

Broads Authority

24 November 2023

Agenda item number 14

Member report on outside bodies- Broadland Futures Initiative (BFI)

Report by Matt Shardlow, BA appointee to the BFI

Purpose

Members appointed by the Authority to outside bodies are invited to submit a written report from time to time on the work and activities of the organisations and working groups they sit on.

Recommended decision

To note the report.

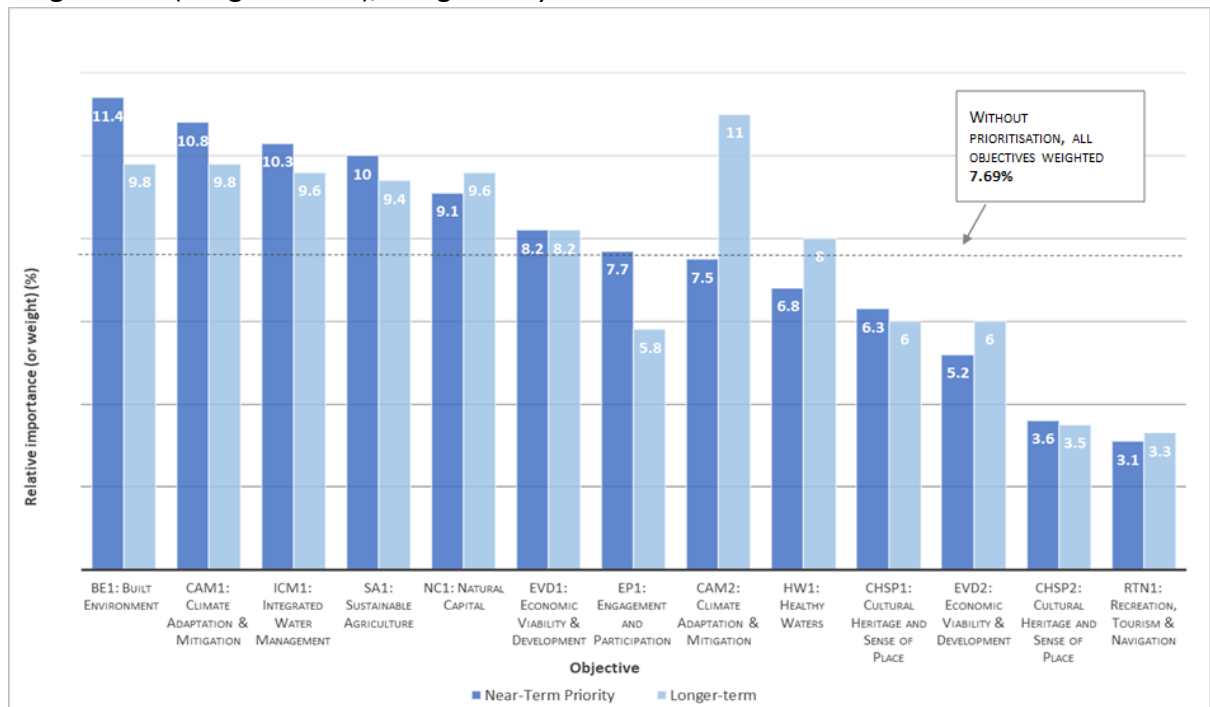
1. Introduction

- 1.1. The main goal of the Broadland Futures initiative (BFI) is to agree a framework for future flood risk management that better considers our changing climate and rising sea level over approximately the next 100 years.
- 1.2. The BFI is a partnership that includes the key statutory bodies: the Environment Agency has lead responsibility and is working with Natural England, county and district councils, Internal Drainage Boards, Broads Authority, National Farmers Union, and voluntary bodies. The Broads Authority also has a key facilitatory role, providing staff support to the Initiative Project Team and governance.
- 1.3. The BFI Elected Members Forum comprises one appointed representative from each local authority, councillors or an Authority member in our case, within the BFI area, to provide a strategic steer, receive advice and recommendations, review progress and reach agreements based on financial, environmental, and technical evidence. The authorities represented are:
 - Broadland District Council
 - Broads Authority
 - East Suffolk Council
 - Great Yarmouth Borough Council

- Norfolk County Council
- North Norfolk District Council
- Norwich City Council
- South Norfolk County
- Suffolk County Council

2. Update

- 2.1. I have attended two meetings of the Elected Members Forum since taking over as the BA representative in the summer. There has been a genuine sense of purpose and willingness to face up to the scale of the challenge that faces the region, and there has been high quality listening and hearing debate from differing perspectives but with a united certainty in the seriousness of the threat of the rising sea levels to lives, livelihoods and biodiversity in the Broads and surrounding landscapes.
- 2.2. At the most recent meeting on 9 October the Elected Members Forum refined and agreed a prioritised list of outcomes that had been previously ranked by the members using an online preference-based voting system. When the project comes to consider different management options for the area, the ability of an option to deliver against each of the outcomes will be used to help assess options for management the flooding in the BFI area.
- 2.3. Below is the ranked list of BFI objectives, for near-term priority (in darker blue), and longer-term (in lighter blue), as agreed by the Elected Members Forum.



Objective descriptors:

BE1	The built environment is more resilient, flooding is less disruptive, and recovery is faster	EP1	Communities and stakeholders are informed and collaborate to improve resilience
CAM1	Actions are adaptable to future changes in climate	HW1	Surface water quality is improved, and salinity increases in freshwater environments are minimised
CAM2	Actions are carbon-neutral within the 100-year plan period	ICM1	Food risk and water resources are managed in an integrated way, from upstream rivers to the coast
CHSP1	Through enhancing the area's special qualities and landscape, people's wellbeing and sense of place is improved	NC1	All opportunities are taken to conserve and enhance the natural environment
CHSP2	The historic environment, heritage assets and their settings are conserved	RTN1	Access to recreational and tourism activities is supported, and impacts to navigation are minimised
EVD1	Pathways of actions are cost-beneficial	SA1	Flood management and sustainable agriculture are aligned to improve climate resilience
EVD2	Flood management contributes to sustainable growth in the local rural and urban economies		

2.4. A recent scientific report by the British Antarctic Survey (Naughten, Holland & De Rydt, 2023) has forecast that mitigation of greenhouse gases now has limited power to prevent the ocean warming that will likely result in the collapse of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet. Passing this tipping point commits us to an eventual sea level rise of at least 5 metres. Even in the scope of the 100-year horizon for this project, we have to plan for a sea level rise between 40 and 90 centimetres. The challenges to the sustainability of communities and biodiversity are very significant.

2.5. Over the next year, the BFI will complete the development of the hydrological models that will enable us to understand how the risk of flooding across the strategy area will change with climate change and sea level rise. Also, following the recent public consultation on the range of actions that might be taken to manage the risk of flooding (the consultation was this summer 2023), several combinations of potential actions will be developed. The range of potential action combinations will subsequently be assessed against different climate change scenarios to determine what flood risk

management actions will best achieve our objectives, both in the near future and longer-term.

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Date of report: 07 November 2023

Background papers: none