# North York Moors National Park Authority

## Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee

## 16 November 2026

## Item 9, External Funding and Project Progress

### 1. Purpose of the report

1.1 To update Members on the work currently being undertaken, as at 30 September 2026, to secure external funding which will help support the Authority's Business Plan priorities.

### 2. External funding position

2.1 Figure 1 below illustrates the total value of funding awarded each year to the end of Q2 2026/27. It is important to note that the figures represent the total funding awarded in that year, although the actual funding may be distributed over the duration of each project, as shown in Figure 2 (see paragraph 2.8). This provides an overview of the Authority's external funding performance, and the success achieved by teams involved in securing funding across the Authority.

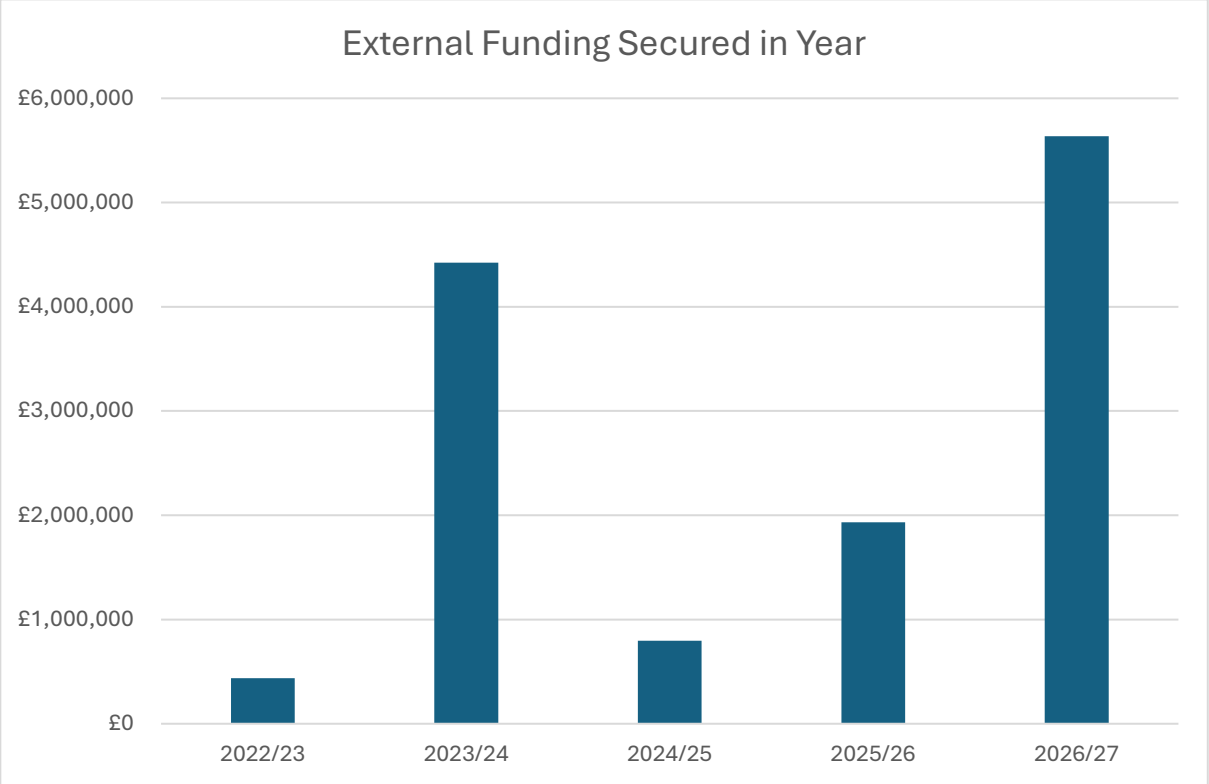



Figure 1

2.2 Funding applications submitted to end of Q2 2026/27 and awaiting a decision:

| Project title | Description | Funder(s) | Partners | Staffing implications | Total grant value (£) | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Linking Levisham | To establish a flagship site of national importance for landscape-scale nature recovery and climate resilience within a working and culturally rich landscape. | Defra's Landscape Recovery Programme (Round 2) - Project Implementation Phase | Forestry England<br>North Yorkshire Moors Railway<br>Yorkshire Wildlife Trust<br>Ministry of Defence - RAF Fylingdales<br>Natural England<br>Land Mangers and Licensees<br>Historic England. | 15 members of staff and trainees | £56.5 million (95% Natural England/Defra, 5% match funding) | The project has now entered an Assurance Phase and negotiation. Expected to take up to 12 months. |

2.3 Project proposals recently funded

| Project title | Description | Funder(s) | Partners | Staffing implications | Total grant value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Cleveland Flood Alleviation Project | To facilitate enhancement of access, wildlife and water quality in the Skinningrove catchment, including the north of the North York Moors National Park.<br><br>Application written by the Authority, with Tees Valley Wildlife Trust the accountable body. | Northumbrian Water Group – Blue Spaces Programme | Environment Agency, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and Tees Community Forest | - | - |

| Project title | Description | Funder(s) | Partners | Staffing implications | Total grant value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hovingham Beck Natural Flood Management Scheme | To reduce flood risk from Hovingham Beck: Re-meander Marrs Beck around Wool Knoll, Reconnect Coulton Mill Race, Floodplain reconnections around the Ings Land, Improvement to the informal flood relief/diversion channel, sediment traps. Project timescales: 30 November 2025 to 31 March 2028. | Yorkshire Water and Environment Agency's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid and Local Levy | Environment Agency, Natural England, Howardian Hills National Landscape, North Yorkshire Council. | Contribution to existing Senior Catchment Restoration Officer time. | £149,000 |
