

Navigation Committee

07 September 2023

Agenda item number 8

Navigation Committee Priorities

Report by Chief Executive

Purpose

On 8 June 2023, Members of the Committee and officers discussed the key strategic issues that need to be addressed at future committee meetings. Eight were identified and these have been worked up into a draft programme for the Committee to consider.

Broads Plan context

C1 - Maintain navigation water depths to defined specifications, reduce sediment input and dispose of dredged material in sustainable and beneficial ways

C2 - Maintain existing navigation water space and develop appropriate opportunities to extend access for various types of craft

C3 - Manage water plants and riverside trees and scrub, and seek resources to increase operational targets

C4 - Maintain and improve safety and security standards and user behaviour on the waterways

1. Introduction

1.1. Following the discussion on 8 June between members and officers, it was agreed that the following eight issues should be the Committee's key strategic priorities:

- Integrated Access Strategy
- Port of Norwich
- Tolls
- Future of the hire boat industry.
- Paddleboard sports
- Bankside vegetation/water plant management
- Balance in practical operations
- Sustainable boating

1.2. Table 1 - Proposed timetable for discussion by the Committee.

| Priority | Description of key stages | Timescale |
|--|--|--|
| Integrated Access Strategy (IAS) | The number, location, and maintenance of the network of over 60 free 24-hour moorings will be examined as part of the IAS review. Initial consultation had been widened and ends on midday 18 September 2023. Report to the Committee on the feedback. | 2/11/2023 |
| Port of Norwich and concerns re potential new bridges associated with East Norwich Development | Officers will bring regular reports to the Navigation Committee as and when necessary, or when an item needs consultation. | As and when necessary |
| Tolls – charges for 2024/25 New on-line tolls software | Briefing for all Members Consultation with the Navigation Committee Decision by the Broads Authority Strategic Priority for this and next year Scoping work complete. Currently engaged on pre-market engagement on upgrade of internal system. Progress report on viability of updating internal system to the latest software. | 13/10/2023 2/11/2023 24/11/2023 11/1/2024 |
| Future of the hire boat industry | Commission study to review 2001 report and examine the prospects for the industry going forward and what actions could be taken to encourage. Stage 1 – Discuss with the Broads Hire Boat Federation Prepare a brief for the work and consult the Committee on the content. | 30/8/2023 |
| Paddleboard sports | Prepare a report for the Committee on the trends and issues. | 11/04/2024 |
| Bankside vegetation/water plant management | Water plant management report delivered to June 2023 meeting. River side tree management report on the agenda for this meeting | 8/06/2023 7/09/2023 |
| Balance in practical operations | Operational report at this meeting provides an update on practical work. Key issue for discussion with Members at the Tolls Briefing and November Committee meeting concerns the proportion of expenditure on dredging, channel marking, maintenance of moorings, patrolling and plant cutting in 2024/25. | 7/09/2023 13/10/2023 2/11/2023 |
| Sustainable boating | Report on potential upgrade for electric charging posts. | 2/11/2023 |

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[Broads Plan](#) strategic objectives: C1, C2, C3, C4