

Terms of Reference of Committees Adopted September 2025

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General Duty

It is the general duty of the Authority to manage the Broads for the purposes of:

- a) conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage of the Broads;
- b) promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Broads by the public; and
- c) protecting the interests of navigation.

In discharging its functions, the Authority shall have regard to:

- a) the national importance of the Broads as an area of natural beauty and one which affords opportunities for open-air recreation;
- b) the desirability of protecting the natural resources of the Broads from damage; and
- c) the needs of agriculture and forestry and the economic and social interests of those who live or work in the Broads.

Powers Reserved to the Broads Authority

A Policy

- (1) To set the Authority's overall policy and direction, including adopting and varying key documents such as the Broads Plan.
- (2) To adopt the Broads Local Development Scheme and the Broads Local Plan and approve any revisions which have policy implications.
- (3) To approve the list of annual strategic priority and key milestones.
- (4) To initiate special policy studies and investigations of particular significance to the Broads.
- (5) To approve the Authority's response to consultation papers which have strategic or policy importance for the Broads or the work of the Authority.

B Finance

- (6) To appoint an officer to be responsible for the proper administration of the Authority's financial affairs in accordance with section 17 of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988.
- (7) To approve the annual consolidated (general and navigation income and expenditure) budget (the latter after consultation with the Navigation Committee), to fix navigation tolls (after consultation with the Navigation Committee) and to approve additional expenditure over and above that provided for in the approved budgets.

- (8) To adopt the annual Statement of Accounts.
- (9) To monitor the resources of the Authority, and to have responsibility for the following specific matters:
 - i. making decisions about raising, varying or redeeming loans;
 - ii. approving individual grants which are not within the scope of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive;
 - iii. writing off any obsolete stores or equipment, loss of property or debt owing to the Authority insofar as such matters are not within the scope of the powers delegated to the Treasurer and Financial Adviser;
 - iv. approving the Annual Investment Strategy.
- (10) To monitor projects undertaken by the Authority, with particular regard to the letting of and compliance with contracts.

C Navigation

- (11) To apply for and object to Harbour Revision Orders (after consultation with the Navigation Committee).
- (12) To approve the closure of navigations for conservation purposes (except in cases of emergency, after consultation with the Navigation Committee).
- (13) To perform the role of Duty Holder under the Port Marine Safety Code, and to appoint the Designated Person.

D Conservation

- (14) To make decisions about the exercise of the Authority's functions in respect of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage of the Broads in accordance with the powers and duties set out under Sections 4 and 5 the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988.

E Recreation and Tourism

- (15) To make decisions about the exercise of the Authority's functions in respect of promoting the enjoyment of the Broads by the public as set out in Schedule 3 of Part II of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988.

F Committees and Members

- (16) To approve the setting up of any standing committees.

- (17) To approve the terms of reference of all committees.
- (18) To appoint members to any standing committee of the Authority (subject, in respect of the Navigation Committee, to prior consultation with that committee).
- (19) To appoint members to outside bodies where this function does not stand referred to another committee.
- (20) To approve the annual timetable of Authority and committee meetings.
- (21) To approve the Code of Conduct for Members.
- (22) To appoint the Authority's Monitoring Officer.
- (23) To consider and if necessary, act on recommendations from the Standards Committee in respect of matters relating to complaints of non-compliance with the Authority's Code of Conduct.
- (24) To set members' allowances.
- (25) To make standing orders in relation to the business of the Authority.

G Personnel Matters

- (26) To determine the grading, salary and terms and conditions of service of the Chief Executive.
- (27) To make arrangements for and approve the appointment of the Chief Executive.
- (28) To adopt amendments to local conditions of service where there are unresolved objections from members of staff and/or trade unions.
- (29) To determine any ex-gratia payments or honoraria to staff which are not within the scope of the powers delegated to the Risk, Audit and Governance Committee.

H General

- (30) To make byelaws (after consultation with the navigation Committee in the case of byelaws relating to the navigation area).
- (31) To make proposals for:
 - i. the variation of the area of the Authority;

- ii. the variation of the navigation area (after consultation with the Navigation Committee); and
 - iii. the alteration of the Authority's constitution.
- (32) To promote and oppose local Bills.
- (33) To exercise Compulsory Purchase Powers.
- (34) To take decisions:
 - i. to exercise powers not hitherto exercised by the Authority;
 - ii. to cease to exercise any power of the Authority;
 - iii. involving the exercise of any powers of the Authority by any body other than the Authority or the Committee of the Authority to which those powers then stand delegated; and
 - iv. involving the endowment of the Authority with powers not hitherto held by it.

