

**RIVER MOORINGS – ENFORCEMENT OF SHORT STAY MOORING RULES  
(Report by the Head of Operations)**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval to enter into an agreement with the Environment Agency for the Agency's river inspectors to take action when necessary, to ensure that craft using the District Council's short stay moorings do not overstay the time periods allowed.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The District Council provides a number of short stay moorings along the river Great Ouse for use by visitors coming to the area along the river system by boat.
- 2.2 Whilst most boat owners use these moorings for their intended purpose of day visits, there are a small number of local boat owners who live aboard boats that tie up at the moorings for days at a time in order to avoid paying residential mooring fees at local marinas. The effect of this is to deny use of the moorings by day visitors, discouraging them from stopping to visit.
- 2.3 The District Council does not have the resources to provide daily checks on boats using its moorings along the river and as a result, by the time we find out a boat is using a mooring as a long stay, it can take several days to issue the appropriate notices in order to get the boat moved.

**3. INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Environment Agency employ full time river inspectors, who are out and about on the river on a daily basis, ensuring that waterway rules are observed and that facilities are in good order. They have the power to move any boats that overstay on moorings owned by them and do so on a regular basis.
- 3.2 Following discussions with the Agency, a licence agreement has been drawn up that would enable the river inspectors to act on behalf of the District Council and ensure that boat users do not abuse the short stay mooring that we provide. The agreement is similar to those already in place between the EA and other councils.
- 3.3 The agreement does not require the Environment Agency to undertake the task, it simply permits them to do so when they see facilities being

