

# North York Moors National Park Authority

## Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee

1st June 2015

### 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;
- 1.2 To update Members on the appointment and the objectives of the Authority's new External Funding Officer, who 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 Since the February external funding Report the Authority has appointed a new External Funding Officer. The successful candidate, Tom Stephenson, will work across all departments to help develop and shape ideas that will hopefully lead to additional resources to deliver National Park Purposes. This report provides an update in relation to the appointment and the priorities of the 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.
- 3.2 Currently we are operating with a refreshed 1 year extension to the 2012-15 Business Plan and specific external funding priorities have not been developed for the interim period prior to the development of the new three-year Business Plan. However the Management Plan and the priorities from the previous business plan are still relevant and informing external funding activities. Section 4.3 of this report outlines these priorities.

**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
<b>Projects in Development</b>						
1	River Derwent/Rye Project AND Newtondale Project	<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 partnership developed will help enable the National Park to deliver key priorities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving Habitat Connectivity</li> <li>• Restoration of Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS).</li> </ul> <p>The National Park is looking to take a lead role in Rye and Upper Derwent sub-catchments of the Derwent.</p> <p>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.</p>	TBC	<p>The external consultants commissioned to develop the project have recently delivered workshops involving organisations and groups interested/involved in the Yorkshire Derwent Catchment. The workshops have developed a series of draft documents outlining the project vision, objectives and goals to help develop the partnership going forward. This will be accompanied by high-level funding and delivery plans. Discussions have taken place as to how the Derwent Partnership can expand upon the Pickering “Slowing the Flow” project outcomes. The consultants are now finalising their report with consultation from those involved.</p>	Conservation	TBC

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
2	VIP Landscape Enhancement Initiative	<p>Under the new RIIO T1 price controls, OFGEM has agreed provision of £500 million to mitigate the visual impact of existing electricity infrastructure within the UK.</p> <p>The Visual Impact Provision (VIP) Advisory Group has ring-fenced 5% (£24million) of the total allowance for smaller localised visual improvements and landscape enhancements schemes with the designated areas</p> <p>The Park is one the 26 National Parks and AONBs identified as eligible for the fund.</p>	National Grid/OFGEM	<p>The Authority is scoping out the possibility of developing a programme of work incorporating measures to reduce the visual impact of the power lines in affected area and broader measures aimed at enhancing the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>Progression of the scheme is dependent on further discussion of the eligibility of any programme the Authority would like to develop and crucially what staffing resources we have to develop and deliver such a scheme given other priorities.</p>	Conservation	Up to £600k per year from summer 2015 to March 2021
3	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 potentially 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	Proposal and level of funding approved by English Heritage in March (Historic England since April 1 <sup>st</sup> ) and formal applications invited. Applications submitted at the end of March to Regional Capacity Building and Historic Buildings, Monuments and Designed Landscapes	Conservation	Total grant request c. £131k.

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
				funds - one application to cover staffing, the other project implementation costs.		
4	Soil Heath Check for Glaisdale Beck	<p>Soil Health checks for 8 key farms around the Glaisdale catchment aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a soil health and farm infrastructure audit of the farms within the catchment.</li> <li>Improving communication between Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) and land managers within the catchment.</li> <li>Assist with raising awareness and increasing knowledge on the links between farming practices and water quality.</li> <li>Prevent deterioration of Glaisdale Beck and improve water quality.</li> </ul>	CSF funding with a match contribution from the Esk and Coastal Streams CaBA or YERT	Officers are currently developing the proposal having received a positive response from Natural England to initial Expression of Interest (EOI) submitted by the Authority.	Conservation	£3k
5	Moors Centre Riverside Trail (2) – Dragon Installation	Part of the wider Moors Centre Riverside Trail Project (Refer to Project No. 7: Moors Centre Riverside Trail). A further project to install a large wood and metal Dragon. Interpretation is to be included that links it with the Woodlings of Crow Wood and the local area. Construction of the dragon will include on-site workshops for the public while it is being constructed by local craftsmen.	Arts Council England	The bid is being prepared by Officers submission to Arts Council England.	Park Services	£13,000
<b>Projects Submitted</b>						
6	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	Key Funding is EC's LIFE+ at a rate of 60%. Staff and	The Lifecycle bid was submitted by Norfolk CC on 20 October and we expect to hear if it has	Park Services	approx. £100,000 (125,000 Euros)

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
		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.	volunteers costs can provide a significant amount of match funding.	been successful in June 2015.		
7	Esk and Coastal Streams Catchment Partnership - Glaisdale Beck	Esk and Coastal Streams Catchment Partnership (YERT and NYMNP are joint hosts) bid to the Catchment Partnership Action Restoration Fund. Project to tackle diffuse pollution in Glaisdale Beck (circa £30,000), plus Catchment Partnership support (£15,000).	DEFRA via Environment Agency	The bid has been submitted and decision panel has met and decision letters are due.	Conservation	circa £40-45,000 over 12 months. Potential to raise maximum to a discretionary £65k
<b>Unsuccessful Projects</b>						
None at this stage						
<b>Successful Projects</b>						
8	Health & Wellbeing Outreach Officer	The key purpose of the post would be to work with target communities and individuals in neighbouring urban areas to link them with activities across the NP with mental and physical health benefits. They would also work with NPA staff to identify how the public health benefits of existing programmes of work could be maximised. A two year post with the aim that the officer would identify sources of external funding support to enable continuation	RCBC and NYCC	Bid has been submitted expect to hear outcome in May 2015	Park Services	£45,000 pa for two years

