

Chief Executive's Report

Summary: This report summarises the current position in respect of a number of important projects and events, including any decisions taken during the recent cycle of committee meetings. It does not include matters which are already on the agenda for this meeting. Members are asked to note the report.

1 Landscape Partnership Project: Heritage Lottery Bid

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: John Packman/Will Burchnall/multiple

- 1.1 Just prior to the Authority's meeting in November, we received the very welcome news, that the Authority had been successful in its First Stage bid for £2.6 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Landscape Partnership scheme – Water, Mills and Marshes. This will deliver 38 projects by 55 organisations. It is the result of four years hard work and a tremendous achievement for the Broads Authority and its partners.
- 1.2 The project aims to enrich and promote heritage sites in the area between Norwich, Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Acle and Loddon, unlock the benefits of this distinctive landscape for local people and give them the skills to protect it as a legacy for future generations.
- 1.3 Development funding of £226,000 has also been awarded to help the partnership progress its plans to apply for a full grant at a later date. Work on the development phase will begin this year while the second round is scheduled for 2017. Fifty-five organisations will then be involved in implementing 38 individual projects over a five-year delivery phase. The project will be worth a total of £4.5m including match funding.
- 1.4 The project provides the opportunity to improve the relationship with the local community – so that there is a much better understanding of the special qualities of the Broads National Park. It will help protect these qualities for the future, by capturing the older generation's stories of the landscape and providing heritage skills training to the younger generation. It will be able to tackle the dereliction of some of the iconic windmills, look for the first time seriously at the archaeology and improve the biodiversity of the marshes.
- 1.5 The Authority would like to thank all the very many individuals in our partner organisations who have contributed to the success.

2 Navigation Charges 2016/17

Contact Officer/ Broads Plan Objective: John Packman/Bill Housden/ None

- 2.1 At the Authority's meeting on 20 November 2015, members received a report on the proposed navigation charges for 2016/17 and considered the recommendations made by the Navigation Committee at its meeting on 22 October 2015. Since that meeting, it had been possible to update the data for the number of boats registered on the Broads and projected income for the current year. Members accepted that with the lowest ever increase of 1.7% for the current year 2015/16 plus the pressures for more practical work and the delivery of the dredging of Hickling Broad, this meant that an above inflationary increase was necessary. Members accepted that a rise in income of 4.5% as proposed by the Navigation Committee would enable almost all the work programme to be delivered whilst maintain reserves which would equal 8.7% of expenditure at a level just below the recommended level. The Authority agreed that the proposed reduction in the hire boat multiplier for motor cruisers would give some relief to the industry reducing the increase charge for a 48m² boat from £57.69 to £32.50 (2.5%) and bringing it closer to the £26.18 (5.4%) cash increase for the same sized private boat.

3 Tolls Review Group 2016 – 6 November 2015, 1 December and 15 January

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: John Packman/Bill Housden/ None

- 3.1 At the Authority's meeting on 20 November 2015 the terms of reference of the Tolls Review Group were agreed. By the time of this Broads Forum meeting, The Tolls Review Group will have met on four occasions – 5 October, 6 November, 1 December 2015 and 15 January 2016. The Group have noted the outcomes from the previous reviews and lessons learnt. They have reviewed the Principles and Criteria for Navigation Charges, noting those developed in 2005 and the more detailed set developed in 2012. It was agreed that these were not appropriate for the current structure and have a devised and simpler set of principles. The Group has considered a number of papers including:
- (i) an outline analysis of the different charges on the components of the Fleet and the impacts these would have; and
 - (ii) an analysis with outline costs of three different qualities of service: budget, current and exemplar.
- 3.2 At the third meeting of the Group held on 1 December 2015 the Group considered illustrative papers exploring a number of options. At its meeting on 15 January 2016, the group will have considered a further analysis of options and the impacts of the proposals on all the fleet.

4 Strategic Priorities 2016/17

Contact Officer/ Broads Plan Objectives: John Packman/Maria Conti/ Multiple

- 4.1 At the Authority's meeting on 20 November, the Authority considered the Strategic Priorities for 2016/17. In recognising that those for 2015/16 would be of a longer term nature than a year, members agreed that these be continued into 2016/17. These included the Broads Plan Review, the Broads Landscape Partnership Project, the Hickling Broad Enhancement Project, Promoting the Broads, and the Stakeholder Action Plan including focusing on engagement through Parish Forums and workshops. They also agreed that the Strategic Priorities for 2016/17 should include Climate Change and Sea Level rise as well as the Comprehensive Spending Review.

