

Navigation Committee

09 June 2022

Agenda item number 10

Draft Broads Plan 2022-27: Consultation

Report by Strategy and Projects Officer

Purpose

The draft Broads Plan 2022-27 and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) are currently out to public consultation until 15 July 2022.

Navigation Committee members have already contributed to the preparation of the emerging draft Plan through two member workshops, and this agenda item presents a further opportunity to comment on the consultation documents.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Broads Plan is the key strategic management plan for the Broads. It sets out a long-vision for the area and strategic objectives to benefit the area's natural and built environment, navigation, cultural heritage, visitors and local communities.
- 1.2. It is important to remember that Broads Plan is a plan for the Broads, not just for the Broads Authority. As such, while the Authority is responsible for its production, its successful implementation depends on agreed aims, a commitment to partnership working, and the best use of shared resources.
- 1.3. The Broads Act 1988 requires the Authority to review the Broads Plan at least every five years. The current Plan adopted in 2017 has been reviewed and a draft Plan covering the period 2022-27 has been published for consultation. The review has taken account of new circumstances, including priorities identified in the Landscapes Review and 25-year Environment Plan, particularly for nature recovery, climate change adaptation and improving public access; the roll-out of post-Brexit legislation; the state of the economy; and the ongoing impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

2. Preparation of draft plan

- 2.1. Broads Plan review workshops were held with members and co-opted members in September 2021 and January 2022. Officers have also discussed relevant sections of the emerging draft plan with partner organisations throughout the review process.

- 2.2. The focus of the draft Broads Plan 2022-27 (Appendix 1) is in Section 3, which sets out strategic objectives and key actions under six themes:
- Responding to climate change and flood risk
 - Improving landscapes for biodiversity and agriculture
 - Maintaining and enhancing the navigation
 - Protecting landscape character and the historic environment
 - Promoting understanding and enjoyment
 - Connecting and inspiring communities
- 2.3. The Broads Plan is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all the work that may be undertaken in the Broads. Rather, it is a high-level strategy to guide the direction for the more detailed plans and programmes that will implement the Plan's objectives.
- 2.4. This is a five-year plan in line with the review cycle, but it will be monitored and may be refreshed as necessary to address changing circumstances. The adopted plan will be published primarily in a digital format on the Authority's website, alongside progress reporting on its implementation.

3. Plan assessment

- 3.1. The draft Broads Plan was subject to Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) (SA) and to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).
- 3.2. The SA (Appendix 2) concluded that the majority of the strategic objectives in the draft Plan show either a positive or neutral impact on the Sustainability Objectives in the SA Framework. A small number show uncertain impacts, depending on the implementation of the objective, and none show a negative impact.
- 3.3. The HRA (Appendix 3) concluded that the draft Plan would have no adverse impact on site integrity at any Habitats Sites, either alone or in combination.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. The draft documents are out to consultation until 15 July. The Navigation Committee is invited to comment at today's meeting, and members may also submit comments by email to broadsplan@broads-authority.gov.uk.
- 4.2. Following the close of this consultation, officers will assess the responses and aim to prepare a final Broads Plan 2022-27 for consideration by the Broads Authority in September, with a recommendation that the Plan be adopted.

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The following appendices are available to view on the [Broads Authority website](#):

Appendix 1 – Draft Broads Plan 2022-27

Appendix 2 – SA for draft Broads Plan 2022-27

Appendix 3 – HRA for draft Broads Plan 2022-27