

# Broads Authority

23 September 2022

Agenda item number 12

## Strategic priorities- update

Report by Senior Governance Officer

### Purpose

This report sets out the latest progress in implementing the Authority's annual strategic priorities for 2022/23, together with an update with progress with the strategic priorities for 2023/24.

### Recommended decision

To note the report.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Each year the Broads Authority identifies a small set of strategic priorities, which focus on projects that have high resource needs or a very large impact on the Broads, or that are politically sensitive. Setting these priorities helps target the Authority's resources and make the most of partnership working and external funding opportunities. Priorities are set each financial year, although some large-scale projects carry across several years.
- 1.2. In addition, Defra has introduced a new requirement for National Park Authorities and the Broads Authority to provide quarterly updates on deliverables against the Business Plan, as part of its grant funding agreement. These update reports on our strategic priorities will assist officers in compiling the information necessary to comply with that requirement.
- 1.3. The latest update on our agreed strategic priorities for 2022/23 is in Table 1.

**Table 1**

Strategic priorities 2022/23 – progress update

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
<b>1. Response to the Government's proposals on the Landscapes Review</b>	Status: <b>on track</b>  Broads Authority meeting on 18 March 2022 agreed the response which was sent to Defra on 8 April 2022.	Chief Executive

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
<p>Aim: To influence the Government’s approach to the implementation of the Landscapes Review.</p> <p>Milestones: 9 April 2022 deadline</p>	<p>Await further response from the Government.</p>	
<p><b>2. Broads strategy and policy review</b></p> <p><b>(a) Broads Plan</b></p> <p>Aim: To review, update and produce the Broads Plan for adoption in 2022.</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Consult on draft Plan (May-July 2022)</li> <li>(ii) Adopt final Plan (Sept 2022)</li> </ul>	<p>Status: <b>on track</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Consultation held 23 May to 15 July 2022</li> <li>(ii) On track – revised draft Plan presented on this agenda</li> </ul>	<p>Strategy and Projects Officer</p>
<p><b>(b) Local Plan for the Broads</b></p> <p>Aim: To review the Local Plan for the Broads for adoption in 2024 (estimated).</p> <p>Prepare and adopt Supplementary Planning Documents and guidance to support Local Plan policy.</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report – May 2022</li> <li>(ii) Housing and residential moorings need assessments – June 2022</li> <li>(iii) Issues and Options version of Local Plan (with HRA and SA) consultation – August 2022</li> <li>(iv) Preparation of the Preferred Options version of Local Plan (with HRA and SA)</li> </ul>	<p>Status: <b>on track</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Complete</li> <li>(ii) Complete</li> <li>(iii) Due to be published October 2022 (slight delay)</li> <li>(iv) On track</li> </ul>	<p>Planning Policy Officer</p>

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
consultation – towards consultation for June 2023		
<p><b>3. Safety in the Broads &amp; Hire Boat Licensing Review</b></p> <p>Aim: To manage and monitor safety in the Broads for all users.</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Recruit and train new Rangers (date May 2022)</li> <li>(ii) Prepare and make available safety videos (May 2022)</li> <li>(iii) Review Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) report.</li> <li>(iv) Review new safety measures and liaise with Broads Hire Boat Federation (BHBF) on any additional measures.</li> </ul>	<p>Status: <b>complete</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Rangers recruited and trained in time for the new season. Additional Rangers recruited, trained and deployed onto the waterway, enabling the Authority to maintain a 7 day a week on river patrolling.</li> <li>(ii) Amended safety videos distributed. Instructional videos produced and shared through partnering websites and YouTube channels. The suite of instructional videos has been added too in 2022, bringing paddle sports and what to do in an emergency into the free online suite</li> <li>(iii) Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) report into fatal accident on the Diamond Emblem 1 at Great Yarmouth on the River Bure on 19 August 2020 published on 5 May 2022. Response to recommendations sent on 1 June 2022. The Marine Accident Investigation Branch report was released in May 2022, following consultation and inputs from the Broads Authority. The three recommendations suggested by the MAIB for the Authority have been either approved or implemented.</li> <li>(iv) Following consultation with the Navigation Authority and in line with the MAIB recommendations the last recommendation made by</li> </ul>	<p>Head of Ranger Services</p>