Powers Reserved to Committees: General Clauses

- (1) Any mention in the following terms of reference and delegations of any Act or statutory instrument or of any section or clause shall be deemed to refer to the same as at any time amended. Where that Act, instrument, section, or clause has been replaced, consolidated or re-enacted, with or without amendment, such mention shall be deemed to refer to the relevant provisions of the replacing, consolidating or re-enacting statute or instrument.
- (2) References to powers and duties under any Act include powers and duties under any statutory instrument made under that Act.
- (3) No general reference of a power, duty, function, or other matter to a committee shall include any matters specifically referred to another committee.
- (4) It is a condition of all delegations to all committees that they must report all important steps taken by them in exercise of their delegated powers to the extent necessary to ensure that all members of the Authority are broadly aware of the progress and the problems of the Authority in every sphere.
- (5) All delegated powers must be exercised in accordance with the approved Business Plan and budgets and the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations of the Authority.

1. Navigation Committee

Matters Arising from the 1988 Act (as amended by the 2009 Act)

- (1) To be consulted on:
 - (i) proposals to vary the navigation area (section 8(4) and the area of jurisdiction of the Authority (schedule 7 paragraph 5);
 - (ii) all the matters listed in section 9 (6) namely:
 - (a) before delegating any function of the Authority in relation to the navigation area to any person;
 - (b) before appointing any member of the Navigation Committee under this section;
 - (c) before proposing, determining or bringing into force any new policy, plan, strategy or procedure or any change to an existing policy, plan, strategy or procedure which may significantly affect the use or enjoyment of the whole or any part of the navigation area;
 - (d) before determining any application for planning permission which may significantly affect the use or enjoyment of the whole or any part of the navigation area and which materially conflicts with any policy, plan, strategy or procedure of the Authority;
 - (e) on the preparation of the annual budget, including in particular any income or expenditure attributable to the navigation area;
 - (f) (except in case of urgency) before incurring expenditure which may have a significant effect on the use or enjoyment of the whole or any part of the navigation area and which has not been specifically provided for in the annual budget approved by the Authority;
 - (g) before applying for any amendment of or alteration to the Navigation Committee's constitution as set out in this section or the Authority's constitutions as set out in section 1 of this Act or any change to the functions of the Authority in relation to the navigation area as set out in Part II of and Schedule 5 to this Act and under Parts 2 and 3 of the 2009 Act.
 - (iii) making, varying or revoking any byelaws under subsection 10(3) (see section 10(17) (a));
 - (iv) making any appointment under subsection 10(7) (see section 10(17)(b));
 - (v) determining any application for a works licence (see section 11 (13)).

- (vi) determining the level of any tolls or other charges to be imposed in respect of the navigation area or adjacent waters. (see section 13 (3)).
- (vii) The exercise of the powers under Part I of Schedule 5 (as required by paragraph 16 of Schedule 5). These functions are:
 - (a) Maintenance and improvement
 - (b) Dredging
 - (c) Communication with vessels
 - (d) Byelaws
 - (e) Supplementary provisions in relation to byelaws
 - (f) Contravention of byelaws
 - (g) Information as to navigation by pleasure craft
 - (h) Temporary closure of waterways
 - (i) Repair of landing places etc
 - (j) Removal of wrecks etc
 - (k) Nature conservation
- (viii) The exercise of the powers under Part III of Schedule 5 (as required by paragraph 16 of Schedule 5) concerning New rights of navigation (see paragraph 23 of Schedule 5).

Broads Authority Act 2009

- (2) To be consulted on:
 - (i) any proposal to give, amend or revoke a general direction (see sections 4 and 5 and schedule 1);
 - (ii) designating under section 14 any category of small unpowered vessels (see section 16(5)).
 - (iii) designating, amending, or revoking any part of the navigation area as a zone where waterskiing or wake boarding is to be permitted (see section 26(5)).

Other

- (3) To be consulted on:
 - (i) applications for harbour revision orders.

