

North York Moors National Park Authority

Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee

24 November 2014

External Funding

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update Members on the work currently being undertaken to secure external funding which will help support the Authority's work programmes and priorities; and
- 1.2 To update Members on the agreed approach to the employment of the Authority's External Funding Officer post, which will take a lead on this area of activity.

2. Background

- 2.1 This report provides a brief update on projects for which external funding is being sought and continues the previous reports to this Committee which have kept Members abreast of our activity in this increasingly important area of work.
- 2.2 This report is set against the backdrop of the continuing reduction in National Park Grant, which is clearly impacting on the National Park Authority's (NPA) core funded activity and places an increased driver on securing new income streams and more external funding.
- 2.3 The Authority has for ten years had within its structure a part-time External Funding Officer in order to oversee the programme of external funding and to work with Departments to develop and shape ideas that will hopefully lead to additional resources to deliver National Park Purposes. In the September report a preferred approach for the future of this post was set out and this report provides an update in relation to the recruitment and scope of this role.

3. Current External Funding Activity

- 3.1 **Table 1** below sets out an update on projects that are in development, that have been approved, have been submitted and that the Authority is awaiting a decision on, projects that have been unsuccessful and projects or programmes that have been approved and are going through further development. Please note that the Table does not include project ideas that have not been agreed for development at this stage. Through the projects that are covered in **Table 1** below it is felt that progress has, or is being made on all of the elements listed in the Business Plan and therefore the key Management Plan priorities relevant to external funding are being progressed. However, a new series of external funding priorities will need to be developed for the new Business Plan (2016 – 2018). Work has already begun in order to scope out some of these priorities and Members will be consulted on these in a future report to this Committee on external funding, as well as through the development of the new Business Plan.

Table 1: Externally funded projects update showing projects in development, those that have been submitted, those that have been unsuccessful, those that have been approved and those that have been approved and are going through further development.

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
Projects in Development						
1	River Derwent/Rye Project AND Newtondale Project	Landscape scale projects for the River Rye and for the upper Derwent, and another in the Newtondale area. These landscape-scale projects would be multi-objective, but with strong Habitat Connectivity and PAWS components. Further development will be required including what input and ideas land owners and managers have and how the schemes mesh with the aspirations of partners. It will also be important to see how they could link in with developing catchment partnerships, the next round of agri-environment scheme support, notably the New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS), currently in development.	TBC	<p>The Authority has been in discussions with partner organisations in order to develop a joint approach for the Derwent Catchment as a whole, which includes a large part of the Park, but also stretches beyond as the Derwent eventually drains into the Humber. This has the potential to unlock significant funding opportunities and demonstrate nationally important best practice.</p> <p>The Authority is seeking to invest £5k along with just over £10k from partners to develop this work and to ensure land managers are fully involved in the Partnership at an early stage. This would be used to secure external specialist support to help develop the approach, undertake consultation and identify most appropriate funders.</p>	Conservation	TBC

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
2	Monument Management Scheme (MMS) 3	We are working in partnership with English Heritage to care for the scheduled monuments in the National Park. A grant from English Heritage will allow us to continue this work until 2018. The project has been a huge success and has helped reduce the number of 'at risk' monuments significantly.	English Heritage	Discussions are currently ongoing in relation to the potential for a new MMS programme to run from April 2015. Officers are currently working up a detailed proposal for English Heritage to consider.	Conservation	TBC
3		Potential to work in partnership with Yorkshire Esk Rivers Trust (YERT) to develop a bid aimed at increasing capacity (equipment, monitoring and public engagement). <i>See below - England's 'Pearl' Rivers Project.</i>	People's Postcode Lottery – Small Grants Programme	Initial meeting in December. Would need YERT to apply because only charitable bodies are eligible. The NPA would be partners in developing the bid and potential delivery.	Conservation	Circa £24,000
Projects Submitted						
4	New LEADER North York Moors, Coast and Hills Programme (2015 - 2020)	Work to develop a new LEADER programme is well underway following the conclusion of the previous programme. A new programme will have much more emphasis on rural economic growth, including forestry, farming and coastal priorities that provide opportunities for the communities and businesses in LEADER area and the National Park as a core part of this.	LEADER via Rural Development Programme (Defra) as part of CAP and wider European funding via the LEP.	Transition funding (£36.5k) is in place for the period between April and December 2014. The NPA will continue as lead partner and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) as accountable body. A new Local Development Strategy (LDS) has been developed and submitted to Defra with a decision due by the end of November. A new programme is likely to start in January 2015 at the earliest. Further work underway to develop the	Conservation	£36.5k secured for transition stage, new programme potentially circa. £2.5 - £3m.

