

Broads Authority

19 November 2021

Agenda item number 13

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 Scoping Report (by Autumn 2021) (ii) Prepare first draft Plan for consultation (by Nov 2021) (iii) Prepare final draft Plan for consultation (by Mar 2022) 	<p>Status: Some delays</p> <p>Timetable slightly revised to allow for further work at first draft stage. First draft plan for consultation to go to BA meeting in January 2022.</p>	<p>Strategy and Projects Officer</p>
<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) Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report produced and consulted on; considered by Planning Committee 8 Oct, who supported the proposed changes to future iterations of SA. (ii) Issues and Options sections taken to Planning Committee each month for consideration – may see final document consulted on in April/May 2022. (iii) Evidence base in production – key studies underway for housing need, residential mooring need and Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Show people need. 	<p>Planning Policy Officer</p>

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
<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 ongoing, anticipated to be completed this year. Extracted reed rhizomes and begun planting 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) Construction works and first phase of planting completed on time at Wet Farming Demonstration site, including testing first-time innovative propagation method for reed with New Energy Farms. Monitoring and farmer and policy maker engagement active over next 12 months, with further works required to keep geese off site and a further planting will occur in the spring. Project presented at live Defra hosted event at COP26 on 10 November, and featured in both Nature-based Solutions Initiative launched at COP26 and BBC Look East focus on the Broads. 	<p>CANAPE Project Manager</p>
<p>3. Environment Land Management scheme (ELM)</p>	<p>Status: completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Completed seminars on nature recovery prioritisation, water management and carbon in 	<p>Environment Policy Adviser</p>

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
<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) (iv) Finalise Operating Procedures for Broads land management board (Jul 2021) (v) Complete final report and Defra handover meeting/presentation (Jul 2021) 	<p>peat, and blending private and public finance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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. The finding presented to Defra ELM lead for Local Nature Recovery. Defra will be widely adopting the Board structure for the delivery of ELM Local Nature Recovery. The success of the Board, which has also evolved to act as the Local Assessment Panel for the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme, was noted. This has enabled FiPL applications to be approved in a timely manner. 	
<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Hold virtual exhibition and online survey (Jan-Apr 2021) 	<p>Status: On track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Completed. (ii) Completed. Second meeting of Elected Members Forum took place on 28 Sept 2021. The minutes are available on the BFI website. (iii) On track. Draft report “BFI Plan Objectives” presented to Elected Members Forum on 28 Sept; the Forum approved the draft BFI objectives. 	Director of Strategic Services

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) Hold first meeting of Elected Members Forum (Spring 2021) (iii) Various technical deliverables from consultant (throughout 2021/22) 		
<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>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>Status: Some delays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The final calculations for the carbon baseline are ready, Smallworld are consulting and writing their report, including feasible trajectories for emissions from the Broads Executive Area. (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 	Carbon Reduction Project Manager

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
	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) (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 	<p>Status: On track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Achieved (ii) Achieved (iii) 427 surveys completed by the Ranger team plus further online surveys completed by hirers directly. Data to be assessed by Jan 2022 ahead of next season. (iv) MAIB interim report released 	Head of Ranger Services
<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> <p>Quarterly returns submitted on time and paid by NLHF. All projects progressing well to adjusted plans, with most scheduled to end in 2022.</p> <p>Works at Highs Mill completed. Scaffolding erected at Mutton's Mill, Halvergate. Largest bits of timber for mill works delivered (18.5m in length) for works in winter/spring. Students from City College Norwich returning to site works in November.</p> <p>New fundraising plan underway with support from Norfolk County Council (NCC) External Funding team and Scheme partners. New focus on pursuing Crowdfund Norfolk, as one of</p>	WMM Programme Manager

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	<p>the initial focusses is on Windmill restoration.</p> <p>Work continues with East Suffolk, South Norfolk and Broadland District Councils on installation of Changing Places toilet facilities in the Broads to improve access for local communities. We are also working with the RNIB on the installation of a “Map-for-All”, a tactile map that allows visually impaired people to navigate with confidence around a site. We’ve also worked with local organisations to solve access issues for people with mobility issues.</p> <p>Face-to-face community engagement events and archaeology day schools being held monthly. We led 3 guided walks in September as part of Heritage Open Days in Norwich and Lowestoft and had a presence at the Norwich Science Festival in October. Further engagement events planned for autumn with Norfolk Libraries service.</p> <p>Work continues with NCC Historic Environment Team to create new maintenance and management system on their database for mills project legacy.</p> <p>Planning ongoing for Broads Hidden Heritage Festival with Scheme partners. Legacy planning ongoing, with new legacy partners recruited to continue works beyond project funding.</p>	

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