

## A Guide for Local Authority Appointments

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Broads Authority was set up under the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988. The area has an equivalent status to that of a national park and the Broads Authority has similar roles and responsibilities to that of a national park authority, with the added responsibility for navigation. More information about national parks can be found through the National Parks UK website at [www.nationalparks.gov.uk](http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk) and the Broads Authority itself at [www.broads-authority.gov.uk](http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk)
- 1.2 The Broads Authority is a statutory body. It has some similarities to local government but is non-political and therefore operates in a different way. Members are appointed not to represent a particular interest, area or authority but rather to participate in decisions to guide the Authority in delivering its statutory purposes. Their key role is to contribute leadership, knowledge and direction together with scrutiny and responsibility in the decision making and strategic direction of the Authority. Local authority appointees have an important role in making links back to their council and briefing councillors on the work of the Broads Authority.

### 2. Functions

- 2.1 The 1988 Act has been amended several times and two of the most significant are the re-alignment of its national park purposes with the national park authorities (Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006) and the Broads Authority Act 2009, whose primary purpose was to give the Authority greater powers to manage safety on the Broads.
- 2.2 Section 2 of the 1988 Act gives the Authority the general duty 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;

while having 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.

Section 10 provides for more specific functions in relation to the navigation area namely that:

(1) The Authority shall—

- (a) maintain the navigation area for the purposes of navigation to such standard as appears to it to be reasonably required; and
- (b) take such steps to improve and develop it as it thinks fit.

2.3 The Authority is also the statutory local planning authority for the Broads area and a competent harbour authority. It is a member of National Parks UK, AINA (the Association of Inland Navigation Authorities) and the worldwide Living Lakes network, set up by the Global Nature Fund.

### **3 Committee Structure and Membership**

- 3.1 The appointment is to the Board of the Broads Authority which has a membership of 21. Nine Members are appointed by Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils and the six district councils whose boundaries fall within the Authority's executive area. Ten are appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Two are appointed by the Authority from the co-opted members of the Navigation Committee.
- 3.2 There are six meetings annually of the main Board together with four-weekly meetings of the Planning Committee, associated site visits, and training and development requirements. There is also a Financial Scrutiny and Audit Committee which meets three times a year.

The statutory Navigation Committee is a consultative body on navigation issues and meets 5-6 times a year. A Broads Forum, a consultative body with membership being made up from key stakeholder groups, meets four times a year as does the Broads Local Access Forum, a consultative body whose main function is 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.

A Committee Structure Chart detailing the function of the Authority and its committees is attached at Appendix 1.

### **4 Outside Bodies**

- 4.1 The Authority is invited by various organisations, groups and bodies to appoint a member to represent the interests of the Authority on that body. The appointments to outside bodies are determined at the Broads Authority's annual meeting in July.

