

ENVIRONMENT AND COASTAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION: 11 OCTOBER 2022

2023 FEES & CHARGES – KEYHAVEN RIVER

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 As part of the annual review of budgets, decisions are required to agree any non-statutory fees and charges for the forthcoming financial year.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The decisions over fees and charges have to be within the constraints of the overall financial framework and the medium-term financial plan. At the same time, decision making regarding the fees and charges must reflect a 'commercial' environment where there is a need to react swiftly and proactively to changing conditions. As a result, power to agree fees and charges, or to make formal arrangements for the setting of fees and charges within a Portfolio, is delegated to the Portfolio Holder.

3. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The fees for 2022 were not increased from the 2021 levels although some mooring holders had their moorings re-categorised due to their moorings being upgraded in 2021.
- 3.2 With increasing costs of goods and services it is proposed to increase our fees and charges in the Keyhaven River for 2023. The inflation rate indices are the Retail Price Index (RPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI). The latest RPI is currently 14.5% and the CPI 9.9%. It is therefore proposed that a below inflation increase of 8% for all fees and charges in 2023 is applied.
- 3.2 It is proposed to continue the scheme whereby those who set up and pay by direct debit receive a 10% discount on annual fees and, in addition, can spread the payments over the first 4 months - January to April. This will continue for a 3rd year for those who want to take advantage of this excellent discount on their 2023 mooring fees and charges.
- 3.3 In a change to the licence conditions, we will allow waiting list applications from those who do not live locally and therefore are not NFDC Council tax payers. There will be an additional surcharge of 50% for those applicants if they are allocated a mooring and this allocation will be temporary for a year at a time as, should an NFDC council tax payer be at the top of the waiting list for such a mooring then the following year it would be reallocated to that person. This will give non-NFDC council tax payers an opportunity to secure a mooring on the river on an annual, albeit temporary, basis. The licence conditions for river have been amended to allow for this change which will result in more moorings being let out on an annual basis.
- 3.3 Personal watercraft (jet skis):
Due to the protected environment of the Keyhaven river, these noisy and fast craft are unsuitable for use in the river. To discourage their use there will be a charge of £100 for each launch. This charge will apply *irrespective* of whether the person launching is a current Keyhaven river mooring holder. It is hoped that this will

discourage those who use these craft and that they then seek to launch and use them in more appropriate areas away from the unique habitat of Keyhaven.

4. PROPOSED CHANGES

- 4.1 That the 2023 Fees and charges for the Keyhaven River be increased by 8%. This is below the current CPI which is at 9.9%.
- 4.2 That a £100 launching fee be applied for each launch of a personal watercraft (jet ski), and that this fee is applied *irrespective* of whether the person launching is a Keyhaven river mooring holder.
- 4.3 That waiting list applications be accepted from non NFDC council tax payers and that, if allocated a mooring they pay an additional 50% surcharge for their annual mooring and that should an NFDC council tax payers apply for that mooring it will be reallocated at the end of that calendar year.
- 4.4 All proposed fees and charges for 2023 are detailed at Appendix A.

5. OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The £100 charge for personal watercraft (jet ski) will hopefully discourage their use in the Keyhaven river.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Any financial implications will have been and are reported as part of the ongoing Portfolio Plan and budgetary control.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER AND EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The £100 launching fee for personal watercraft (jet ski) will hopefully discourage their use and protect the wildlife and other water users in the Keyhaven river.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the fees and charges detailed in Appendix A be agreed and adopted from the dates shown.
- 8.2 That the Keyhaven river licence conditions and mooring regulations for 2022 as detailed at Appendix B of the report be adopted from 1st November 2022.

9. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT

I have agreed to the recommendation of this report.

Cllr Steve Davies

Date: 6th October 2022

Appendix A:

Keyhaven River Fees and Charges for 2023

Appendix B:
Keyhaven river licence conditions and mooring regulations from November 2022

For Further Information Contact:

David Hurd
Environmental Enforcement and Amenities Manager
david.hurd@nfdc.gov.uk

Claire Upton-Brown
Executive Head Planning, Regeneration and the Economy
claire.upton-brown@nfdc.gov.uk

Date on which notice given on this decision: 11 October 2022

Late date for call in: 18 October 2022