



defra
Department for Environment
Food and Rural Affairs

Telephone: 08459 33 55 77

Web: www.defra.gov.uk

Date: 30th March 2011

Dear consultee,

Re: CONSULTATION ON MOVING INLAND WATERWAYS INTO A NEW CHARITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

1. We are writing to invite views on the proposed New Waterways Charity which will take over responsibility for the inland waterways that are currently managed on behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
2. Waterways deliver considerable and extensive benefits ranging from stimulating regeneration in our inner cities to the public enjoyment of the rich natural environment.
3. Our intention with the creation of a new charity is to enable the waterways' potential to be realised and their future safeguarded. The Government's proposals will further enhance the public benefits of inland waterways by widening the involvement of stakeholders. This reflects the Government's Big Society agenda of which the civil society is an important part. It will enable people to have a real say in how their local waterways are run.
4. This consultation document has been developed under the aegis of a Project Board which includes representatives from Defra, Her Majesty's Treasury, the Office of the Civil Society, British Waterways and the Environment Agency. We have also taken account of the wide variety of views expressed by stakeholders at focus groups, workshops and other meetings during 2010.
5. The following documents can be found on Defra's website:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/waterways-1103/>
 - Consultation document
 - List of Consultees
 - Impact assessment
6. We welcome views and comments from all of you with a potential interest in our waterways i.e. members of the public, waterway authorities, non-governmental organisations, local authorities and communities and user groups. We are making the consultation document available as widely as we can, including through community and other local websites. If you are aware of anyone or any organisation that might be interested in seeing and commenting on the consultation paper but is not listed, please let us know (via the contact point in below) and we will also seek their views.
7. While we welcome your views on any of the content of this consultation document we have included a number of specific questions which it would be helpful for you to



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



answer. We envisage holding workshops during the consultation period to consider stakeholders' views; we will also convene a meeting of the Inland Waterways Stakeholder Forum at which the detailed proposals will be discussed.

Responses

8. Please e-mail responses no later than 30 June to:

NWCresponses@defra.gsi.gov.uk

or if you wish you can send in your response by letter to:

**NWC Consultation Responses
Inland Waterways Team
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Area 3B Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR**

Tel: 0207 238 4807 / 4805

The consultation is in line with the Code of Practice on Consultations. This can be found at <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/better-regulation/consultation-guidance>

9. When this consultation ends we intend to put a copy of the responses in the Defra library at Ergon House, London. This is so that the public can see them. Also members of the public may also ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation.
10. If you do not want your response – including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that will not count as a confidentiality request.
11. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But because of the law, we cannot guarantee that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.
12. We will summarise all responses and place the summary on our website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/> will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not personal names, addresses or other contact details.
13. To see consultation responses and summaries, please contact the library at:

**Information Resource Centre
Defra
Lower Ground Floor, Ergon House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 2AL
Tel: 0207 238 6575
Email: defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk**

Please give the library 24 hours notice. There is a charge for photocopying and postage.

14. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to Defra's Consultation Co-ordinator, Area 7C Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, or email:

Consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk

15. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours sincerely,

Penny Bramwell,
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs