

Broads Authority

28 January 2022

Agenda item number 10

Strategic priorities- update

Report by Chief Executive

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 (SA) Scoping Report (by Autumn 2021) (ii) Prepare first draft Plan for consultation (to BA in May 2022Nov 2021) (iii) Prepare final draft Plan for consultation (by Mar 2022) 	<p>Status: Some delays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Completed. Consultation responses considered and next stage SA in production. (ii) Timetable revised due to delays in appointing Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) consultant; consultation on draft Plan now scheduled for May-July 2022. BA officers continuing to draft plan in liaison with members and key partners. Tender for HRA process reissued. 	Strategy and Projects Officer
<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) Consultation carried out on Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report; responses being considered as next version of SA is produced. (ii) Sections of Issues and Options taken to Planning Committee for discussion each month. (iii) Housing need, gypsy, traveller and travelling show people need and residential moorings need work commissioned. Infrastructure study and low carbon/renewable energy paper under way. 	Planning Policy Officer

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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: On track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Last phase of Chara Bay construction works was completed in January, with extracted reed rhizomes reed planted to accelerate colonisation of site by natural flora. (ii) CANAPE Conference held in hybrid form on 13-15 October and was considered successful – approx. 60 in person attendees and 80 online attendees (iii) Wet Farming Demonstration visited by British Reed Growers and Lowland Agricultural Peat Task Force. Monitoring and deer/bird grazing protection continuing. Plants rooting well. Reed material for further innovative propagation sent to New Energy Farms. 	CANAPE Project Manager
<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) 	<p>Status: completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Completed seminars on nature recovery prioritisation, water management and carbon in peat, and blending private and public finance. (ii) Completed. (iii) Collaborative workshop changed to online series of workshops due to COVID19 – completed. (iv) Completed. (v) Final report agreed by Broads Land Management Board on 24 August. Findings presented to Defra ELM lead for Local Nature Recovery. Defra to widely adopt 	Environment Policy Adviser

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
<p>(iv) Finalise Operating Procedures for Broads land management board (Jul 2021)</p> <p>(v) Complete final report and Defra handover meeting/presentation (Jul 2021)</p>	<p>Board structure for delivery of ELM Local Nature Recovery. Success of Board, which has also evolved to act as Local Assessment Panel for Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme, was noted. This has enabled FiPL applications to be approved in a timely manner. Continued feed into Defra ELM development via (1) co-design of the Local Nature Recovery (LNR) scheme and (2) commenting on LNR prototype mapping</p>	
<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> <p>(i) Hold virtual exhibition and online survey (Jan-Apr 2021)</p> <p>(ii) Hold first meeting of Elected Members Forum (Spring 2021)</p> <p>(iii) Various technical deliverables from consultant (throughout 2021/22)</p>	<p>Status: On track</p> <p>(i) Completed.</p> <p>(ii) Completed. Second meeting of Elected Members Forum took place on 28 Sept 2021.</p> <p>(iii) On track. "BFI Plan Objectives" available on the website.</p>	<p>Director of Strategic Services</p>
<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>Status: Some delays</p> <p>(i) The final calculations for the carbon baseline are ready, Smallworld are consulting and writing their report, including</p>	<p>Carbon Reduction Project Manager</p>

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
<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 propulsion in the Broads (ongoing) 	<p>feasible trajectories for emissions from the Broads Executive Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) Emissions have been calculated. With caveats around the difficulty of estimating homeworking impact (additional emissions from employees heating their homes vs saved emissions from reducing commuting). Emissions have fallen in line with a net-zero by 2030 trajectory. (iii) We are continuing to review what funding options may be available for solar power on BA buildings (iv) Work has begun on the feasibility study for “Electrifying the Broads”, beginning with calculating the power requirements of a typical Broads Hire Cruiser, and mapping potential locations for charging points. Next steps will include assessing power available from the grid, and discussions with the planning team on how to fit any charging point roll-out with protecting the Broads Landscape 	
<p>5. Safety in the Broads</p> <p>Aim: To manage and monitor safety in the Broads for Authority staff and volunteers and for Broads users.</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Recruit and train new Rangers (April 2021) (ii) Prepare and make available 9 training videos (April 2021) 	<p>Status: On track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Recruitment underway for 2022 season. (ii) Between them, 9 safety videos viewed nearly 50,000 times. Content being updated ahead of 2022 season. (iii) Surveys being reviewed, feedback to be shared with yards and feed into hire boat licencing work. 	<p>Head of Ranger Services</p>

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (iv) Awaiting final report from the MAIB, due early 2022. 	
<p>6. Water, Mills and Marshes Landscape Partnership Scheme</p> <p>Aim: To implement partnership projects to agreed schedules.</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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) (iv) Hold Broads Hidden Heritage Conference (Nov) 	<p>Status: On track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) All projects progressing well to adjusted plans, with most scheduled to end in 2022. (ii) Quarterly returns submitted on time and paid by NLHF. (iii) Fundraising plan continuing to be developed. New revenue sources being identified and pursued. Awaiting more details about NCC's approved Crowdfunding scheme. (iv) The NCC led Broads Hidden Heritage Conference was postponed due to the venue being used as a vaccination centre. The event is now being partially amalgamated into the upcoming event in June 2022 with an academic event hosted at UEA later in the autumn. <p>Works are ongoing at Mutton's Mill, Halvergate. Students from City College Norwich have begun to return to site to gain experience in heritage construction. We are awaiting the result of our applications with East Suffolk, South Norfolk and Broadland District Councils for the installation of Changing Places toilet facilities in the Broads to improve access for local communities. In December we took delivery of our first RNIB "Map-for-All",</p>	<p>WMM Programme Manager</p>

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	a tactile map that allows visually impaired people to navigate with confidence around a site. We met with members of Vision Norfolk to test and trial the map at Whitlingham. Planning ongoing for Broads Hidden Heritage Festival with Scheme partners and Beccles Town Council. Legacy planning ongoing, with new legacy partners recruited to continue works beyond project funding.	

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