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				governance and representation on the new Local Action Group and to develop the first year's programme of activity.		
5	LIFECYCLE	This is a Life+ Green Infrastructure Project being led by Norfolk County Council which we are being invited to join as an Associated Beneficiary. It would provide the opportunity for stakeholders such as landowners and local communities, including schools, to engage in and understand our Green Infrastructure work such as the Connectivity Project, especially along our key recreational corridors such as the Cleveland Way and Cinder Track.	Key Funding is EC's LIFE+ at a rate of 60%. Staff and volunteers costs can provide a significant amount of match funding.	The Lifecycle bid was submitted by Norfolk CC on 20 October and we expect to hear if it has been successful in May/June 2015.	Park Services	approx. £100K (125,000 Euros)
6	England's 'Pearl' Rivers Project (River Esk Freshwater Pearl Mussel)	A joint bid covering five fresh water pearl mussel rivers across England which is being led by the Freshwater Biological Association. The Project's objectives are to protect remaining key populations of the freshwater pearl mussel in England and to restore habitat conditions that will support the natural recruitment in existing populations. This will involve large scale capital works (improving farm infrastructure ~£60K per year) and support mechanisms (e.g. river monitoring, training workshops and volunteer tasks strategies) necessary to secure the long-	Biffa Award Partnership Scheme – Rebuilding Biodiversity (invitation only)	The bid was finalised and submitted to Biffa Award in September with a decision likely by mid-November. If successful the Project is likely to commence in January 2015. The bid submitted to Natural England for £10k match funding was successful and along with a further £20k	Conservation	Circa £300k for NYM as part of wider £1.5m national bid

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		term conservation of the species. Work will also be carried out to communicate with local communities to raise awareness of freshwater pearl mussel conservation issues. In the NYM this will help to build and develop the work already done over a number of years on the River Esk.		from existing NPA budgets the entire required match funding is in place.		
7	Sea Life, See Life: developing vibrant fishing villages to attract more visitors	The aim of the project is to showcase nature, fishing and culinary heritage, art and traditional crafts on the North York Moors National Park's coast, by undertaking a series of small-scale infrastructure improvements, and creating and promoting new experiences, activities and festivals. This will encourage visitors to experience the real life of the sea and coastline, reducing seasonality and increasing revenue from tourism.	Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) - Big Lottery.	A Stage one Expression of interest was submitted in early May and the NPA were invited to complete a Stage two application, which is a significant achievement given the high levels of competition for this fund. The second stage application was submitted on the 15 th October 2014. Awards will be announced in February 2015.	Park Services	£455k (from CCF)
8	Protected Landscapes Apprentice and Skills Programme	This programme is a follow-on from the Local Growth Plan for the Moors and Dales which has been prepared for the YNYER LEP (see below for details). It sets out a broad programme of support for skills and training linked to the special qualities of the protected landscapes of the LEP area. Key elements include skills and apprenticeship programmes on farm business, tourism and various other landscape linked apprenticeship schemes.	Various funds through the LEP and potentially LEADER.	The proposals were approved by the YNYER LEP's Local Response Fund Governance Group and the Skills Funding Agency and subsequently went out for procurement. For the tourism element Craven College led a successful partnership bid involving both the North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Parks as	Joint approach between Park Services, Conservation and Corporate Services	Total Programme circa. £850k <i>per annum</i> , initial elements circa. £250k.