Matters Arising from the Legal Agreements with National Boating Bodies in respect of the Broads Authority Act 2009

(Note that these overlap the provisions listed above)

- (4) To be consulted on:
 - (i) implementation of the provisions in the 2009 Act;
 - (ii) information to be included on the application forms for registration and payment of tolls;
 - (iii) introduction of the Boat Safety Standards;
 - (iv) inspection procedure for vessels;
 - (v) removal of vessels procedures;
 - (vi) request for information procedure (including visiting craft);
 - (vii) hire boat licensing conditions;
 - (viii) policy for the temporary closure of waterways for recreational purposes.
- (5) To agree changes to the exemptions in respect of Boat Safety Standards as set out in section 16(6). (NB: This provision in the Agreement was intended to prevent the removal of any of the exemptions, which the 2009 Act now secures. However, the wording of the Agreement means that the Committee's agreement is required to add to the exemptions in section 16(6).
- (6) To agree exemptions from the need for compulsory insurance for small unpowered craft (see also section 16(5)).
- (7) To agree the format of financial reporting on navigation matters.

(Note: The requirement to consult under the legal Agreements extends to changes to anything previously agreed by the Authority following consultation).

2. Planning Committee

In accordance with the Code of Practice for members of the Planning Committee and officers:

- (1) To make recommendations to the Broads Authority on plan making functions with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development.
- (2) To prepare a statement of community involvement for the preparation and revision of the Broads Local Plan and for the exercise of the Authority's functions in relation to development control.

- (3) To make recommendations to the Authority on the preparation and maintenance of the Local Development Scheme and on the contents of the Broads Local Plan.
- (4) To respond to consultations from Government and other agencies and organisations in respect of any matter for which powers are delegated to this Committee.
- (5) To keep under review matters which are likely to affect the development of the area, or the planning of its development including relevant matters in any neighbouring area and make representations accordingly.
- (6) In accordance with the policies and any directions of the Authority, to exercise the powers and duties of the Authority relating to:
 - (i) development control, including the determination of planning applications, enforcement, revocation, modification and discontinuance orders, completion notices and Section 106 Agreements;
 - (ii) buildings of architectural and historic interest and town schemes (including their grant aid);
 - (iii) conservation areas;
 - (iv) ancient monuments;
 - (v) trees;
 - (vi) derelict and waste land;
 - (vii) advertisements;
 - (viii) the stopping up and diversion of public paths affected by development proposals and the downgrading of highways for amenity purposes;
 - (ix) hazardous substances;
 - (x) certificates of appropriate alternative development;
 - (xi) litter, abandoned motor vehicles and rubbish;
 - (xii) goods vehicles operator's licences;
 - (xiii) conservation of buildings and vessels, etc., under paragraph 42 of Schedule 3 to the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988;
 - (xiv) spatial plans;
 - (xv) determining whether approval be given for the exercise of permitted development rights within a European Site, following consultation with

Natural England, under the terms of the Conservation (Natural Habitats Etc) Regulations 1994.

- (7) To agree with an adjoining planning authority that individual cross-border planning applications be wholly determined by either the Authority or the relevant Council.
- (8) To recommend to the Authority the making/adoption of Neighbourhood Plans.
- (9) To enter into a legal agreement to secure off-site Biodiversity Net Gain in the Broads area.

3. Risk, Audit and Governance Committee

Statement of purpose

- (1) The Risk, Audit and Governance Committee is a committee appointed by the Broads Authority with the functions set out within the following paragraphs.

Note: References to the Audit and Risk Committee (the predecessor committee) within existing documents, policies, procedures and Standing Orders of the Authority shall be interpreted as referring to the Risk, Audit and Governance Committee, unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

- (2) The Risk, Audit and Governance Committee is a key component of the Authority's corporate governance framework. It provides an independent and high-level focus on the audit assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards.
- (3) The purpose of the Risk, Audit and Governance Committee is to provide independent assurance to the Authority's members of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control environment. It provides independent review of the Broads Authority's governance, risk management and control frameworks and oversees the financial reporting and annual governance processes. It oversees internal audit and external audit, helping to ensure efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place.

Note: The appointment of internal auditors has been delegated to the Director of Resources.

- (4) In discharging its responsibilities, the Risk, Audit and Governance Committee has unrestricted access to officers and relevant information it considers is necessary to discharge its duties.

