

# Broads Authority

20 November 2020

Agenda item number 13

## Corporate Partnerships Register (Nov 2020)

Report by Head of Governance

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### Purpose

The Broads Authority maintains a register of its key partnerships with external organisations, which is reviewed regularly by the Management Team. The latest Corporate Partnerships Register (Appendix 1) was endorsed by the Audit and Risk Committee on 17 November.

### Recommended decision

To note the updated Corporate Partnerships Register (Nov 2020).

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## 1. About our corporate partnerships

- 1.1. The Broads Authority works in partnership with a wide range of organisations to meet its statutory purposes and deliver the [strategic objectives](#) for the Broads.
- 1.2. These partnerships add value to the Authority's work by helping us to:
  - coordinate and increase project delivery, access new resources, achieve economies of scale and reduce waste and duplication;
  - tackle complex, cross-sector and Broads-wide issues and share risks;
  - build understanding and relationships between different organisations and sectors, and with our stakeholders and local communities;
  - develop new ideas and ways of working; and
  - hold greater influence together than as individual partners.
- 1.3. A 'partnership' refers to an arrangement involving the Authority and one or more external organisations, from any sector, who share responsibility for agreeing and implementing actions to meet common goals. Within each partnership, partners agree a formal structure or identifiable working process, contribute to objectives, share any risk in proportion to the benefits each receives, and share information.
- 1.4. In this context, a partnership does not include a traditional contractual arrangement where the delivery of a service or project has been awarded to a contractor (with or without a competitive tendering process), or to groups of elected members or officers from local authorities and others who come together to discuss strategy or

policy. It also excludes ongoing day-to-day contact with statutory agencies whose responsibilities impact on or link closely to our work, such as Natural England or the Environment Agency. That said, there are occasions when the relationship with such bodies may constitute a partnership arrangement.

## 2. Partnerships protocol

2.1. The Authority will only enter into a formal partnership arrangement if it is able to invest the staff time, assets, knowledge and funding to play a full and constructive role. Before entering into a new arrangement, it will make sure that:

- the partnership's aims and objectives are clear, and it can be shown how they contribute to the Authority's statutory purposes and objectives;
- there are clear terms of reference setting out how the partnership proposes to achieve its objectives;
- the financial responsibilities of the respective parties are clearly established;
- the partnership represents value for money, and the Authority could not achieve the same outcome more cost effectively;
- there is a clear exit strategy should the partnership fail to meet its objectives;
- there is a nominated responsible officer for the Authority; and
- the need for member involvement in any Partnership Board is considered.

2.2. Management Team approval, and full Authority approval in some cases, will be obtained before entering into a new partnership agreement.

## 3. Corporate Partnerships Register

3.1. The Corporate Partnerships Register details each partnership including name and purpose, partners and responsible Authority officer, perceived benefits to the Authority, duration, financial arrangements and actions. Associated risks and mitigation measures are noted in our Corporate Risk Register or operational level Directorate Risk Registers.

3.2. The Authority's Management Team reviews the Partnerships Register on a regular basis, and may also commission an evaluation of the internal management and governance arrangements in place for any partnership.

3.3. Having reviewed the Register in October 2020, the Management Team considers that all partnerships are meeting their original aims and objectives, that internal management and governance arrangements are adequate and appropriate, and that the partnerships continue to represent value for money.

3.4. Changes since the last review include the addition of partnerships for the Ant Broads and Marshes SSSI Restoration Project, the Broadland Futures Initiative, and the Broads Test & Trial of the Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme.

3.5. The updated Corporate Partnerships Register is at Appendix 1 to this report.

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Appendix 1 – BA Corporate Partnerships Register (Nov 2020)