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
	the MAIB, adoption of the British Marine Quality Accredited Boatyard Scheme as part of our Hire Boat Licensing Conditions, will be implemented from April 2023.	
<p><b>4. Responding to climate change</b></p> <p><b><u>(a) Broadland Futures Initiative</u></b></p> <p>Aim: To implement the next steps of the Broad Futures Initiative (BFI) programme, including the development of the modelling which is expected in 2023.</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Publish 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> editions of the BFI newsletter (April and December 2022).</li> <li>(ii) Hold 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Elected Members Forum (Spring 2022 and early 2023).</li> <li>(iii) Various technical deliverables from consultant (throughout 2021/22) including the list of all possible actions.</li> </ul>	<p>Status: <b>on track</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the <a href="#">newsletter</a> published in April 2022. The 10<sup>th</sup> edition is under preparation for publication in September, with a focus on the next stage of the BFI work.</li> <li>(ii) 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Elected Members Forum on 28 June 2022. Cllr Eric Vary chaired the meeting, and members agreed the proposed method for the identification and appraisal of potential strategic actions.</li> <li>(iii) A statistical model will be developed to improve our understanding of saline intrusion (see article in newsletter no.9).</li> </ul>	<p>Director of Strategic Services</p>
<p><b><u>(b) Climate Change Action Plan</u></b></p> <p>Aim: To implement agreed actions in the Authority’s Climate Change Action Plan.</p> <p>To reduce the carbon footprint of the Broads Authority and the Broads Executive Area (‘Broads Area’).</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Work with partners to secure funding for Phase II of the “Electrifying the Broads” Project</li> </ul>	<p>Status: <b>on track</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Electrifying the Broads report delivered to DfT on time. Second phase of funding for trialling an electric hire boat delayed as the Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition Round 2 was limited to “out of water” testing. Round 3 is expected to open in September and allow for in-water prototypes. Potential funding through other schemes is being explored.</li> <li>(ii) We have received the final report from Small World Report, which</li> </ul>	<p>Carbon Reduction Project Manager</p>

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
(ii) Develop proposals for each of the six areas identified in the Small World report and consult with members	was briefed to members at the end of July. Work is ongoing to set out the next steps and identify priority projects for the Authority.	
<p><b>5. <u>Water, Mills and Marshes Landscape Partnership Scheme</u></b></p> <p>Aim: To implement and report to National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) on partnership projects to agreed revised schedules (scheme extended to 2024).</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Monitor and report progress (July/Dec).</li> <li>(ii) Submit quarterly claims to National Lottery Heritage Fund (April/Jul/Oct/Jan)</li> <li>(iii) Implement Fundraising and Legacy plan with partners (July)</li> <li>(iv) Hold Broads Life Festival (June)</li> <li>(v) Hold Broads Hidden Heritage Conference (Oct)</li> <li>(vi) Implement Changing Places Toilets Installation project with district councils</li> </ul>	<p>Status: <b>on track</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) All projects progressing well to adjusted plans, with most scheduled to end in December 2022.</li> <li>(ii) Quarterly returns submitted on time and paid by NLHF.</li> <li>(iii) Legacy and fundraising plan in progress. Working with partner to secure remaining cash for grant drawdown.</li> <li>(iv) Broads Life Festival held on 11 June at Beccles Quay.</li> <li>(v) Broads Hidden Heritage Conference rescheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup> at UEA’s Thomas Paine Study Centre.</li> <li>(vi) We have met with multiple contractors who are quoting for the installation of Changing Places Toilet facilities that we are co-delivering with local district councils. We are awaiting final quotes for works for the toilet near Norwich, which should be the first to be completed.</li> </ul> <p>Works are continuing at Mutton’s Mill, Halvergate, with students from City College Norwich. We anticipate the works to the mill to be completed in the Spring of 2023. Students set to return to the worksite in September.</p> <p>Our final public arts engagement project output was held at Skipplings Gallery, Great Yarmouth in June and is</p>	WMM Programme Manager

