

Broads Authority

24 September 2021

Agenda item number 10

Strategic priorities- update

Report by Head of Governance

Purpose

This report sets out the latest progress in implementing the Authority's annual strategic priorities for 2021/22.

Recommended decision

To note the report.

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. The latest update on our agreed strategic priorities for 2021/22 is in Table 1.

Table 1

Strategic priorities 2021/22 – progress update

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
<p>1. Broads strategy and policy review</p> <p>(a) Broads Plan</p> <p>Aim: To refresh the Plan's strategic actions, assessing the Government's response to the Landscapes Review and its implications for protected landscape management plans.</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Produce Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (by Autumn 2021) (ii) Prepare first draft Plan for consultation (by Nov 2021) (iii) Prepare final draft Plan for consultation (by Mar 2022) 	<p>Status: On track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) See (b)(i) below. (ii) Broads Plan all member workshop held 13 September and officers continuing to work on first draft plan. 	<p>Head of Governance</p>
<p>(b) Local Plan for the Broads</p> <p>Aim: To review and update the Broads planning policy framework</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Produce Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (by Autumn 2021) (ii) Produce Issues and Options version of Local Plan ready for consultation in 2022 (iii) Produce evidence base on various topics including housing need (2021 and early 2022) 	<p>Status: On track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) SA Scoping Report produced and consulted on; considered by Planning Committee 8 Oct. Responses may result in changes to future iterations of SA. (ii) Issues and Options sections taken to Planning Committee each month for consideration – may see final document consulted on in April/May 2022. (iii) Evidence base in production – key studies underway for housing need, residential mooring need and Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Show people need. 	<p>Planning Policy Officer</p>

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<p>2. CANAPE project (Creating A New Approach to Peatland Ecosystems)</p> <p>Aim: To implement CANAPE work packages 3 and 4 to agreed schedules.</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Complete Chara Bay construction work (April 2021) (ii) Develop and contribute to the CANAPE Conference (Oct 2021) (iii) Begin construction work at paludiculture demonstration site at Horsey (Aug 2021) 	<p>Status: Some delays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) As noted in previous update, completion of works at Hickling will be later than planned. Equipment mobilised to site and work started on final stages - currently dredging in Hickling Sound. (ii) Bookings open for CANAPE conference, speakers confirmed, ICT for hybrid event arranged and final arrangements ongoing. (iii) Construction work underway at Horsey. 	<p>CANAPE Project Manager</p>
<p>3. Environment Land Management scheme (ELM)</p> <p>Aim: To implement sustainable wetland and lowland grazing options within ELM scheme.</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Conduct and write up 3 farmer seminars with advisory group testing role of local land management boards (Apr-Jul 2021) (ii) Conduct survey on role of local conveners in ELM scheme (Mar-May 2021) (iii) Hold collaboration workshop (May 2021) (iv) Finalise Operating Procedures for Broads land management board (Jul 2021) 	<p>Status: On track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to (iv) completed. (v) Final report agreed by Broads Land Management Board on 24 August. The success of the Board, which has also evolved to act as the Local Assessment Panel for the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme, was noted. This has enabled FiPL applications to be approved in a timely manner. 	<p>Environment Policy Adviser</p>

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
(v) Complete final report and Defra handover meeting/presentation (Jul 2021)		
<p>4. Responding to climate change</p> <p><u>(a) Broadland Futures Initiative</u></p> <p>Aim: To implement the joint programme of work with the Environment Agency and other partners to develop longer-term integrated flood risk management for Broadland.</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Hold virtual exhibition and online survey (Jan-Apr 2021) (ii) Hold first meeting of Elected Members Forum (Spring 2021) (iii) Various technical deliverables from consultant (throughout 2021/22) 	<p>Status: On track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Completed. (ii) Completed. Second meeting of Elected Members Forum scheduled for 28 Sept 2021. (iii) On track. Draft report “BFI Plan Objectives” to be presented to Elected Members Forum on 28 Sept. 	Director of Strategic Services
<p>(b) Climate Change Action Plan</p> <p>Aim: To reduce the carbon footprint of the Broads Authority and the Broads Executive Area (‘Broads Area’).</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Broads Area carbon baseline (Smallworld Consulting Ltd) (June 2021) (ii) Broads Authority footprint for 2020/21 (Jun 2021) (iii) Solar power at Dockyard (Oct 2021) (iv) Consultation and consensus building on sustainable 	<p>Status: Some delays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Further slippage in timescale for Smallworld delivery, due to staff illness – they are now working on final report. (ii) BA footprint assessed, but electricity data for Yare House still awaited from data providers). Initial estimate shows mixed picture, with significant fall in travel potentially offset by staff heating homes more due to an increase in home working. (iii) Still under review to explore what funding is available. 	Carbon Reduction Project Manager

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propulsion in the Broads (ongoing)	(iv) Funding received from Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition and work underway on Electrifying the Broads feasibility study.	
5. Safety in the Broads Aim: To manage and monitor safety in the Broads for Authority staff and volunteers and for Broads users. Milestones: (i) Recruit and train new Rangers (April 2021) (ii) Prepare and make available 9 training videos (April 2021) (iii) Develop survey approach of visitors to assess handover procedure and effectiveness of videos (Summer 2021) (iv) Review Marine Accident Investigation Board (MAIB) report when published	Status: On track (i) Achieved. (ii) Achieved. (iii) Survey developed and data being recorded. Survey available to public online and Rangers set targets to carry out 30 surveys each with hirers. Survey data to be collated and reviewed at end of season. (iv) MAIB Interim Report released.	Head of Ranger Services
6. Water, Mills and Marshes Landscape Partnership Scheme Aim: To implement partnership projects to agreed schedules. Milestones: (i) Monitor and report progress (Sept/Mar) (ii) Submit quarterly claims to National Lottery Heritage Fund (Apr/Jul/Oct/Jan) (iii) Implement fundraising plan with partners (May)	Status: On track Quarterly returns submitted on time and paid by NLHF. All projects progressing well to adjusted plans. Scheme recognised with award from East of England Constructing Excellence in category of Conservation and Regeneration for works at 6 Mile House Drainage Mill; also nominated for national awards to be determined in Jan 2022. Works at Highs Mill nearing completion, scaffolding and site preparation underway at Mutton's Mill, Halvergate.	WMM Programme Manager

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(iv) Hold Broads Hidden Heritage Conference (Nov)	<p>New fundraising plan underway with support from Norfolk County Council (NCC) External Funding team and Scheme partners.</p> <p>Work underway with East Suffolk, South Norfolk and Broadland District Councils on installation of Changing Places toilet facilities in the Broads to improve access for local communities.</p> <p>Face-to-face community engagement events and archaeology day schools being held monthly, with additional events planned for Heritage Open Days in Norwich and Lowestoft and Norwich Science Festival. Further engagement events planned for autumn with Norfolk Libraries service.</p> <p>Work ongoing with NCC Historic Environment Team to create new maintenance and management system on their database for mills project legacy.</p> <p>Planning ongoing for Broads Hidden Heritage Festival with Scheme partners. Legacy planning ongoing, with new legacy partners recruited to continue works beyond project funding.</p>	

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Date of report: 13 September 2021