

Update on Broads Climate Change Adaptation Plan
Report by Head of Strategy and Projects

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| <p>Summary: This paper brings members up to date following the submission to Defra of a preliminary Climate Change Adaptation Plan in 2011. The Climate Change Adaptation Panel is guiding the development of a wider programme of stakeholder engagement to debate the issues and options for climate change adaptation in the Broads. The Panel have reiterated the need to work in partnership and retain an open and transparent process. The work with stakeholders needs to relate to their everyday needs and will inform a revised plan currently timetabled for submission to Defra in summer 2014. The next stage is to agree the detailed programme and resource commitments.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation: That members note the paper and provide comments about the scale and direction of the engagement process to inform the details being developed by the Panel.</p> |

1. Members will recall that at the end of 2011 the Broads Authority submitted a preliminary Broads Climate Change Adaptation Plan to Defra as part of the Adaptation Reporting programme to help create the Government's Climate Risk Assessment (published in 2012) and leading to the national adaptation plan (to be published in 2013).
2. The Adaptation Plan focussed on the special qualities of the Broads as the idea was to consider what needed to be done to adapt those features to a changing environment and keep the Broads as a special protected landscape. The process clearly indicated that the majority of the significant impacts were related to the management of water, especially dealing with flooding in all its origins. The unusual weather in 2012 has helped people recognise that we need to find ways to cope with change even if the concepts of global warming remain distant and unsure. Much remains unclear and likely coping regimes are dependent on how fast we alter the emission of greenhouse gases.
3. The Authority agreed the Plan was preliminary as the creation process had identified the important need to involve a wider range of people in considering the implications of a changing climate and the choices for adaptation. In 2012 the Climate Change Adaptation Panel¹ agreed a brief for consultants Dialogue

¹ The Broads Climate Change Adaptation Panel is chaired by Professor Kerry Turner with representatives from the Broads Authority, Environment Agency, Natural England, UEA, NFU, Norfolk County Council and with links to other local authorities.

by Design to work on the design of a wider engagement programme. The subsequent report suggested four options for that programme. Of these, the Panel chose to follow the 'Deliberative Engagement' option, which involves identifying key groups of people and spending time with them exploring likely climate change impacts and future adaptation choices. The Panel reiterated their desire to continue to work as a partnership of the main agencies on the topic, and to use the Broads Forum as a way of sharing thinking and progress in an open and transparent way.

4. Defra has recently undertaken a consultation about how the various adaptation plans should be revised and the English National Parks' suggestion of producing the next iteration for the summer of 2014 is likely to be accepted. This provides a useful deadline for the coming engagement programme to work to.
5. The Adaptation Panel's recent discussions strengthened the view that it would be best to concentrate on aspects of adaptation that concerned flooding, water quality and drought, and that these needed to be related to the everyday lives of those who live in or visit the Broads. The Panel's analysis of stakeholders suggests the initial emphasis would be to work with parish councils, the businesses that manage the water and land assets, along with the businesses that make use of those assets. There should also be effort made to involve young people as they will be living with the consequences of the adaptation choices.
6. Although there would be a widespread initial programme of information giving and awareness raising, the intention will be to take a steady approach to the more detailed discussion phase. This will allow a suitable depth of contact to draw out useful information. It will start with the stakeholder groups noted above and gradually increase the range of contacts and levels of engagement. Having said this, it is hoped that requests from other stakeholder groups to be involved in discussions at these early stages would be followed up. The Panel is suggesting four phases to the work, starting from late spring 2013. Further information on the evolving work programme is contained in Appendix 1.
7. The lead will be taken by the Broads Authority as the body responsible for submitting the Adaptation Plan to Defra. However, this is very much a partnership approach, with the key agencies working closely together to prepare information, undertake the engagement programme and listen to the contributions made and so inform the short and medium term action plan. This work is likely to be a mix of further research and monitoring, exploring policy and governance and guiding initial 'no regret' adaptation projects. The Panel is keen to see sufficient resource put into the programme of engagement, so that it is regarded as effective and appropriate. They suggest that there is a dedicated lead officer, probably with a team of trained volunteer helpers, a reference group that includes Panel members and stakeholder representatives so that progress can be reviewed and modified as needed, and a pool of experts that can be called on as necessary to help respond to

likely queries. Ultimate decisions would remain with the responsible agencies involved, using recommendations from the Panel.

8. The Panel recognises the importance of finding ways to fully inform and relate to people to tackle what could be seen as a complex and challenging subject. The consultants recommended the use of a 'self guided discussion pack' which would enable a greater range of groups to explore the issues within their own communities of interest or place. The Panel felt the use of interactive information giving and involvement as important and suggested considering the use of drama and other audio-visual tools.
9. The finer details of the engagement programme will now be developed, taking into account any comments from this meeting, and written up as a project brief to be agreed by the Adaptation Panel at their meeting on 9th April.

Background papers: None

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Broads Plan Objectives: CC1- CC4

Appendices: APPENDIX 1 – Outline of the Next Phase of Stakeholder Engagement over Climate Change for the Broads

Outline of the Next Phase of Stakeholder Engagement over Climate Change for the Broads

What are we talking about?

- A 12(-18) month project to engage with key stakeholders in the Broads to help them look ahead on how to cope with a changing climate
- A partnership approach led by the Broads Authority but closely allied with statutory authorities and with the open support of other organisations
- Developing an agreed picture of what climate implications lie ahead for the Broads
- Creating a framework for change to get the best for the Broads as the coping range for the climate alters

Who are the initial targeted stakeholders?

- Parish councils: the democratic representatives of our communities
- Business – especially farmers/landowners/ land managers and those that use the land and water they manage
- Young people – aged ~17 to 25: as they are the people who will need to particularly cope differently
- The project would use the Broads Forum as a touchstone and could seek to tap into the Broads Society (helping them reach into new areas and fostering a strong community perspective)

What would we do?

- First phase: information sharing (months 1 to 6)
 - Building awareness of our interest in working with the targeted stakeholders and why action is needed
 - Sharing what is known about the likely climate changes and how they impact on the special qualities of the Broads and the things people do
- Second phase: working with stakeholders on understanding and reviewing the implications (months 3 to 9)
 - Using existing methodology explore predicted implications to understand likely change to the special features within the Broads
 - Revise understanding with the benefit of different perspectives (or confirm content through those different perspectives)
 - Gather thoughts on what information is still needed to help choices – what would be the research and data collection priorities in the short and medium terms
 - Start identifying options to cope with, and get the best from, those changes
- Third phase – devising a framework for change (months 7 to 12)
 - Exploring what would need to alter to keep the Broads special
 - Identifying how the alterations/adaptations could happen
 - Identifying the timescale of various actions
- Fourth phase – publishing a plan (months 11 to 15)

- Agreeing a plan of action for the Broads and making it widely available. This action is likely to include undertaking new research, collecting more data, developing new policies and governance routes, designing and implementing small scale adaptation project, engaging in wider and more specific dialogue
- Establishing a way forward to enable the plan to be helpful

How would this be accomplished?

- Identify a project leader and commit the time to it
- Establish a strategic reference group to support the lead and build collective ownership of the way forward
- Identify sufficient supporting cash/resources from a range of sources
- Agree a reporting back mechanism to keep the process open and transparent
- Create a small internal working team
- Bring in other expertise when required and to ensure understanding and learning is shared internally as well
- Develop good but simple supporting material
- Reach out to the targeted participants by looking to meet them in their locality and at times convenient to them
- Seek to record the engagement process as it proceeds to help involve people and monitor changes in attitude