

Broads Authority

28 July 2023

Agenda item number 14

Capital Funding progress report

Report by Chief Executive

Purpose

To provide the Broads Authority members and Defra officials with a regular update on the progress implementing the capital funding programme.

Broads Plan context

B3 - seek biodiversity net gain and enhance areas of fen, reed bed, grazing marsh, and wet woodland, to protect peatlands as carbon sinks.

C1 – maintain navigation 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.

E1 - improve the integrated network of access routes and points (with easier access for people with mobility and sensory needs), linked to visitor facilities.

Recommended decision

Note the progress in the delivery of the programme.

1. Programme Update

- 1.1. The table in the appendix updates the Authority on the progress made since the last meeting in delivering the capital programme funded by Defra. A copy has been sent to Defra officials so that they are aware of the current position.
- 1.2. At the last meeting it was reported that “All of the plant and equipment ordered for delivery by the end of March arrived on time. The barge/workboat is due for delivery in early May.” The barge has been delivered and is in use collecting cut water plant material on the River Wensum and Yare.
- 1.3. The two outstanding items were the purchase of the Hulver Ground and the repair of the drainage structure at Strumpshaw.

- 1.4. The land purchase was delayed because of the title to the property is subject to a restriction, which specifies that no transfer of the property may be registered with the Land Registry unless a certificate is provided by the seller stating that they have complied with a historic document called the Horning Enclosure, which is dated 13 May 1818.
- 1.5. Following advice from Birketts we have agreed to proceed with the purchase on the following basis. The sale contract will be drafted so that it provides for the full purchase price as a deposit. This will be transferred to the seller's solicitor to hold as stakeholder (so that they are not allowed to use the money until completion) via us before the exchange. It will then sit there until the issue regarding the restriction is resolved by the Charity Commission, the point that the contract becomes unconditional, and we complete the transfer.
- 1.6. The contractors repairing the Strumpshaw drainage structure are on site and photos of the works are included [below](#).
- 1.7. The capital programme has been delivered effectively, the equipment is on site and making a positive difference to the management of the Broads and the protection of its biodiversity.
- 1.8. Our thanks go to Defra Ministers and officials who have made this programme possible.

2. Financial and Risk implications

- 2.1. Most of the capital programme has now been delivered on time and within budget. The remaining risks are deemed minor.

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Date of report: 10 July 2023

[Broads Plan](#) strategic objectives: B3; C1-3 and E1

Appendix 1 – Capital Funding Monitoring Report - July 2023

Photos of the Strumpshaw Drainage Structure repairs