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
	<p>now on display at the Assembly House in Norwich through the end of October.</p> <p>Our exhibition on the history of drainage windmills in the Broads at the Museum of the Broads in Stalham is also on display through the end of October. It will remain on display in 2023.</p>	
<p><b>6. Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme (NCPGS) Discovery project</b></p> <p>Aim: Co-ordinate and implement with partners the NCPGS Discovery project to agreed schedule.</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Landowner agreements</li> <li>(ii) Appoint Engineering Consultants</li> <li>(iii) Landowner engagement and development of carbon finance model</li> <li>(iv) Technical studies including peat and vegetation water surveys, and Historic Environment Assessments</li> <li>(v) Scheme wide engagement and education</li> <li>(vi) Water Vole Survey New Approach to be approved by Natural England</li> <li>(vii) Monitoring and Restoration Plans</li> <li>(viii) Complete site selection for potential restoration</li> </ul>	<p>Status: <b>on track</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Complete for original sites.</li> <li>(ii) In progress. Stantec to be appointed as the Engineering Consultant for the project.</li> <li>(iii) Two Carbon Finance workshops successful with over 50 attendees. Commercial Model outline developed to include nutrient neutrality as well as carbon finance. Planning one to one sessions with land owners and occupiers.</li> <li>(iv) Ahead of schedule with peat coring, topographic levelling complete and vegetation surveys nearing completion. Restoration Plans commencing following circulation of a site-by-site Concept Note.</li> <li>(v) Engagement planned with farmers with 3 farm walks scheduled. Engagement with young people has started; audience will include representatives from the farming and fashion sector and selected professionals (architects linking with <a href="#">CNMI</a>). Successful engagement with wetland</li> </ul>	<p>Peat Project Manager</p>

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
(ix) Restoration Grant Application	<p>products display stand at Norfolk Show. The programme with colleges is due to commence in September. Public arts engagement with youth-led collective member of RE-PEAT, at GroundWork Gallery, Kings Lynn 2 – 30 September.</p> <p>(vi) On target. Overall method approved, although consenting will be required on a site basis. Habitat assessment method has been completed at all sites and initial analysis to be presented on 24 August. Analysis of 3 test sites indicated a significant relationship between increasing habitat suitability score and water vole presence.</p> <p>(vii) Restoration Plan structure agreed.</p> <p>(viii) Revisions of sites agreed with landowners and Natural England. Prioritisation of sites to have full Restoration Plans approved by the Partnership on 28 July and then sent to NE.</p> <p>(ix) Not commenced – submission deadline expected in June 2023</p>	
<p><b>7. <a href="#">Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)</a></b></p> <p>Aim: To run the FiPL programme and support the Broads and Norfolk Coast Land Management Board to allocate funding.</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <p>(i) Hold seven land management board meetings (March 2023)</p>	<p>Status: <b>on track</b></p> <p>(i) Four Land Management Board meetings held on 11 April, 6 June, 18 July and 1 August.</p> <p>(ii) On track. 13 projects approved and £96,984.50 funding allocated.</p> <p>(iii) On track. One project completed and claimed and others on track.</p>	<p>Catchment &amp; Farming Officer</p>

Themes, aims and milestones	Progress	Lead officer
(ii) Allocate all grant funding to projects (December 2022) (iii) Pay all grant claims for completed projects (March 2023) (iv) Promote the success of the programme through the Press and our partners.	(iv) Under way. Sent Broads FiPL summary and case study to local MPs.	
<b>8. Tolls system replacement</b> Aim: To replace current legacy system and provide improved online functionality. Milestones: Undertake scoping for the replacement of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal system</li> <li>• External system and</li> <li>• Ranger mobile application</li> </ul>	Status: <b>on track</b> Initial project initiation document drafted for review by MT. Consultation on user wish list for new system is also being drafted to be sent out by the end of October.	Director of Finance / Collector of Tolls

## 2. Strategic priorities for 2023/24

2.1. At the last meeting, members were presented with some draft strategic priorities for 2023/24 for consideration. A number of comments and suggestions were made and these will feed into the budget briefing on 5 October. In due course, an updated set of priorities will be presented to a future Authority meeting for adoption, together with actions and timelines to work by.

Author: Sara Utting

Date of report: 01 September 2022