| Natural Health Service – a Protected Landscapes active travel behaviour change programme | An innovative behaviour-change programme within four protected landscapes enabling walking, wheeling and public transport use to create healthier, more active communities across the region from June 2026 to January 2028. Funding Agreement finalised on 25 September 2026. | Active Travel Fund – York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority | North York Moors Trust, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Howardian Hills National Landscape, Nidderdale National Landscape | 2 full-time Facilitators and 4 part-time Engagement Officers based within partner organisations | £499,924 |
| North York Moors Inclusive Active Travel Programme | Improving accessibility on the Cinder Track by removing barriers and introducing adaptive bikes, enabling more people of all abilities to enjoy inclusive, active travel from June 2026 to January 2028.<br><br>Funding Agreement finalised on 27 August 2026. | Active Travel Fund – York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority | Whitby and Esk Valley Active Travel group, Experience Community, North Yorkshire Council | - | £130,635 |

2.4 Project proposals for the Wildfire Recovery funded (full list since August 2025)

| **Project Description** | **Funder(s)** | **Partners** | **Staffing implications** | **Total grant value** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Moor to Restore: Fylingdales Moor and High Farndale peatland restoration to March 2027 | Natural England - Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme | Yorkshire Peat Partnership and land managers. | Continuation of existing Project Manager and Project Officer. | £4,279,676 in total, including £109,000 for restoration of peatland on High Farndale outside of the wildfire site area. |
| Conservation work in the Esk and Coastal Streams Catchment and reduce run off from northern firebreaks. | Environment Agency Water Environment Improvement Fund - capital funding 2026/27 | Esk and Coastal Streams Catchment Partnership | - | £132,500 |
| Wildfire awareness campaign - support for responsible tourism marketing campaign | North Yorkshire Council | - | - | £10,000 |
| Beacon of the arts - Three new seasonal arts & culture festivals in 2026 designed to re-energise tourism following the wildfire. | Best of British Fund with Airbnb | North York Moors National Park Arts and Culture Partnership | - | £25,000 |
| Procurement of a specialist drone, sensors, software, and training to build regional capacity for post-wildfire archaeological survey and monitoring from December 2025 to March 2026. | Historic England | - | Secondment for 2 part-time members of staff | £100,000 |
| Rapid assessment, erosion/runoff mitigation to end of March 2026. | Environment Agency – Local Water Environment Grant | Yorkshire Peat Partnership | - | £30,000 |
| Firebreak reinstatement research and development mitigation to end of March 2026. | Natural England – Protected Landscape Funding | - | - | £20,000 |
| Emissions reduction, peat stabilization, contractors, project manager/coordination of wildfire activities mitigation to end of December 2026. | York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Net Zero Underspend | - | 12-month secondment | £292,144 |

