

Navigation Committee

06 June 2024

Agenda item number 6

Navigation Committee priorities update

Report by Chief Executive

Purpose

To provide an update to the Navigation Committee on the key priorities as agreed in the meeting held on 7 September 2023.

Broads Plan context

C1 - Maintain navigation water 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

C4 - Maintain and improve safety and security standards and user behaviour on the waterways

1. Background

- 1.1. On 8 June 2023, Members of the Committee and officers discussed the key strategic issues that needed to be addressed at future committee meetings. Eight were identified and they were worked up into a programme which the Committee agreed on 7 September 2024 - Table 1: Timescales and update on agreed priorities below.

Table 1 - Timescales and update on agreed priorities

Priority	Description of key stages	Timescale	UPDATE
Integrated Access Strategy (IAS)	The number, location, and maintenance of the network of over 60 free 24-hour moorings will be examined as part of the IAS review.	2/11/2023	Report presented at Navigation Committee on 11 January 2024 and at the Broads Authority on 15 March 2024.

Priority	Description of key stages	Timescale	UPDATE
	<p>Initial consultation had been widened and ended on midday 18 September 2023.</p> <p>Report to the Committee on the feedback.</p>		
Port of Norwich and concerns re potential new bridges associated with East Norwich Development	Officers will bring regular reports to the Navigation Committee as and when necessary, or when an item needs consultation.	As and when required	Carrow Bridge updated on Summary of actions and outstanding issues. Officers are continuing to have dialogue with colleagues in Norwich City Council regarding the East Norwich Development.
Tolls – charges for 2024/25	<p>Briefing for all Members</p> <p>Consultation with the Navigation Committee</p> <p>Decision by the Broads Authority</p>	<p>13/10/2023</p> <p>2/11/2023</p> <p>24/11/2023</p>	
New on-line tolls software	<p>Strategic Priority for this and next year</p> <p>Scoping work complete.</p> <p>Currently engaged on pre-market engagement on upgrade of internal system.</p> <p>Progress report on viability of updating internal system to the latest software.</p>	11/1/2024	Work on upgrading the internal system to the latest software version is progressing well, and this first part of the project is planned to be completed by the end of June 2024.
Future of the hire boat industry	<p>Commission study to review 2001 report and examine the prospects for the industry going forward and what actions could be taken to encourage.</p> <p>Stage 1 – Discuss with the Broads Hire Boat Federation</p>	30/8/2023	The Broads Hire Boat Federation and British Marine supported the Authority writing a paper seeking Government funding for the maintenance of the waterways in the Broads National Park. This was done and the Chairman

Priority	Description of key stages	Timescale	UPDATE
	Prepare a brief for the work and consult the Committee on the content.		subsequently sent a copy to the Minister. A response has been received.
Paddleboard sports	Prepare a report for the Committee on the trends and issues.	11/04/2024	Other priorities have taken precedence.
Bankside vegetation/water plant management	Water plant management report delivered to June 2023 meeting. River side tree management report on the agenda for Sept 23 meeting	8/06/2023 7/09/2023	This priority is reported on as part of the CME report.
Balance in practical operations	Operational report at this meeting provides an update on practical work. Key issue for discussion with Members at the Tolls Briefing and November Committee meeting concerns the proportion of expenditure on dredging, channel marking, maintenance of moorings, patrolling and plant cutting in 2024/25.	7/09/2023 13/10/2023 2/11/2023	This is a live issue and will need to be reviewed at the Tolls Briefing on 8 th October 2024 for the 2025/26 financial year.
Sustainable boating	Report on potential upgrade for electric charging posts.	2/11/2023	Some progress has been made in the plan to install additional posts at the Great Yarmouth Yacht Station, but other priorities have meant that a report on the topic hasn't been possible.

1.2. Of the eight priorities, good progress has been made on six of them. Two are outstanding and the plan is to bring reports to the Committee later in the year.

Author: John Packman

Date of report: 21 May 2024

Background papers: [Navigation Committee Priorities](#)

[Broads Plan](#) strategic objectives: strategic objectives: C1, C2, C3, C4