5 Mooring Guide and Riverbank Stabilisation Guide

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Natalie Beal/ NA1.5, TR2.2, NA5.2

- 5.1 Members will recall receiving an update on the Mooring Design Guide at their meeting on 5 November 2015 within the Chief Executive's Report. At the Authority's meeting on 20 November 2015, the Guide was endorsed and formerly adopted. Members welcomed the revised guides and considered that they were very positive, well-structured documents that would help to inform strategies for the future. The Guide may be viewed from the Authority's website. [MooringDesignGuide](#) and [StabilisationGuide](#)

6 Review of Consultative Arrangements: Broads Local Access Forum

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Adrian Clarke/ None

- 6.1 As part of the review of Consultative Arrangements and given that a number of members' terms of appointment had come and were coming to an end in October as well as the interest expressed in being on the forum, a recruitment process agreed by the Authority in September 2015 was implemented. The new membership is due to be adopted at the Authority's meeting on 22 January 2016.

7 Hickling Enhancement Project

Contact Officer/ Broads Plan Objective: Trudi Wakelin/ BD4.1

- 7.1 A very successful Parish Forum was held at Hickling Barn, Hickling in October which provided the parishes within that area of the Upper Thurne and Bure with a specific presentation on the Hickling Enhancement project. There was very good attendance of members of the public, stakeholders and Broads Authority members with presentations which were well received and some useful discussion. Works to dredge the priority area close to the Sailing Club and pub started on 26 November, and is being carried out in accordance with strict environmental criteria. Over 1,000m³ had been dredged by Christmas. The installation of Nicospan erosion protection has been completed, and will be backfilled before the dredger is demobilised. Project updates are being regularly

sent to interested parties as part of the Communication Plan, and the project will be finished by 29 February 2016 as per Natural England assent. Work is also ongoing to design the next phase of the work for 16/17 in accordance with the agreed vision, and a planning application is due to be submitted in Spring 2016.

8 High level review of flood risk management for the Broads

Contact Officer/ Broads Plan Objectives: Simon Hooton/ CC2

- 8.1 The current Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) gives the policy for the low lying land between Eccles and Winterton as 'Hold the line'. To achieve this, the Environment Agency have been monitoring the beach levels and structural defences along this stretch of the coast and have recently intervened by introducing further rock groynes seeking to retain the beach and its protection of the sea walls and dunes. The Environment Agency needs to look to the future and start the process of gaining the necessary permissions for any future interventions in this area along with identifying what technically feasible solutions can be followed to bring maximum benefit and who might contribute financially.
- 8.2 The Environment Agency recognises the value of working in partnership to explore the best options for the next, and future, phases of flood risk management and have asked to work with the Broads Climate Partnership to commission a study to undertake a high level review of the possible pathways to secure continued protection of the low lying coast and how this relates to the adjoining coast (especially Great Yarmouth) and the Broads as a whole in terms of what happens after the Broads Flood Alleviation Project.
- 8.3 This will enable all the recent research and review work about protecting the coast and its implications for the Broads to be brought together and considered collectively. It will incorporate high level study of issues such as river and coastal barriers and allow an update of the costs and technical feasibility of such structures. Although this initiative will not allow the commissioning of new modelling or data collection, it will put in one place the best current knowledge. This, it is hoped, will enable a simple overview of how long the current approach might remain effective and map out what would need to be considered to gain confidence in any alternative scenarios.
- 8.4 Although the bulk of the study costs will be met by the Environment Agency, the Broads Authority will have considered at their last meeting a proposal to make a modest contribution and other partners will also be asked if they wish to contribute.
- 8.5 This work is seen as a very positive way of furthering the aspirations of the Broads Climate Adaptation Plan and providing clarity over what options might exist to manage flood risk and saline incursion. It also provides a collaborative approach through the key agencies helping to develop partnership ideas that can be explored further by stakeholders.

9 Water Skiing on Breydon Water

Contact Officer/Broads Plan Objective: Steve Birtles/NA4.5

- 9.1 The implementation of the recommendations of the Water Ski Review Panel will be deferred as negotiations regarding mitigation measures are ongoing with Natural England. Arrangements for water skiing on Breydon Water will not change for the season 2016/17.

Background papers: None

Author: Sandra Becket / Esmeralda Guds

Date of report: 13 January 2016

Broads Plan Objectives: Multiple

Appendices: None