2.5 Funding applications in development as of 30 September 2026

| Funder and project name | Project Description | Partners | Staffing implications | Indicative funding amount | Application Progress |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| The National Lottery Heritage Fund – Landscape Connections: Moor Connected: | This is a resubmission of the 2025 rejected application. Over 10 years the project will rebuild resilient ecological networks that connect habitats, reconnect people with nature, and connect communities together—particularly those most disconnected from the experience. | Buglife, Tees Valley Nature Partnership, National Trust, Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership and Howardian Hills National Landscape, North York Moors Trust | 3 FTEs in 2-year development phase and multidisciplinary core team in 8-year delivery phase. | £10,000,000 | EOI was approved by the Heritage Fund and a full application is being developed for submission by 12 November 2026 |
| National Lottery Heritage Fund: Tomorrow's Stewards | Building on 2 previous projects – a UK wide programme to support children's connection to nature from May 2027 to July 2030. | Field Studies Council, YHA, NPA's in England, Scotland and Wales, National Landscapes Association, Girlguiding, Scouts, and The Outward Bound Trust | For the NYMNPA - Part time project officer and a part time trainee | £11.1m, allocation of £121,773 for NYMNPA. | Co-written by all UK National Parks and partners but project enquiry submitted by the YHA – now through to full application stage. Field Studies Council have taken over the role of lead body due to lack of capacity within YHA. This has led to a delay for the submission from November 2026 to February 2027. |

2.6 Externally funded projects update: Applications that have been unsuccessful to end of Q2 2026/27

| Project title | Description | Funder(s) | Partners | Rejection reason | Grant value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Our Natural Futures | Over 3 years the project will scale up the Young Rangers and Youth Voice models which have been successful in some National Parks. Accountable body will be the Yorkshire Dales National Park.<br><br>Delivery partnership of 14 National Parks (the Peak District decided to not take part due to new staffing structure and priorities). | The National Lottery Community Fund – UK Fund. | 1 x FT Project Officer for each NP. | The funder would like to see the wider benefits to young people who do not participate in the project and further systemic change – for example if a young person was able to influence management plan decisions, what would this result in for all young people. We are currently working on a resubmission for November/ December with a focus on youth voice. | £3m overall with an allocation of circa £165,000 for NYMNPA |

2.7 Figure 2 below shows the spend profile for all externally funded projects across the 5-year Business Plan period to highlight progress towards the funding target, updated to end of Q2 2026/27.

