

**Committee Membership and Member Appointments**  
Report by Chair and Chief Executive

**Summary:** This report seeks approval for the Broads Authority member appointments to committees and outside bodies until the Annual Meeting in July 2016.

**Recommendations:**

- (i) That the Broads Authority member appointments to the Planning, Financial Scrutiny and Audit, Navigation and Local Access Committees, as set out in paragraph 1.2 of this report, be confirmed for the period until the Annual Meeting in July 2016.
- (ii) That the appointments to outside bodies and the two Lead Members as set out in Section 2 of this report, be confirmed for the period until the Annual Meeting in July 2016.

## **1 Committee Membership**

- 1.1 The membership of committees and external appointments for the forthcoming year, are formally reviewed at the Authority's Annual Meeting. This year the Authority has seven new members: two new Secretary of State appointees, John Ash and Matthew Bradbury; three new local authority appointments, Gail Harris, Paul Rice and Vic Thomson and two new Navigation Committee appointments James Knight and Michael Whitaker. With new members accounting for one-third of the membership there is an opportunity to make changes to reflect the skills and experience of individual members and the strategic direction of the Authority.
- 1.2 This report has been prepared by the Chair of the Authority and the Chief Executive, and the Vice-Chairman of the Authority and Chairs of the Planning, Financial Scrutiny and Audit and Navigation Committees have all been consulted on the memberships and the following proposals are recommended.
  - 1.2.1 **Planning Committee**  
In considering the appointments to the Committees it is advantageous that local authority members sit on the Planning Committee to enhance the link with local residents. It is therefore recommended that Ms Harris, Mr Rice and Mr Thomson be invited to join the Committee.

### 1.2.2 **Financial Scrutiny and Audit Committee**

Mr Durrant's term of office as a Secretary of State Member comes to an end in March 2016. It is recommended that Mr Baugh be invited to join FSAC in place of Mr Durrant, to provide continuity over the next year when the Authority may need to consider the impact of further reductions in National Park Grant.

### 1.2.3 **Navigation Committee**

It is appropriate for priority to be given to toll payers for membership of the Navigation Committee. It is therefore proposed that the two new Secretary of State members Mr Ash and Mr Bradbury, both of whom are current toll payers, be invited to join the Committee. It is proposed that Miss Blane and Mrs Hemsall stand down from the Committee and that their skills are used in new roles of importance for the Authority's business. Mr Durrant is retained on the Committee for his final nine months as a member of the Authority. As one of the longest serving members of Navigation Committee, his presence will ensure continuity/consistency in decision-making

### 1.2.4 **Broads Local Access Forum**

One of the key findings of the stakeholder surveys was the importance of land based recreation, especially walking but also bird-watching, visiting pubs and restaurants, and cycling. This was supported by evidence from private boat-owners, residents and visitors that they particularly enjoy opportunities to link land and water-based activities.

1.2.5 At its last meeting the Authority resolved that: "the constitution, including membership, period of office, and selection of members for the Broads Local Access Forum (BLAF) be reviewed with the current members of the BLAF." This was with a view to making "a stronger link" between members of the Local Access Forum and the Broads Authority.

1.2.6 The Broads Local Access Forum (BLAF) is a statutory committee established by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Its responsibilities and purposes are similar to those of the Navigation Committee in many ways.

1.2.7 LAFs are appointed by National Park Authorities<sup>1</sup> and highway authorities with the role of advising the appointing authority: "*as to the improvement of public access to land in that area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area, and as to such other matters as may be prescribed.*"

1.2.8 Membership of the LAF is set out in the **The Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007**. The membership is set at between 10 and 22 with a maximum of two Broads Authority members if the forum has up to 16 members and three for 17 and above. The memberships shall consist of persons "who appear to the appointing authority to be representative of—

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<sup>1</sup> Note S 95 (6) states: "For the purposes of section 94, the Broads are to be treated as a National Park and the Broads Authority as a National Park authority."

(a) users of local rights of way or the right conferred by section 2(1) (rights of public in relation to access land);

(b) owners and occupiers of access land or land over which local rights of way subsist; or

(c) any other interests especially relevant to the authority's area (or to any of the authorities' areas, in the case of a joint local access forum).

The appointing authority must ensure a reasonable balance is maintained between the number of members appointed in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) and the number appointed in accordance with sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph (5).

- 1.2.9 It is recommended that Mrs Hempsall and Mr Warner be appointed to the BLAF, and that they work with the Chair and Chief Executive of the Authority and the Chair of the LAF to lead the constitutional review.

