from the recommendations contained within this report in terms of impacts on other service areas within the Council.

7. **Risk Assessment**

HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

8. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

Not applicable.

9. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Public Health Act 1907 (as amended)

Appendix 2 Existing Model Conditions

10. **Background Papers**

There are no background papers for this report