

**New channels, new challenges**  
**Action Plan 2005/6 - 2007/8**

**published by the Association of Inland  
Navigation Authorities (AINA) 2005**

**Full colour A4 24 pages**



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Authorities

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# Representing operational navigation authorities

## Strategic aims

- > To anticipate, understand and initiate action on issues that may have significant implications for navigation authorities and that have not yet been addressed or planned for.
- > To present to Government, regulators and opinion formers well researched, cogently argued cases that adequately and accurately reflect the best interests of navigation authorities.

## Context

Navigation authorities face a severe shortage of funding, both for basic maintenance and for specific capital restoration and development projects. This situation is seriously hindering their ability to discharge their statutory duties. The smaller 'independent' navigation authorities receive no grant-in-aid from Government. In many cases, their ability to generate revenue through their day-to-day operations is hindered or even prevented by the archaic nature of their statutes.

It is vital that ANA develops a strategic framework for advising its members (and opinion formers, Government and regulators) of the potential implications of existing and emerging legislation or regulations. ANA needs to understand the effect of these measures so that it can assess their impact on (a) navigation authorities, both individually and collectively, in the management of their waterways; and (b) businesses relying on the waterways, such as operators of hire boats and marinas. Equipped with qualified and quantified evidence, ANA will be able to present properly considered arguments designed to safeguard the industry's position. It will also strengthen the case that any additional operational or management costs that are likely to be incurred as a result of new legislation or regulations must be proportionate.

While the diversity of ANA's membership in terms of size, resources and locations is a strength, the industry needs to present a coordinated front through ANA if it is to be effective. Government wants to hear one view, not half a dozen. If ANA makes one case while individual members make another, the industry's voice will be diminished and ANA's credibility will be undermined.

## Action

The issues and actions associated with this aspect of ANA's role are given on pages 14 to 16.





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# Roles and responsibilities

## Officers

*Chairman.* The standard bearer for AINA and a leading figure in the industry; seeks opportunities to meet and influence Government ministers and opinion formers.

*Vice-Chairman.* Works closely with the Chairman and the Executive Director in developing and pursuing strategies for funding and work carried out by AINA. Chairs the AINA Executive Committee. Responsible for monitoring the AINA Constitution in terms of its requirements by identifying any necessary amendments and bringing issues to the attention of the membership.

## Executive

*Executive Director.* Responsible for the delivery of the AINA Action Plan and for the development and implementation of policy issues. Responsible for the AINA Office, budget management and financial control.

*Office Manager.* Undertakes wide-ranging administrative and project tasks in support of AINA business.

## Committees

*Executive Committee.* A small group of members which meets quarterly. With delegated authority, has the responsibility to determine AINA policy and to steer and monitor the work of the Executive.

*Working Groups.* Short-lived, focused groups set up and managed by the Executive, with Executive Committee approval, in accordance with AINA's agreed Rules for Working Groups. Their remit is to deliver specific projects or actions identified in, or deriving from, the Action Plan.

## Members

AINA cannot function to any significant effect without the commitment of those professionals and volunteers who work for its members. It is therefore vital that all members, irrespective of size, resources and constitution, work collaboratively with AINA and contribute time, money, expertise, views, needs, concerns and enthusiasm.

Two-way communication, morale, motivation and involvement are essential to achieve an effective partnership between AINA and its members to deliver this Action Plan and for the collective benefit of the UK's inland waterways.