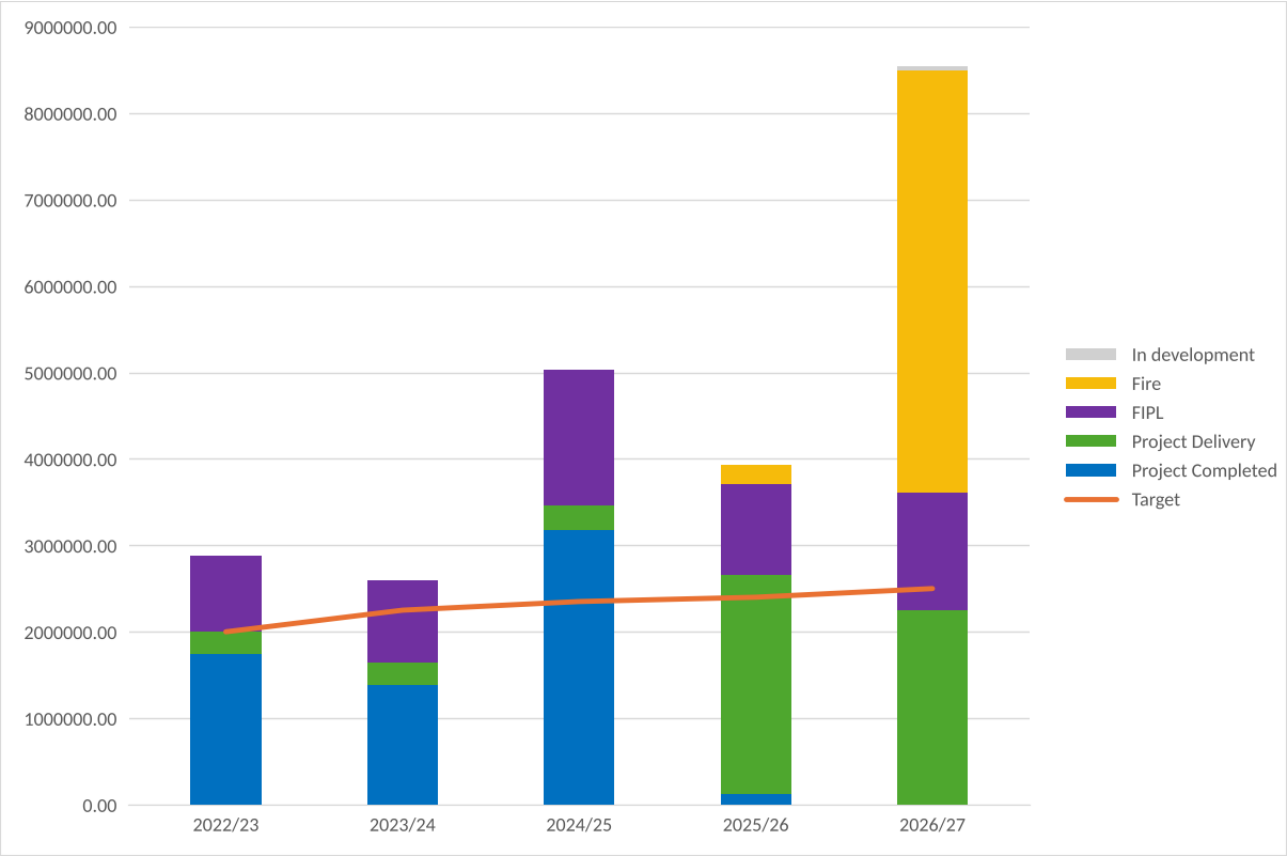



Figure 2

The graph details the following:

- The target line, set to increase up to £2.5m by the end of the Business Plan period (2026/27).
- Details of externally funded projects which are now complete (blue).
- Projects being delivered with secured external funding (green), plus confirmed FIPL (purple).
- External funding applications submitted and awaiting a decision and projects currently being developed in our pipeline as a priority (grey).
- Wildfire funding separated out from Project Delivery to highlight levels of secured funding for recovery (yellow).

2.8 Further progress has been made in securing and developing projects for the new business plan period and 2026/7. The emerging programme now includes sufficient projects with confirmed funding, or very strong assurances of award, to exceed the funding target for that year, reflecting the strength and maturity of the current project pipeline.

## 3. Project delivery health check

3.1 Figure 4 summarises the distribution of project health across the 2026/27 Quarter 2 programme portfolio. 16 projects are included in the latest health-check data, of which 14 are rated Green, 2 are rated Amber and none are rated Red. This means that 88% of projects are currently assessed as Green and 12% as Amber.