**Table 1 Recommended Appointments**

<b>Planning Committee</b>	
Mr M Barnard Miss S Blane Professor J A Burgess Mr N Dixon Dr J M Gray Ms G Harris	Mrs L H Hempsall Mr G Jermany Mr P Rice Mr J Timewell Mr V Thomson
<b>Financial Scrutiny and Audit Committee</b>	
Six Broads Authority members:  Chairman of the Authority Vice Chairman of the Authority Chairman of the Navigation Committee Mr L Baugh Mr N Dixon Mr G McGregor	
<b>Navigation Committee</b>	
Five Broads Authority members:  Mr K Allen Mr J Ash Mr M Bradbury	Plus eight co-opted members: Mrs L Aspland Mr W A Dickson Mr A Goodchild Mr M Heron

Sir P Dixon Mr P Durrant	Mr J Knight Mrs N Talbot Mr B E Wilkins Mr M Whitaker
<b>Local Access Forum</b>	
Two Broads Authority members:  Mrs L H Hempsall Mr P Warner	

## 2 Appointments to Outside Bodies and Lead Members

- 2.1 The Authority is invited by various organisations, groups and bodies to appoint a member to represent its interests on that body. At a national level, the Chairman of the Authority serves on the Chairs' Group for *National Parks UK and National Parks England*. The Vice-Chairman has been appointed a Director of *National Parks Partnerships, Ltd*. The *Campaign for National Parks* (CNP) - formerly the Council for National Parks - is a UK registered charity promoting the National Parks of England and Wales. A member of each National Park Authority in England and Wales is co-opted onto the CNP Council which helps to ensure good communication and strong links.
- 2.2 At a regional/local level, the organisations requesting BA member appointments are as follows:

### ***Broads Tourism***

This is an important partnership with local tourism businesses and has a responsibility for the Sustainable Tourism Strategy which is due to be evaluated and refreshed in 2015-16.

### ***How Hill Trust***

The How Hill Trust is an important partner in delivering education to young people and has, in the past, worked closely with the Authority. The Trust has requested one Member from the Authority be appointed as a Trustee for 2015-16.

### ***Norfolk Mills and Pumps Trust***

In the context of the Landscape Partnership Bid this is an important charity with specific responsibilities for a number of mills in Norfolk. The Authority has two places on the Trust but as there are internal issues currently being addressed by the Trust, it is not proposed to fill the vacant position.

### ***Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Charitable Trust***

The Authority has two places on this important local initiative to raise money for the Broads. It was incorporated as a Registered Charity in 2008 with the aim of working with other organisations to stimulate and support sustainable and high quality projects.

### ***Upper Thurne Working Group (UTWG)***

Although the Authority is not required to identify a member for this Group, the inclusion of the enhancement of Hickling Broad in the 2015-16 strategic priorities, it would be helpful to offer a Member to the UTWG.

### ***Whitlingham Charitable Trust (WCT)***

The WCT is a partnership between the Broads Authority and the Trustees of the Arminghall Settlement (the Colman family). The Country Park is a key location for the Authority delivering its second national park purpose. The Authority has four places and has in recent years made two of the places available to councillors from South Norfolk and Norwich City Council.

**Table 1 Recommended External Appointments**

<b>External appointments</b>	<b>Appointee(s)</b>
Broads Tourism	Prof J Burgess Mr J Timewell
Campaign for National Parks	Mr P Warner
How Hill Trust	Miss S Blane
National Parks UK National Parks England	BA Chair
Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Charitable Trust	Mr J Ash Mr L Baugh
Norfolk Mills and Pumps Trust	Prof J Burgess
Upper Thurne Working Group	Mr K Allen
Whitlingham Charitable Trust	Mr L Baugh Mr M Bradbury Ms G Harris Mr V Thomson

- 2.3 It has become clear through discussions both with individual members and at the B.A. meeting in May 2015, that there is a strong wish for all Members to be more engaged in the work of the organisation. It is proposed that specialist workshops for members, officers and, where appropriate, stakeholders should replace the previous model of appointing Lead Members to take the initiative in representing specialist areas /interests to the rest of the Authority.
- 2.4 In two cases, the Chair wishes to keep the Lead Member role, as shown in Table 3. The first meets Historic England's specific request we identify a 'Heritage Champion' with interests in heritage interpretation and planning, Second, a member to lead on Safety Management is required by the Port Marine Safety Code.

**Table 2 Lead Members**

<b>Area of activity</b>	<b>External linkage</b>	<b>Appointee</b>
Heritage	Heritage Champion	Miss S Blane
Safety Management	Boat Safety Scheme Advisory Committee	Mr M Whitaker

- 2.5 It is also worth noting that the Chair of the Planning Committee has specific responsibilities on two external bodies, with the Vice-Chairman of Planning standing in when necessary.

Strategic Planning Members Forum  
Water Management Partnership

#### **4 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Provision has been included in the budget to cover the costs of members' allowances and other costs incurred whilst on approved duties. Members of the Planning Committee and Lead Members are currently eligible to receive a Special Responsibility Allowance of £523 per annum (a member may only claim one such allowance at any one time). If the proposals in this report are adopted there will be a small saving on the budget.

Background papers: Nil

Author: John Packman/Jacquie Burgess  
Date of report: 16 June 2015

Broads Plan Objectives: None

Appendices: None