

To Consider any Other Items of Business Which the Chairman Decides Should be Considered as a Matter of Urgency Pursuant to Section 100B (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972

Broads Authority
11 July 2014
Agenda Item No 28A

Guidance to Defra on the Appointment of Members to the Broads Authority
Report by Head of Governance and Executive Assistant

Summary: As part of the new appointment arrangements Defra officials are required to have a wide ranging discussion with the Chair of the Authority on the challenges facing the Authority and the skills, experience and expertise that the Authority would wish to see in successful candidates applying for vacancies in the next round of Secretary of State appointments. The Chairman has decided that this should be considered as a matter of urgent business so that he can have the benefit of the Authority's advice in advance of the meeting with officials.

Recommendation: That the Authority identifies the skills, experience and expertise that the Authority would wish to see in candidates applying for vacancies in the next round of Secretary of State appointments.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 As part of the OPCA-regulated appointments process, there is a requirement that before making recommendations to Ministers on appointments, Directors or Deputy Directors should hold strategic planning discussions with Arms' Length Body Chairs on the challenges the Bodies are likely to face in the 3 – 5 years after a vacancy is filled.
- 1.2 The Broads Authority will have two Secretary of State appointed vacancies to be filled in the 2015 appointments round, with replacements being appointed on 1 April 2015. These appointments will be to replace Stephen Johnson and John Sharpe. A Strategic Planning and Diversity meeting has been scheduled with Defra to discuss this matter immediately following the Broads Authority meeting on 11 July 2014 and the Authority needs to identify the skills, experience and expertise that it would wish to see in candidates applying for vacancies in the next round of Secretary of State appointments.
- 1.3 Defra will draw on information from the meeting to make recommendations to the Minister to go ahead with filling the vacancies coming up on the Authority.

2 Secretary of State Appointments

2.1 The Broads Authority Act 2009 amended the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988 concerning the appointment of members by the Secretary of State. It states:

“The members appointed under section 3(b) shall include persons appointed by the Secretary of State after consultation with such bodies appearing to him to represent the following interests, that is to say—

- (a) boating;
- (b) conservation;
- (c) farming and landowning;
- (d) land based recreation

as he considers appropriate, and in making such appointments the Secretary of State shall have regard to the desirability of maintaining an overall balance under this subsection (5) between those interests.”

2.2 The Authority has been asked to consider the following:

- the current skill structure and diversity of members;
- whether the Authority is equipped to meet future challenges and plans; and
- the skills, experience and expertise the Authority would like to see in candidates applying for vacancies.

2.3 Members are requested to provide their thoughts on the points in paragraph 2.2 above. To assist members in their deliberations over this matter, the primary expertise of the existing Secretary of State members is detailed in Appendix 1. However, members will want to have due regard to the wider expertise across the Authority provided by the members appointed from the local authorities and the Navigation Committee co-opted members when determining whether the Authority is equipped to meet future challenges and plans.

Background papers: None

Author: John Organ

Date of report: 7 July 2014

Broads Plan Objectives: None

Appendices: APPENDIX 1 – Primary Expertise of Current Secretary of State Members

Primary Expertise of Current Secretary of State Members

Kelvin Allen: Land and Water based Recreation (Angling)
Louis Baugh: Farming and Landowning
Sholeh Blane: Conservation and Environment (Education)
Jacquie Burgess: Environment and Community Engagement
Peter Dixon: Commercial Business, Boating and Environment
Phil Durrant: Commercial Business and Hydrology
Murray Gray: Conservation and Environment
Stephen Johnson: Heritage and Conservation
John Sharpe: Conservation
Peter Warner: Environment and Spatial Planning