



An Inland Waterways Conservancy

Consider this ...

- 5,000 miles of waterways
- 30 plus waterway authorities
- Two principal government funded agencies providing the same service

Why?

We have a rare opportunity

- Waterways for Everyone
- British Waterways 'Third Sector' proposals
- Need to improve sustainable funding

A once in a generation opportunity to
consider something different

Why a conservancy?

- Rationalisation & sharing of resources
- Simplification of licensing
- Better customer representation

Something new not a takeover

What might it do?

- **Have a 'Core' mission**
 - safeguard, conserve and develop the inland waterway system, for public benefit ;
- **Provide a co-ordinated system**
 - a single navigation licence, best practice, economies of scale;
- **Be a focus for restoration and regeneration**

What might it do?...

- **Support public policy initiatives**
 - climate change, neighbourhood renewal, sustainable transport and healthy lifestyles;
- **Facilitate volunteering**
- **Reduce dependence on substantial government funding - in time**
- **Be a not for profit organisation**
 - able to seek additional funding from the third sector;

What might it do?...

- **Keep at arm's length from government**
 - potentially reducing funding vulnerability to the departmental fiscal cycle;
- **Be responsive to customers' needs**
 - include stakeholder representation within the management structure; and
- **Adopt strong governance**
 - be suitably diligent in the use of public and charitable funds.

Faster, Leaner, Fitter...

A Conservancy is not new...

- Thames Conservancy