

Broads Local Access Forum

04 June 2025

Agenda item number 6

Broads Local Access Forum meeting dates

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

Summary

A proposal to change the frequency of BLAF meetings from four to two. This is as a response to Defra's cut in National Park Grant effective in 2025/26 and on-going.

Recommendation

BLAF moves to having two meetings a year, one of which will be the AGM.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. It is proposed that the Forum moves from having four meetings a year to having two meetings a year. The next meeting will be the AGM in November. In 2026/27, a meeting in May/June 2026 would put the BLAF meetings into an approximate six-monthly cycle.
- 1.2. Recruitment will take place annually in March/April, as it has for the past few years, so that new members experience a meeting of the Forum before they attend an AGM.

2. Constitution and Governance

- 2.1. Section 2.4 of the constitution states that "the Forum will meet at least twice a year and aim to meet four times in the year." Decreasing to two meetings per year will mean that the Forum is still within the constitution. It is also compliant with [The Local Access Forums \(England\) Regulations 2007](#).
- 2.2. Reduction in meetings will be effective from the originally planned September 2025 meeting, which has been cancelled.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1. Moving to two meetings a year will have some positive financial implications as it will save Broads Authority Officer time and expenses for hall hire and travel.

4. Risk implications

- 4.1. There is the risk that topics will not have the same traction when the Forum meets two times a year, although there is the option to have additional meetings should a

pressing issue become apparent, or to have member-led break-out group meetings or site visits, outside of the formal BLAF meeting schedule.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. If the meetings change from four to two the Forum will still be within the parameters of the constitution and would save time and officer expense. The option to add additional meetings if deemed necessary would remain.

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Date of report: 27 May 2025