Governance, risk and control

- (5) To review the authority's corporate governance arrangements against the good governance framework, including the ethical framework and consider the local code of governance.
- (6) To review the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) prior to the Authority's approval and consider whether it properly reflects the risk environment and supporting assurances. This review will take into account internal audit's opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the authority's framework of governance, risk management and control.
- (7) To consider and approve reports on the effectiveness of financial management arrangements, including compliance with CIPFA's Financial Management Code.
- (8) To consider the authority's arrangements to secure value for money and to review assurances and assessments on the effectiveness of these arrangements.
- (9) To consider the authority's Corporate Risk Register to ensure that it adequately addresses the Authority's risks and priorities.
- (10) To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management in the authority.
- (11) To monitor progress in addressing risk-related issues reported to the committee and to seek assurance that risks are being managed appropriately and are using good practice.
- (12) To consider reports on the effectiveness of internal controls and monitor the implementation of agreed actions.
- (13) To review the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm to the authority from fraud and corruption.
- (14) To monitor and approve: the financial regulations; standing orders relating to contracts; procurement strategy and the counter-fraud, corruption and bribery strategy.
- (15) To review the governance and assurance arrangements for significant partnerships or collaborations.
- (16) To review the effectiveness of the system for monitoring compliance with laws and regulations and the results of management's investigation and follow-up of any instances of non-compliance.
- (17) To be the formal committee for dealing with members' concerns about governance issues at the Authority.

- (18) To consider and make recommendations about members' concerns regarding governance processes within the Authority. Such concerns to be raised in the first instance with the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer.
- (19) To have general oversight of the Authority's governance arrangements.

Internal audit

- (20) To review and approve the internal audit charter.
- (21) To review proposals made in relation to the appointment of external providers of internal audit services and to make recommendations.
- (22) To approve the risk-based internal audit plan, including internal audit's resource requirements, the approach to using other sources of assurance and any work required to place reliance upon those other sources.
- (23) To approve significant interim changes to the risk-based internal audit plan and resource requirements.
- (24) To make appropriate enquiries of both management and the head of internal audit to determine if there are any inappropriate scope or resource limitations.
- (25) To consider any impairments to independence or objectivity arising from additional roles or responsibilities outside of internal auditing of the head of internal audit. To approve and periodically review safeguards to limit such impairments.
- (26) To consider reports from the head of internal audit on internal audit's performance during the year, including the performance of external providers of internal audit services. These will include:
 - (i) updates on the work of internal audit including key findings, issues of concern and action in hand as a result of internal audit work
 - (ii) regular reports on the results of the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme (QAIP)
 - (iii) reports on instances where the internal audit function does not conform to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and Local Government Application Note (LGAN), considering whether the non-conformance is significant enough that it must be included in the AGS.
- (27) To consider the head of internal audit's annual report:
 - (i) The statement of the level of conformance with the PSIAS and LGAN and the results of the QAIP that support the statement – these will indicate the reliability of the conclusions of internal audit.

- (ii) The opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the authority's framework of governance, risk management and control together with the summary of the work supporting the opinion – these will assist the committee in reviewing the AGS.
- (28) To consider summaries of specific internal audit reports as requested.
- (29) To receive reports outlining the action taken where the head of internal audit has concluded that management has accepted a level of risk that may be unacceptable to the authority or there are concerns about progress with the implementation of agreed actions.
- (30) To contribute to the QAIP and in particular, to the external quality assessment of internal audit that takes place at least once every five years.
- (31) To consider a report on the effectiveness of internal audit to support the AGS, where required to do so by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- (32) To provide free and unfettered access to the audit committee chair for the head of internal audit, including the opportunity for a private meeting with the committee.

External audit

- (33) To support the independence of external audit through consideration of the external auditor's annual assessment of its independence and review of any issues raised by PSAA or the authority's auditor panel as appropriate.
- (34) To consider the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports, and the report to those charged with governance.
- (35) To consider specific reports as agreed with the external auditor.
- (36) To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.
- (37) To commission work from internal and external audit.
- (38) To advise and recommend on the effectiveness of relationships between external and internal audit and other inspection agencies or relevant bodies.
- (39) To obtain reasonable assurance that management has acted on the results and recommendations of external audit engagements.

Financial reporting

- (40) To monitor and oversee the Authority's medium term financial planning, including the annual business plan.
- (41) To review the annual statement of accounts. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the Authority's attention.

- (42) To consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.

Treasury Management

- (43) To monitor and review the treasury management policy and procedures to be satisfied that controls are satisfactory. This includes receiving regular reports on activities, issues and trends to support the committee's understanding of treasury management activities.
- (44) To review the Treasury and Investment Strategy prior to the Authority's approval.

Accountability arrangements

- (45) To report to the Authority annually on the committee's findings, conclusions and recommendations concerning the adequacy and effectiveness of its governance, risk management and internal control frameworks, financial reporting arrangements, and internal and external audit functions.

