

Broads Authority

20 January 2023

Agenda item number 8

Strategic priorities- update

Report by Senior Governance Officer

Purpose

This report sets out the latest progress in implementing the Authority's annual strategic priorities for 2022/23.

Broads Plan context

The strategic priorities relate to all six themes of the Broads Plan.

Recommended decision

To note the progress in implementing the 2022/23 priorities.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Each year the Broads Authority identifies a small set of strategic priorities, which focus on projects that have high resource needs or a very large impact on the Broads, or that are politically sensitive. Setting these priorities helps target the Authority's resources and make the most of partnership working and external funding opportunities. Priorities are set each financial year, although some large-scale projects carry across several years.
- 1.2. In addition, Defra has introduced a new requirement for National Park Authorities and the Broads Authority to provide quarterly updates on deliverables against the Business Plan, as part of its grant funding agreement. These update reports on our strategic priorities will assist officers in compiling the information necessary to comply with that requirement.
- 1.3. The latest update on our agreed strategic priorities for 2022/23 is in Table 1.

Table 1

Strategic priorities 2022/23 – progress update

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
1. Response to the Government's proposals on the Landscapes Review	Status: complete	Chief Executive

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
<p>Aim: To influence the Government’s approach to the implementation of the Landscapes Review.</p> <p>Milestones: 9 April 2022 deadline</p>	<p>Broads Authority meeting on 18 March 2022 agreed the response which was sent to Defra on 8 April 2022.</p> <p>Await further response from the Government.</p>	
<p>2. Broads strategy and policy review</p> <p>(a) Broads Plan</p> <p>Aim: To review, update and produce the Broads Plan for adoption in 2022.</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Consult on draft Plan (May-July 2022) (ii) Adopt final Plan (Sept 2022) 	<p>Status: complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Consultation held 23 May to 15 July 2022. (ii) Broads Plan 2022-2027 adopted in September 2022. 	<p>Strategy and Projects Officer</p>
<p>(b) Local Plan for the Broads</p> <p>Aim: To review the Local Plan for the Broads for adoption in 2024 (estimated).</p> <p>Prepare and adopt Supplementary Planning Documents and guidance to support Local Plan policy.</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report – May 2022 (ii) Housing and residential moorings need assessments – June 2022 (iii) Issues and Options version of Local Plan (with HRA and SA) consultation – August 2022 (iv) Preparation of the Preferred Options version of Local Plan 	<p>Status: on track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Complete (ii) Complete (iii) Consultation ended 9 December 2022 and comments and sites being assessed. (iv) On track for around September 2023 time, but timings may be amended. 	<p>Planning Policy Officer</p>

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
(with HRA and SA) consultation – towards consultation for June 2023		
<p>3. Safety in the Broads & Hire Boat Licensing Review</p> <p>Aim: To manage and monitor safety in the Broads for all users.</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Recruit and train new Rangers (date May 2022) (ii) Prepare and make available safety videos (May 2022) (iii) Review Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) report. (iv) Review new safety measures and liaise with Broads Hire Boat Federation (BHBF) on any additional measures. 	<p>Status: complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Rangers recruited and trained in time for the new season. Additional Rangers recruited, trained and deployed onto the waterway, enabling the Authority to maintain a 7 day a week on river patrolling. (ii) Amended safety videos distributed. Instructional videos produced and shared through partnering websites and YouTube channels. The suite of instructional videos has been added too in 2022, bringing paddle-sports and what to do in an emergency into the free online suite (iii) Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) report into fatal accident on the Diamond Emblem 1 at Great Yarmouth on the River Bure on 19 August 2020 published on 5 May 2022. Response to recommendations sent on 1 June 2022. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch report was released in May 2022, following consultation and inputs from the Broads Authority. The three recommendations suggested by the MAIB for the Authority have been either approved or implemented. (iv) Following consultation with the Navigation Authority and in line with the MAIB recommendations 	<p>Head of Ranger Services</p>

