

## A New Annual Plan for NWIFCA

This document has been prepared by the NWIFCA Annual Plan Working Group (“APWG”) which was tasked to review the NWIFCA Annual Plan and to look for opportunities for improvement.

### Recommendations

1. The Annual Plan for an IFCA should be a document that sets out:-
  - a. **Strategic Objectives** determining the policy of the Authority in the medium to long term; and
  - b. **Operational Objectives** guiding officers in the short term and on a day-to-day basis
2. The Annual Plan should also provide a platform for reporting the successes and challenges facing the Authority. It should be part of an overall planning and communication strategy which ensures that the NWIFCA is focussed, effective, efficient, relevant and understood.
3. The APWG consider that the Annual Plan in its current format is no longer fit for purpose. Its key shortcomings are that:
  - a. It is founded on a set of “Success Criteria” that were set for IFCAs many years ago by Defra; and
  - b. The layout and presentation of the document does not effectively communicate the value and effectiveness of the organisation.
4. Having looked at plans published by several other IFCAs the APWG has identified a suitable overall aim for an IFCA Annual Plan:-

*“The plan links the national IFCA vision, high level objectives and success criteria to local strategic objectives and performance indicators. The plan also highlights how the training and development of the Authority’s Officers and Members is incorporated into the delivery of its own local performance indicators and objectives and ultimately the national vision.”*
5. As well as agreeing that the existing planning process requires an overhaul both for NWIFCA and for IFCAs nationally, the APWG has also agreed that NWIFCA should invest time and resources into better publicising its work and progress. The Group considers that this is an important priority, and that a document similar to the NEIFCA Annual Plan would help the NWIFCA to communicate more effectively with its funding partners and stakeholders in the District.

### Proposed Actions & Timescales

1. That the existing format of the Annual Plan, which is due to be approved by the Authority at its December 2021 meeting should be retained for the 2022-23FY whilst the APWG continues to work on an updated plan for 2023-24.
2. NWIFCA Officers should work with the Association of IFCAs, MMO and Defra to develop new objectives for the 2023-24FY which either:-

## **ANNEX**

- a. Align to the existing Defra Success Criteria and translate these into objective that are more relevant to the District; or
  - b. Are new objectives that better reflect the challenges and opportunities facing NWIFCA.
3. That a “glossy” Annual Plan should be published by NWIFCA in March 2022 that describes the organisation and sets out its objectives for the year.

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