

# Regional Advisory Board Meeting

## 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026

---

### Location

The Toll House, Delamere Terrace W2 6ND

---

### Attendees

**RAB Members:** Sir Peter Dixon, David Brough, Matt Whitney, Ed Stannard, Inigo Lapwood, David Leppard

**Leadership Team:** Ros Daniels, Charlotte Wood, Poorna Balaji, Sarah Lee

---

### Apologies

**RAB Members:** Loraine Granger, Sam Anderson-Brown, John Lewis, Susannah Wilks

**Trust Team:** Sian Palmer Ferry, Theo Highland

---

### 1. Introductions

- The meeting opened with introductions, including first impressions of the Trust from new members. This opened up interesting discussions on the waterways APPG, LNRS and canals as a critical infrastructure.
  - A warm welcome was extended to all newly appointed members.
- 

### 2. Terms of Reference

- Peter provided an overview of the Terms of Reference for the benefit of new members.
  - He reiterated that the RAB's purpose is to support the regional leadership team and help open doors for:
    - Strategic engagement
    - Funding opportunities
    - Influential conversations across networks
- 

### 3. Regional Update

**Ros** delivered the regional update, covering the following points:

- **Breach:**
  - An update was provided on the recent breach on the Llangollen Canal.
  - Key issues, responses, and next steps were outlined.
  - Discussion on the critical nature of this aging infrastructure – while regular inspection is undertaken it is difficult to inspect underwater
- **Better Boating Plan:**

- Ros explained how the insights from the declining scores of the 2025 boater survey has shaped the development of the Better Boating Plan.
  - Charlotte provided updates on the status of paddle repairs, planned preventative maintenance and approach for next year
  - **Extreme Weather:**
    - Discussion on the impacts of recent extreme weather events on the region.
  - **French Navy Frigates:**
    - A brief update on the presence of French Navy frigates in Docklands and related operational considerations.
    - The opportunities for income in the Docklands were explored
- 

#### **4. London Prospectus Discussion**

- Ros introduced the development of the London Prospectus and how the region should be thinking along Trust's themes of Place & Prosperity. Nature & Biodiversity. Health & Wellbeing, Resilience & Security
  - Discussion included:
    - Strengthening partnerships across London
    - Identifying opportunities to enhance influence with strategic stakeholders
    - Aligning the prospectus with emerging regional and GLA priorities
    - David emphasised the importance of increasing diversity in outreach to effectively serve the communities living along the canal.
    - Ed added that the GLA are prioritising hyper local delivery projects
    - Matt mentioned the use of a Multi Criteria Analysis would be an effective tool to prioritise/score key projects in the region to include in the prospectus
    - Inigo summarised the Trust's priority to develop High visibility value driven projects for fundraising
- 

#### **5. Impounding Station Case Study**

- PB presented a case study on the Impounding Station.
  - The presentation covered the What, Why and How of the project. And the development of a blended funding plan and a fundraising campaign.
  - There was discussion on how to effectively communicate to the different audiences in a manner that is urgent but also in control
- 

#### **Next Steps / Actions**

- Share boater survey results with the RAB members