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
	<p>the last recommendation made by the MAIB, adoption of the British Marine Quality Accredited Boatyard Scheme as part of our Hire Boat Licensing Conditions, will be implemented from April 2023.</p>	
<p>4. Responding to climate change</p> <p><u>(a) Broadland Futures Initiative</u></p> <p>Aim: To implement the next steps of the Broad Futures Initiative (BFI) programme, including the development of the modelling which is expected in 2023.</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <p>(i) Publish 9th and 10th editions of the BFI newsletter (April and December 2022).</p> <p>(ii) Hold 3rd and 4th meetings of the Elected Members Forum (Spring 2022 and early 2023).</p> <p>(iii) Various technical deliverables from consultant (throughout 2021/22) including the list of all possible actions.</p>	<p>Status: slightly delayed</p> <p>(i) 10th edition of the newsletter published in September 2022, with a focus on the next stage of the BFI work.</p> <p>(ii) The 4th meeting of the Elected Members Forum scheduled on 18 January was rescheduled on 4 April 2023.</p> <p>(iii) There are delays in awarding the contract for the next phase of work on flood risk management option identification, to the consultant Jacobs. This phase of work is now due to take place in early 2023.</p>	<p>Director of Strategic Services</p>
<p><u>(b) Climate Change Action Plan</u></p> <p>Aim: To implement agreed actions in the Authority’s Climate Change Action Plan.</p> <p>To reduce the carbon footprint of the Broads Authority and the Broads Executive Area (‘Broads Area’).</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <p>(i) Work with partners to secure funding for Phase II of the “Electrifying the Broads” Project</p>	<p>Status: on track</p> <p>(i) Electrifying the Broads report delivered to DfT on time. Second phase of funding for trialling an electric hire boat delayed as the Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition Round 2 was limited to “out of water” testing, and Round 3 asked for projects with far higher budgets than would be required for this project. Potential funding through other schemes is being explored,</p>	<p>Carbon Reduction Project Manager</p>

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
<p>(ii) Develop proposals for each of the six areas identified in the Small World report and consult with members</p>	<p>including the Norfolk Investment Fund.</p> <p>(ii) Report presented to Broads Authority December meeting on how to respond to the Smallworld Report. We are awaiting news on funding bids submitted to the Norfolk Investment Fund for sustainable tourism, and a bid submitted to the Pioneer Places.</p> <p>The Government has announced the £2 bus fare scheme – we will be promoting this as a way to visit the Broads in the New Year.</p>	
<p>5. <u>Water, Mills and Marshes Landscape Partnership Scheme</u></p> <p>Aim: To implement and report to National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) on partnership projects to agreed revised schedules (scheme extended to 2024).</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <p>(i) Monitor and report progress (July/Dec).</p> <p>(ii) Submit quarterly claims to National Lottery Heritage Fund (April/Jul/Oct/Jan)</p> <p>(iii) Implement Fundraising and Legacy plan with partners (July)</p> <p>(iv) Hold Broads Life Festival (June)</p> <p>(v) Hold Broads Hidden Heritage Conference (Oct)</p> <p>(vi) Implement Changing Places Toilets Installation project with district councils</p>	<p>Status: on track</p> <p>(i) All projects progressing well to adjusted plans, with most ended in December 2022, and are now being evaluated.</p> <p>(ii) Quarterly returns submitted on time and paid by NLHF.</p> <p>(iii) Legacy and fundraising plan in progress. Have completed scheme fundraising and now have full cash match as required for the grant.</p> <p>(iv) Complete: Broads Life Festival held on 11 June at Beccles Quay.</p> <p>(v) Complete: Broads Hidden Heritage Conference held on October 29th at UEA’s Thomas Paine Study Centre. Largest conference ever for the project with more than 200 attendees.</p> <p>(vi) We have met with multiple contractors who are quoting for the installation of Changing Places Toilet facilities that we are co-delivering with local district councils. We have agreed the</p>	<p>WMM Programme Manager</p>