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				<p>well as the Howardian Hills and Nidderdale Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).</p> <p>For the farm business support element Askham Bryan College and the National Centre for the Uplands led a partnership bid which again involved the four protected landscapes. We are still awaiting the decision on this project.</p> <p>Further work is now required to set-up both projects for delivery.</p>		
Unsuccessful Projects						
None at this stage						
Successful Projects						
None at this stage						
Approved with Further Development Needed						
9	Local Growth Plan for the Moors and Dales	The North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales NPAs have led, in Partnership with the Howardian Hills and Nidderdale AONBs, the production of a local growth plan for the wider Dales and Moors areas. This is not a funding bid in itself but it does set out a number of priorities for potential investment through the YNYERLEP's growth plans and it now forms part of the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan.	Various TBC.	The LEP and other partners continue to show support and enthusiasm for the plan's contents. The Plan is leading to work on skills and apprenticeships (see above). Engagement with the LEP is strong and it is	Conservation	TBC

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				likely this will have progressed by the point this Report is presented and the Director of Conservation can provide an update on this at the Committee Meeting. The protected landscapes have recently met with the LEP again to discuss ways in which to take forward the paper's priorities.		
10	This Exploited Land	'This Exploited Land' tells the story of forgotten communities, the pioneering of ironstone exploitation and the early development of railways along the remote valleys of the North York Moors. It uses an innovative approach to biodiversity conservation to restore the outstanding habitats and species in this landscape. It will introduce this almost forgotten chronicle to new audiences and craftspeople and secure its legacy for future generations.	Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme.	The Development Stage is now well underway. The Programme Team are in place and the Executive (Steering) Group is working effectively to drive the programme. There is positive engagement from the statutory agency partners and community support continues to be strong. The first two grant payments from HLF have been received. HLF have set up a mid-term review for February 2015. The deadline for submission remains 31 October 2015.	Conservation	Total £3m (current Development stage £198,000)

3.2 In addition to the activity set out in the table, discussions are underway with National Parks England regarding a major bid for lottery funding to support a campaign across all English National Parks aimed at improving public health, Andy Wilson has been moving the proposal forward via National Park Officers Group and Richard Gunton is now working as part of a small group to progress it. Members will be updated on this project as it develops.

4. External Funding Support and Expertise Update

4.1 The September external funding report included an update on the recruitment of the External Funding Officer post (part-time, 3 days a week). Since then the job description and person specification have been updated with the main emphasis of the post being as follows:

- To lead the North York Moors National Park Authority in securing an increased level of external funding to achieve its purposes; and
- To support staff across the Authority in their endeavours to secure external funding and new income and to provide a framework in which this can be successful.

4.2 The recruitment to this role commenced in early November with an external advertisement having been placed on several online job sites. At the time of this Committee it is likely that shortlisting will be underway and interviews will be imminent. Initial priorities for the new post holder will be as follows:

- Getting up to speed with ongoing Authority bids and developing relationships with staff in order to best support their activities with respect to external funding;
- Development of a brief to bring in expert advice in relation to commercial sponsorship and corporate engagement and subsequent management of this contract;
- Establishment of a clear internal process for the development of new externally funded projects and associated guidance on developing costings;
- Development of a programme of external funding ideas, bids, projects and programmes; and
- Establishing relationships with equivalent posts in partner organisations and external funding bodies in order to maximise opportunities for funding and for the development of joint bids.

4.3 When the External Funding Officer is in post it will be part of their remit to regularly update Members in relation to external funding opportunities and bids/projects that the Authority is progressing. This will include the production of regular reports to this Committee in a similar format to the reports that have been presented for the past three Committee meetings.

5. Contribution to National Park Management Plan

5.1 The rationale behind seeking external funding and new income generation is to secure the delivery of the Business Plan and the Management Plan in the current scenario of year on year reductions to core grant funding.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 None at this stage.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 That Members approve the contents of the report, the current work being done to secure external funding and the future approach outlined.

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