

Update on the Work of the Broads Climate Change Adaptation Panel
Report by Head of Strategy and Projects

Summary: This report informs the Forum of the results of the work to report on options for involving more stakeholders in deliberation about adaptation options for the Broads. It summarises the four options the consultants suggested and reports that the Panel has agreed to use the Deliberative Engagement option as the template for the next phase. The Panel has reiterated its desire to keep the Broads Forum informed of decisions and progress and will agree the next steps in early April.

1 Background

- 1.1 The Broads Forum has been kept informed of the work of the Broads Climate Change Adaptation Panel to facilitate a two way process of considering what are the necessary steps for the Broads to improve its options on how to adapt to a changing climate. The Panel, led by the Broads Authority and chaired by professor Kerry Turner, brings together the Environment Agency, Natural England, National Farmers Union, Local authorities and UEA with the Authority to coordinate actions over planning for climate adaptation.
- 1.2 After producing a preliminary Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Defra in 2011, the Panel identified the important need to work more closely with those with a strong interest in the future of the Broads to test some of the assumptions and consider options for action. To help ensure this was tackled effectively the Panel commissioned Dialogue by Design (a specialist firm in involving stakeholders in decision making) to investigate and produce recommendations for the way forward.
- 1.3 During the autumn of 2012, Dialogue by Design sought to engage with stakeholders and use their help to define future options for the Panel. The approach was a combination of using their previous experience and expertise and testing thoughts with a range of people from different interests in the Broads. At this stage it was not about considering adaptation options but more about identifying what would be a cost effective way to involve local stakeholders and produce a plan for the way forward. Dialogue by Design presented their final report to the Panel in early December 2012.

2 Engagement Report

- 2.1 The consultants identified 4 different options that could be taken forward. These can be summarised as:

(i) **No Consultation with the Wider Public**

- Use the Panel to develop ideas; test these back with the Broads Forum; produce a refined plan. Minimises the issue of whether there is sufficient public interest/ belief in climate change to become involved and is a cheap option. Major drawback is that it does nothing to build willingness for stakeholders to act as they are only remotely engaged with the concept.

(ii) **Social Research**

- Engage a social research company to contact a sample of the public and take them through a phased consideration of the content, risks, scenarios and possible solutions.
- Allows a cross section of views to be collated through an independent resource.
- Fails to draw in particular sectors likely to be noticeable affected; weak on sharing of viewpoints and working collectively on solutions; does not allow depth of understanding to develop.

(iii) **On Line Consultation Only**

- Draft plan formulated and put on web inviting wide ranging consultation from anyone interested in the subject (with option of a parallel route commenting through a freepost address).
- Enables a wide range of people to have their say. Produces something to 'react against'. Relatively cheap way of having the opportunity to reach disparate people and people away from the Broads.
- Weak on enabling two way dialogue and can be restrictive on who gets involved (need computer confidence) though does allow a national angle fairly easily. Participants are self selecting.

(iv) **Deliberative Engagement**

- Range of approaches to allow discussion in groups of information and to develop input on issues and possible solutions. To keep costs lower, central activity would be a discussion pack to enable groups to run self-organised sessions to record thoughts and return to the Panel. Options for face to face engagement and targeting of specific sectors.
- Potentially the most inclusive option enabling people to take time to understand things and really contribute to the process. Can be refined as it goes along to accommodate new thinking. Potential to build interest in and ownership of the way forward.
- Needs to be done well to be effective and cost can be an issue especially if external experts are used. Potential to lose direction as other issues start to dominate. Can generate significant amounts of information for analysis.

- 2.2 The full report is on the Broads Authority web site along with a summary report that reflects on the lessons learnt from the process in case others wish to do something similar. The link is: <http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/managing/climate-change.html>
- 2.3 After considering the report the Panel have concluded that the best way forward would be to use the Deliberative Engagement option. The Panel members feel that it is important to properly involve those with an interest to ensure their perspectives are incorporated and so make any final document stronger. The process also enables a two-way engagement that will build understanding for all and collectively identify the matters that need the greatest attention.
- 2.4 The Panel recognised that timing constraints made it hard to fully engage with Broads Forum members in this stage although there was some clear similarities coming through from those who did opt to get involved that gave confidence to the final options report. The Panel also reiterated their desire to move forward through close cooperation of the key organisations they represented and that they remain open to developing a collective view about the best ways to ensure the special qualities of the Broads are retained as society adapts to the changing environment created through climate differences.
- 2.5 A timetable has been set by the Panel to devise the details of the approach to be taken with a wish to get mutual agreement in early April on a cost effective plan. The Broads Authority has committed resources to this work and the other agencies are exploring what financial and in kind help they can offer.
- 2.6 Initial discussion has suggested the focus will be on working through parish councils, businesses (both farmers/land managers and those using their assets such as tourism businesses) and young people (16 to 25 year olds).
- 2.7 A steering group for the engagement project will be established and if any Broads Forum members would particularly like to be considered they should let Simon Hooton or the Chair, Kerry Turner, know. The Panel will continue to provide updates on progress to the Broads Forum and hope members are able to spread this information to the organisational interests they reflect.

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Broads Plan Objectives: CC2
Appendices: None