

# Broads Local Access Forum

03 June 2020

Agenda item number 7

## Broads Integrated Access Strategy: Update

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

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### Summary

This report provides an update on the Broads Integrated Access Strategy and Action Plan, highlighting some of the work taking place throughout the current COVID-19 lockdown.

### Recommendation

To note the actions and to seek alternate means of completing access projects that have no identified resources or delivery mechanisms.

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The first Integrated Access Strategy (IAS) was adopted in 2013, in line with the Broads Plan 2011, and the associated Action Plan is subject to regular review. The [updated IAS](#) was adopted in July 2019 following consultation with Broads Authority members, Navigation Committee, Broads Local Access Forum and stakeholders.
- 1.2. The top three priority outputs following the 2019 review were:
  - To create a GIS dataset of all the access provision in the Broads, so mapped information can be analysed and shared;
  - To work in partnership with other relevant organisations to resource delivery mechanisms and complete prioritised projects; and
  - To hold a 'Broads Engage' public consultation event to identify viable projects.
- 1.3. There are seven strategic objectives in the IAS, against which projects are measured. These are:
  - To improve links between land and water and to the water's edge;
  - To improve access links to local facilities, settlements and visitor destination points;
  - To improve access for all in the Broads;
  - To encourage sustainable travel choices such as public transport, walking, cycling and non-powered boating, and improve links between public transport provision, visitor destination points and access routes;

- To deliver the River Wensum Strategy through the River Wensum Strategy Partnership;
- To encourage provision of access routes that relieve visitor pressure on internationally designated sites, avoid disturbance of protected species and help to accommodate growth; and
- To provide appropriate information on access and interpretation about recreational sites.

## 2. Broads Engage

- 2.1. A Broads Engage public event on integrated access was held in November 2018, when project ideas from attendees were recorded.
- 2.2. Using the IAS strategic objectives and working with local groups, the Waterways and Recreation Officer conducted feasibility scores of the viable projects arising from the Broads Engage event. The criteria used to prioritise the work areas listed includes scoring against the individual IAS objectives, plus scores for technical feasibility, stakeholder buy-in and funding availability. This process enables schemes to be ranked, highlights those that offer the greatest benefits against IAS objectives and helps focus limited resource.
- 2.3. The results of this will be used to create a 5-year Action Plan to continue delivering access improvements in the Broads. The implementation of the plan will be reported to BLAF on a regular basis (see Appendix 1 for more information).

## 3. Next steps

- 3.1. The Waterways and Recreation Officer will give a brief presentation summarising the recorded data and how the Authority plans to manage and disseminate it. It is obvious from the long list of projects across the Broads that multiple stakeholders and lead partners are needed to deliver the ambitious range of access improvements. Input from BLAF members on who those partners are, and what role they can play in delivery, will be welcomed.

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Background papers: Integrated Access Strategy, Broads Engage event report

[Broads Plan](#) objectives: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4