Miscellaneous

- (46) To determine any ex-gratia, severance or honoraria payments to staff that are not within the scope of powers delegated to the Chief Executive up to a maximum of £50,000 per event.
- (47) Members of the Risk, Audit and Governance Committee shall receive formal training on the purpose and mandate of the committee and any areas deemed necessary to assist in the discharge of the committee's duties

4. Standards Committee

Statement of purpose

The promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct within the Authority.

- (1) To advise the Authority on the adoption, operation and revision of its Member Code of Conduct.
- (2) To review the Members' Register of Interests periodically and provide guidance and training as required.
- (3) To recommend training for members and co-opted members on matters relating to the Member Code of Conduct.
- (4) To receive and consider reports about complaints made under the Member Code of Conduct and the outcome.

- (5) To participate in the recruitment of the Authority's Independent Persons as required by the Localism Act 2011 and recommend the Authority approve their appointment.
- (6) To review the Protocol on member and officer relations in the Broads Authority prior to its consideration and adoption by the Authority.
- (7) To review the Social Media Policy prior to its consideration and adoption by the Authority.
- (8) To receive a report by the Authority's Monitoring Officer and consider if any future action is needed.
- (9) To monitor the Authority's compliance with its adopted core values and good practice on ethical standards and probity.
- (10) To deal with complaints that members have breached the Member Code of Conduct and, in connection with this function, to develop and adopt:
 - (i) assessment criteria for dealing with complaints
 - (ii) arrangements for dealing with complaints and publicising the arrangements
 - (iii) procedures for dealing with local investigations and
 - (iv) such other provisions and procedures as may be required.
- (11) To conduct hearings and make determinations in respect of complaints that members have breached the Member Code of Conduct in accordance with relevant statutory and constitutional requirements and, in connection with this function:
 - (i) To develop and adopt procedures for dealing with such hearings; and
 - (ii) To establish and maintain a Hearings Sub-Committee with its own terms of reference.
- (12) The Committee will comprise 7 members (a combination of both Secretary of State and local authority members.)
- (13) The Chair of the Broads Authority is ineligible to be a member of the Committee.
- (14) The Committee will hold a minimum of one meeting per annum and additional meetings as required by business.
- (15) The Committee will produce an annual report on its work to the Broads Authority.

Originally adopted by Broads Authority: 21 November 2014

This version adopted by Broads Authority: 19 September 2025

BROADS AUTHORITY

Broads Local Access Forum

Terms of Reference

1. The Broads Local Access Forum will have the following terms of reference:
 - (i) To be a statutory advisory body to provide guidance and advice to relevant authorities on the improvement of public access to the countryside of the Broads Executive Area and to contribute to opportunities for the enjoyment of the area.
 - (ii) To comment on draft maps of open countryside and registered common land for the Broads as will be produced by the Countryside Agency.
 - (iii) To provide a consultative forum for and advising on issues relating to access land, exclusions, restrictions, and the appointment of access wardens on land where new rights of access exist.
 - (iv) To contribute (in an advisory capacity) to the development of Rights of Way Improvement Plans which cover any part of the Broads Executive Area, together with any other strategies or plans relating to rights of way and open access.
 - (v) To advise on all other aspects of improvement of public access to land in the Broads for the purposes of open air-recreation.
 - (vi) To advise on issues relating to public access to water.
 - (vii) To advise on the promotion and appropriate use of opportunities for all types of users to enjoy access to the countryside.
 - (viii) To promote closer liaison and understanding between the various interest bodies and organisations which have an interest in access to the Broads and its wider catchment area.
2. In providing advice, the Forum will have regard to:
 - (i) the needs of land management;
 - (ii) the conservation of the natural beauty of the area;

- (iii) the management and maintenance of recreational access whilst balancing this against the needs of nature conservation, agriculture, the interests of landowners and managers, navigation and countryside management projects within the Broads;
 - (iv) the general duty of the Authority to manage the Broads for the purposes of:
 - (a) conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Broads;
 - (b) promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Broads by the public; and
 - (c) protecting the interests of navigation.
3. In providing such advice and comment the Forum shall also bear in mind the Authority's requirement to have regard to:
- (i) the national importance of the Broads as an area of natural beauty and one which affords opportunities for open-air recreation;
 - (ii) the desirability of protecting the natural resources of the Broads from damage; and
 - (iii) the needs of agriculture and forestry and the economic and social interest of those who live or work in the Broads.