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
9	Moors Centre Riverside Trail (1)	Project to revive and improve the Riverside Trail at the Moors Centre which has become degraded over recent years. The improvements will include a "Welly Walk", cloud-viewing chairs, viewing walkways and several wooden sculpted animals.	Impetus + 10% Match-funding North York Moors Association.	The project has been successful in securing funding from Impetus combined with match funding from the North York Moors Association. Planning Applications are currently being compiled for likely submission to the June Planning Committee.	Park Services	£13,000
10	Esk and Coastal Streams CaBa bid "Discovering the Esk"	Esk and Coastal Streams Catchment Partnership bid aimed at increasing community engagement, training and educational activities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment for Young Angler Initiative</li> <li>• Riverfly monitoring Salmon in the classroom</li> <li>• Adopt a stream</li> </ul>	People's Postcode Lottery – Advancement of citizenship or community development	The project application was successful and will begin delivery imminently.	Conservation	£10,000 (for one year)
11	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) – funded by Government, with income from the Crown Estate's marine assets, administered by Big Lottery Fund.	The bid was successful Project co-ordinator has been recruited and will commence work in May. Business support contract has been tendered and awarded.	Park Services	£455k over 2 years
12	New LEADER North York Moors, Coast	The new Programme will have much more emphasis on rural economic growth, including forestry, farming and coastal priorities that	LEADER via Rural Development	Since the February report the Authority has been notified of the final	Conservation	£2.3 million

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
	and Hills Programme (2015 - 2020)	provide opportunities for the communities and businesses in LEADER area and the National Park as a core part of this.	Programme (Defra) as part of CAP and wider European funding via the LEP.	LEADER budget of £2.3 - the third largest budget secured nationally. The Authority is currently awaiting confirmation of an official start date for the programme from DEFRA.		
<b>Approved with Further Development Needed</b>						
13	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. The protected landscapes are meeting with LEP officers in early May to discuss ways in which to take forward the paper's priorities and a Priority Project Pipeline is in development ahead of LEP funding coming on stream during 2015.	Conservation	TBC
14	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	Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme.	This Exploited Land is on schedule to make its submission in October 2015 for Stage Two approval from the Heritage	Conservation	Total £3 million (current Development stage)

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
		<p>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.</p>		<p>Lottery Fund. In early February, TEL officers had a positive mid-term review with HLF, a key milestone in the Development process. The Executive Group under the chairmanship of Andrew Scott carried out a prioritisation of the proposed archaeological conservation works which has now confirmed the size and scope of the TEL programme and allowed the negotiation of agreements with landowners to begin. Architects are currently working on proposals for creating additional gallery space at the Moors Centre and consultants have now been appointed to develop an Interpretation Strategy. In parallel, biodiversity survey work continues across the TEL landscape particularly focussed on habitat connectivity, PAWS restoration, traditional haymeadows and riparian habitat improvement,</p>		£198,000)

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
				<p>again supported by land management agreements. All of this will enable TEL to begin 'Year 1' delivery immediately following HLF giving the Permission to Start. Over the summer months, TEL officers will be promoting the programme at summer shows and through the Heritage Open Day programme to keep public interest levels high and enthusiastic.</p>		

3.3 In addition to the activity set out in the table above, discussions are continuing aimed at developing a joint bid across the National Parks developing a Health & Wellbeing focused project. The Steering Group appointed to progress the project is concentrating on developing the project's business case and identifying the most appropriate funding sources. The new External Funding Officer, Tom Stephenson, has taken over responsibility for providing the Authority's input to the project from Richard Gunton. Members will be updated on this project as it develops.

#### **4. External Funding Officer Appointment and Objectives**

4.1 Tom Stephenson was appointed External Funding Officer post (part-time, 3 days a week) with the main emphasis of his role 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 Since his appointment Tom has been familiarising himself with the organisation and the ongoing external funding activity currently taking place within the Authority. Tom has spent time with each of the Authority's departments and its directors to best understand their specific external funding needs and how these relate to the overall priorities for the Authority. He has been introduced to a number of key funding and delivery partners including: the Heritage Lottery Fund, the YNYER LEP and the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership. As a result of this engagement a set of objectives and priority projects have been developed to maximise the role's contribution to the Authority.

4.3 The agreed objectives for the post and priority areas for external funding are as follows:

- To develop an External Funding Strategy at an appropriate scale and level to the Authority.
- To develop improved processes and mechanisms for the management of external funding.
- To support staff across the organisation in their endeavours to generate external funding to deliver our priorities.
- To develop relationships with important funding bodies.
- To procure and manage consultancy services for the development of the Authority's approach to corporate sponsorship and other related activity.
- To develop the Authority's approach and the use of appropriate metrics and models that will help to underpin and justify funding bids.
- To lead and manage approaches to specific priority external funding bids.

#### **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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