3.2 The portfolio therefore remains mostly on track, with no projects currently rated Red. Two Amber-rated projects require active management during the next quarter: GrubsUp! and the Explorer Volunteer scheme. The principal issues relate to permissions and consenting, seasonal delivery windows, stakeholder engagement, staffing capacity, participant recruitment and public-transport access.

**Portfolio health summary**

| RAG rating | Project count | Share of portfolio | Reporting interpretation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Green | 14 | 88% | Delivery is broadly on track, although some Green projects still have sub-risks that should be monitored. |
| Amber | 2 | 12% | Specific risks require active management, clear mitigation and, in some cases, management or sponsor oversight. |
| Red | 0 | 0% | No projects are currently rated Red. |
| **Total** | **16** | **100%** | **The portfolio remains mostly Green, with a focused Amber exception set.** |

**Amber rated projects**

3.3 Two projects rated Amber in the Q2 update with specific issues that should be tracked through the next quarter.

| Project | Overall status | Current issue | Mitigation/support required |
|---|---|---|---|
| GrubsUp! | Amber | Further permissions and consents are required before the next works can proceed. Meadow-creation work is delayed until summer 2027. Delays have affected relationships with Bransdale tenants, and project staffing capacity remains a concern. | Maintain oversight of permissions, constraints checks and landowner engagement; progress the delayed meadow-creation programme; and consider the request for additional officer capacity. |
| Explorer Volunteer Scheme – Two Ridings funding | Amber | Only four families have attended sessions to date. Recruitment and retention are constrained by a preference for child-only provision and by limited Sunday public transport into the National Park. | Continue family recruitment and adapt delivery where possible. The project team proposes hiring a minibus and purchasing annual bus passes as a legacy transport option. |

**Delivery highlights and positive progress**

3.4 Green-rated projects continue to show delivery progress, mobilisation and positive engagement. Some have budget, schedule or resource points that should remain visible in management reporting.

**HQ development** remains on schedule & budget. Staff engagement remains a key priority.

**Restoring Roseberry** has largely completed paths 2, 3 and 4, including helicopter lifting of materials to higher areas of Roseberry Topping. Ranger and school engagement, York St John evaluation work, and the interpretation-panel approach have also progressed. A future resource requirement remains for Paths 9 and 10.

**Beacon for the Arts** delivered a successful programme of events through August. More partners applied for funding than in the spring series, and feedback has been positive.

**REConnect** has started its third year by agreeing partnership messages and themes. Coastal Ranger Volunteers have started with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership; River Ranger traineeships are progressing; and community consultation and film-screening activity has been delivered in Whitby. The budget has been reprofiled following partner underspend, with funder agreement that all funds will be spent in later years.

**Active Travel** has made good progress on Phase 2 Capability Fund projects. The tender for route design for Lady Edith's Drive has been awarded, and the scope for the next Esk Valley Corridor tender is agreed. Financial profiling is still being developed as tenders are awarded.

**Linking Levisham** has passed into the assurance phase following its completeness-check response. The project remains dependent on Defra and Natural England timescales; a five-month extension request, including staff-cost support through the assurance phase, has been submitted.

## 5. Financial and staffing implications

51 Staffing requirements and resources are assessed as part of the process for each external funding application submission. The implications are dealt with within the body of this report.

## 6. Contribution to National Park Management Plan

6.1 The project contributes to the delivery of multiple objectives within the North York Moors National Park Management Plan 2022-2027. Alignment with the Management Plan is assessed during project development and forms part of the approval process for projects seeking external funding, helping to ensure that all funded activity supports National Park priorities and outcomes.

## 7. Legal and sustainability implications

7.1 None at this stage.

## 8. Recommendation

8.1 That Members note the content of the report and agree the current work being done to secure external funding.

8.2 Monitor quarterly progress, especially for pending and opportunity funding, to ensure the Authority's Business Plan objectives are met.

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