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
	<p>contractor for the first toilet to be situated with South Norfolk Council and have secured the additional funding to cover increased material costs. We are still planning for the delivery of two additional toilets in East Suffolk and North Norfolk, both delivered in coordination with the local district councils.</p> <p>Works continue at Mutton’s Mill, Halvergate, with students from City College Norwich having recently completed the redecoration of the mill with the specialist CT5X-P tar substitute. We anticipate the works to the mill to be completed in the Spring of 2023 with both pairs of sails to be re-instated.</p> <p>We are completing work on our upcoming volume on the history of the Broads being written by Tom Williamson at UEA. This is due for publication in March 2023.</p> <p>Our exhibition on the history of drainage windmills in the Broads at the Museum of the Broads in Stalham will reopen when the Museum reopens for the new season in March/April 2023. It will remain on display for the remainder of 2023.</p>	
<p>6. Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme (NCPGS) Discovery project</p> <p>Aim: Co-ordinate and implement with partners the NCPGS Discovery project to agreed schedule.</p>	<p>Status: on track</p> <p>(i) Complete for original sites.</p> <p>(ii) Appointed Stantec via SCAPE Framework operated by Perfect Circle. Progressing Task Order 1</p>	<p>Peat Project Manager</p>

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
<p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Landowner agreements (ii) Appoint Engineering Consultants (iii) Landowner engagement and development of carbon finance model (iv) Technical studies including peat and vegetation water surveys, and Historic Environment Assessments (HEA) (v) Scheme wide engagement and education (vi) Water Vole Survey New Approach to be approved by Natural England (vii) Monitoring and Restoration Plans (viii) Complete site selection for potential restoration (ix) Restoration Grant Application 	<p>for permissions and costing of engineering solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (iii) Three Carbon Finance workshops successful with over 50 attendees. Commercial model completed and tested with landowners and occupiers in a series of one to one discussions. (iv) Completed peat coring, topographic levelling and vegetation surveys. Initial HEAs complete. Additional funding has now been secured and the additional coring will be commencing in February 2023. Commissioning the additional coring cannot take place until the Broads Peat team have received the updated Agreement with NE reflecting the new budget. (v) Three site walks have taken place as programmed in September, October and November. These were a great success and proved to be of great interest to those who attended. <p>An average of 20 farmers and landowners attended each walk. Youth Engagement with NUA, Paston College ongoing. Hosted a 'Paludi-What' engagement with NUA architects and design students and the beginning of a new partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (vi) On target. Overall method approved, although consenting will be required on a site basis. Habitat assessment method has been completed at all sites and 	

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	<p>analysis complete. Next step is impact and mitigation planning.</p> <p>(vii) 4 Restoration Plans in draft.</p> <p>(viii) Complete. List of sites to have full Restoration Plans approved by the Partnership and sent to NE.</p> <p>(ix) Not commenced. NE offering Broads Peat to apply for a extension to Discovery Grant. Submission deadline for Restoration Grant expected in June 2023.</p>	
<p>7. Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)</p> <p>Aim: To run the FiPL programme and support the Broads and Norfolk Coast Land Management Board to allocate funding.</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <p>(i) Hold seven land management board meetings (March 2023)</p> <p>(ii) Allocate all grant funding to projects (December 2022)</p> <p>(iii) Pay all grant claims for completed projects (March 2023)</p> <p>(iv) Promote the success of the programme through the Press and our partners.</p>	<p>Status: on track</p> <p>(i) Seven Land Management Board meetings held: on 11 April, 6 June, 18 July, 1 August, 1 September, 10 October and 21 November.</p> <p>(ii) On track. Nineteen projects approved and £146,581.87 funding allocated.</p> <p>(iii) On track. Seven projects completed and claimed, and other projects on track.</p> <p>(iv) Under way. Site visit for Broadland Catchment Partnership to FiPL project complete with seven attendees.</p>	<p>Catchment & Farming Officer</p>
<p>8. Tolls system replacement</p> <p>Aim: To replace current legacy system and provide improved online functionality.</p> <p>Milestones: Undertake scoping for the replacement of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal system 	<p>Status: on track</p> <p>Initial project initiation document reviewed by MT on 6 October.</p> <p>Workshop held with the Navigation Committee on 20 October to determine form of user input into system development.</p>	<p>Director of Finance / Collector of Tolls</p>

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External system and • Ranger mobile application 	Broadsheet to detail proposed functionality changes due to be published early 2023.	

2. Financial risks

- 2.1. If the Authority fails to comply with any of its obligations in the Grant Funding Agreement, DEFRA, may at its discretion, reduce, suspend, or terminate payments of Grant, or require any part or all of the Grant to be repaid.

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[Broads Plan](#) strategic objectives: All