## **5 Expectations of Councillors Appointed to the Broads Authority**

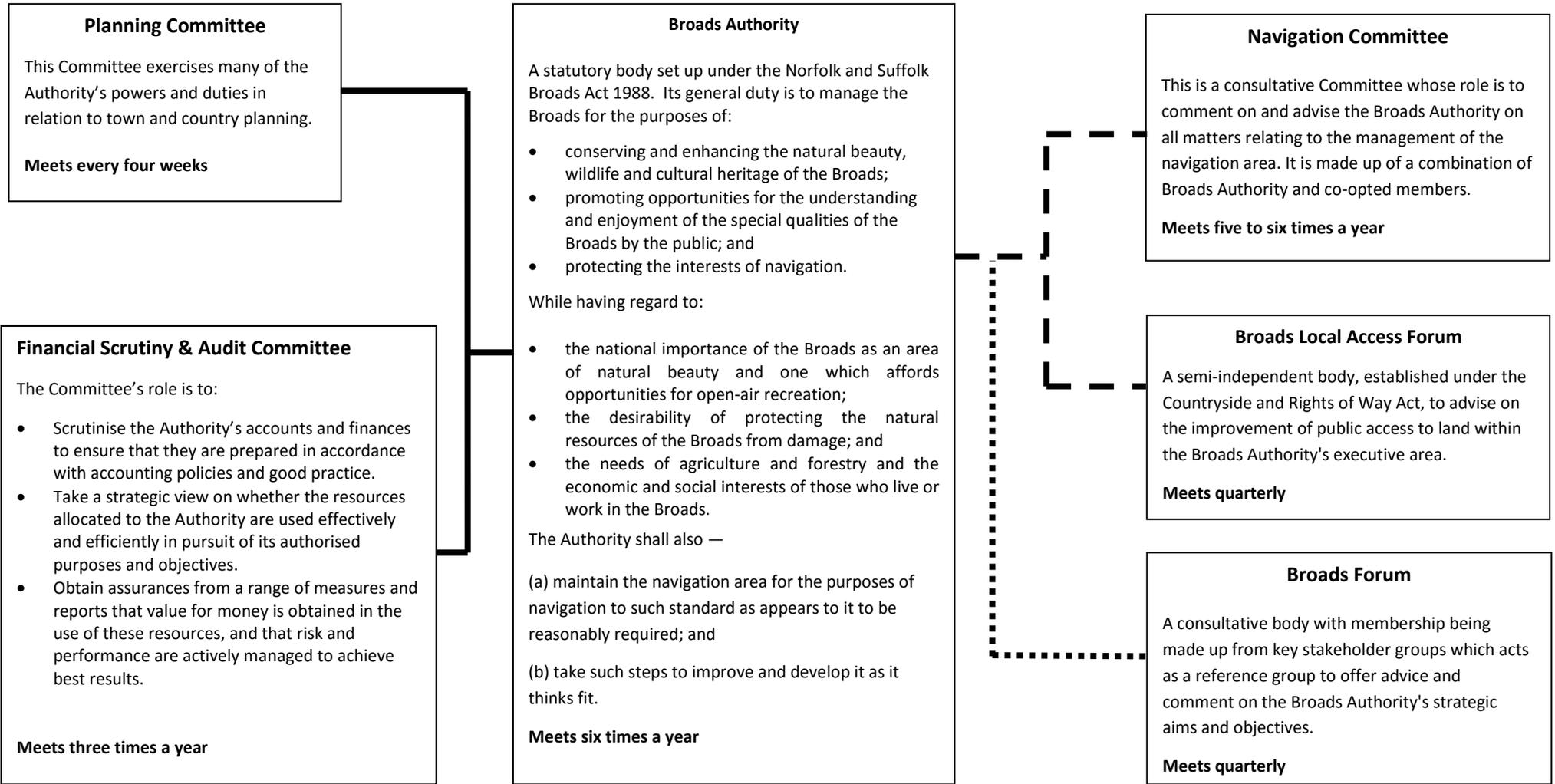
5.1 The special qualities required for Members are:-

- (1) An enthusiastic willingness to develop an understanding of the unique and global importance of The Broads and the many facets needed to create and maintain a National Park.
- (2) To be the conduit for the two way flow of information, knowledge and understanding between districts, boroughs and parishes and the Broads Authority.
- (3) To be an ambassador, acting as the public face of the Broads Authority in a professional, non-political manner.
- (4) A willingness to attend training and development sessions and mandatory training where appropriate, for example on planning or the Port Marine Safety Code, attaining a successful outcome and with a commitment to ongoing training and development, including the Members' annual review process.
- (5) An analytical, creative approach to problem solving, and the ability to challenge in a constructive manner and also be prepared to be challenged.
- (6) To work and contribute as a team member, working towards common goals.
- (7) To bring and impart your own experiences and inspirations to assist in the evolving development of the Broads.
- (8) Adhere to the Standards of Conduct, Accountability and Openness of the Authority and the Protocol on Member and Officer Relations.

Rewards:

To be an integral part of a successful, productive team nurturing and developing a nationally important environment for the enjoyment and benefit of society and future generations. A small allowance is also available to Appointed Members.

**Updated 6 July 2017**



- Executive
- - - - Statutory Consultative
- ..... Consultative/Advisory