

North York Moors National Park Authority

Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee

7 September 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 progress of the development of the Authority's External Funding strategy and process.

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 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 June External Funding Report, Tom Stephenson, the Authority's External Funding Officer, has been developing the Authorities' External Funding Strategy to ensure the appropriate process and mechanisms for governing this activity are in place. This report will provide an update to Members on progress with this work.

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 a new Business Plan. However the Management Plan and the priorities from the previous business plan are still relevant and continue to inform external funding activities.

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	<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"> • Improving Habitat Connectivity • Restoration of Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). <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 delivered workshops involving organisations and groups interested/involved in the Yorkshire Derwent Catchment. The workshops have developed a series of documents outlining the project vision, objectives and goals to help develop the partnership going forward. High-level funding and delivery plans have also been developed. Discussions have taken place as to how the Derwent Partnership can expand upon the Pickering “Slowing the Flow” project outcomes.</p> <p>The partnership’s interim steering group is now in the process of taking forward the key actions identified from the consultation work in order</p>	Conservation	TBC

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
				to establish the Partnership structure, to secure formal approval from partners and to appoint some dedicated support to take the partnership forward. The Authority is keen to take forward and find funding for PAWS and Connectivity work within the Rye catchment linked to this.		
2	VIP Landscape Enhancement Initiative	<p>OFGEM has agreed provision of £500 million to mitigate the visual impact of existing electricity infrastructure within the UK.</p> <p>The majority of the fund will be used for a small number of major capital projects (significant undergrounding works) of which the Park is not eligible however 5% (£24million) of the total allowance has ring-fenced for smaller localised visual improvements and landscape enhancements schemes with the designated areas.</p> <p>The Park is one of the 26 National Parks and AONBs identified as eligible for the fund.</p>	National Grid/OFGEM	National Grid has appointed external consultants to develop and finalise the fund's eligibility criteria and funding priorities. Trust CSR, a specialist grant making organisation, has been appointed to administer the grant scheme. The initial guidance of a September 2015 launch for the Programme has looked to have slipped to October/November 2015. The Authority aims to organise an internal briefing to its Officers to begin scoping out the possibility of developing a	Conservation	Up to £600k per year from Autumn / Winter 2015 to March 2021

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
				<p>programme of work incorporating measures to reduce the visual impact of the power lines in affected areas 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.</p>		
3	Moors Centre Outdoor Classroom	Provision of a purpose built outdoor classroom to enable winter educational activities. Following a very successful trial which involved hiring a Yurt to use as a winter classroom for delivery of education, including themed “one snowy night” visits, it is proposed to construct a timber classroom adjacent to Crow Wood at the Moors National Park Centre.	HLF	Project has been approved in principle by Directors. The business plan and bid being prepared.	Park Services	£15,000
4	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/Boggles 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 and will be submitted in winter 15/16 for implementation in spring 2016.	Park Services	£13,000

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
Projects Submitted						
5	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	RCBC is assessing the bid in light of response to recent government cuts in Public Health budgets. NYCC has declined to take part in the project.	Park Services	£45,000 pa for two years
Unsuccessful Projects						
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 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 LIFE + bid was unsuccessful. Lead partner, Norfolk County Council is seeking alternative funding sources to enable the project to proceed.	Park Services	approx. £100,000 (125,000 Euros)
Successful Projects						
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 (£31,000), plus Catchment Partnership support (£15,000).	DEFRA via Environment Agency	The bids for both elements were successful (Glaisdale beck project and catchment partnership support). The project will run during the financial year	Conservation	£46,000 over 12 months.

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
				2015/2016		
8	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 October Planning Committee.	Park Services	£13,000
9	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	Application Successful.	Conservation	Total grant request c. £131k.
10	North York Moors Rural Coastal Communities Team	<p>The North York Moors Rural Coastal Communities Team is being set up to with the aim supporting the development of local solutions to economic issues facing the rural coastal communities of Staithes, Robin Hood's Bay and Runswick.</p> <p>The Team's focus will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encouraging the sustainable use of heritage/cultural assets to provide both a focus for community activities and enhanced economic opportunities developing sustainable tourism with the three areas 	Coastal Community Teams via DCLG	Publicity and scheduling in development for inviting Team membership prior to convening of group and development of the Team's economic plan.	Park Services	£10k

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
		<p>The Team will be responsible for developing an economic plan that will identify the local priority areas/issues that require further investment to enhance local tourism and heritage. The priorities set out by the group will inform any subsequent bids into the forthcoming £3 million Coastal Restoration Fund that looks to provide capital funding for coastal heritage works.</p> <p>The Team will be comprised of local community groups, businesses and local authorities.</p>				
Approved with Further Development Needed						
11	Local Growth Plan for the Moors and Dales	<p>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.</p>	Various TBC.	<p>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 Priority Project Pipeline is currently in development ahead of LEP funding coming on stream during 2015.</p> <p>The two pilot projects on whole farm plans and tourism funded under this process through ESF Skills Funding have now concluded and the final report issued. Tom</p>	Conservation	TBC

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
				Stephenson, the Authority's External Funding Officer, will be providing critical support for the next phase of developing The Plan - working with partners and the LEP to produce more detailed project plans and identify appropriate funding streams.		
12	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.	This Exploited Land is on schedule to make its submission in October 2015 for Stage Two approval from the Heritage Lottery Fund. In July, TEL officers had a positive review meeting with the appointed HLF mentor. The Executive Group under the chairmanship of Andrew Scott continued to steer the development phase. Progress is being made across all three themes of TEL's themes; archaeology, biodiversity and access/interpretation. All of this will enable TEL to begin 'Year 1' delivery immediately following HLF giving the Permission to	Conservation	Total £3 million (current Development stage £198,000)

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
				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.		

4. External Funding Strategy and Process

4.1 The following have been identified as priorities for the recently appointed External Funding Officer in order to meet the Authority targets for maintaining external funding at 10%-20% of gross income as a minimum and to increase this, potentially by a significant extent, in the future:

1. Develop an External Funding Plan at an appropriate scale and level to the Authority; and
2. Define the processes for the management of external funding
3. Lead on health funding and work on the following other bids

4.2 The existing approach to external funding has been mapped to identify areas that could be optimised to:

- maximise the Authority's capacity to successfully secure external funding; and
- ensure externally funded projects are both deliverable and align with the Authority's strategic objectives.

4.3 The exercise has identified the following key areas along with the activities and processes that support each area:



4.4 The following sections explain briefly what each of the three areas above involve.

4.4.1 Project Initiation

Purposes:

- Ensure the Authority has a pipeline of project ideas that can be progressed in support of the Management Plan and Business Plan enabling the Authority to be responsive to new funding opportunities.

Activities:

- Scheduled ideas workshops both specific to funding opportunities and on more general ongoing departmental basis.
- Develop relationships with key funding organisations and partners, to ensure up-to-date information on:
 - upcoming funding streams;
 - potential joint-bids and partnership applications; and
 - funder/partner priorities.
- Appropriate methods to keep fully abreast of all new and ongoing funding opportunities
- Ensure departments priorities reflect agreed priorities for external funding development and delivery.

4.4.2. Project Appraisal**Purpose:**

- Ensure the Authority focusses its resources on projects that have the greatest impact on its strategic objectives.
- Ensure external funding applications are of a high quality, deliverable and align with the Authority's strategic objectives.
- Provide the Officers making applications with advice and support.

Activities:

- Develop a Project Enquiry Form (PEF) that provides a standard template to describe an application for department leads to collectively review prior to submission. This gives the opportunity to provide constructive feedback to the applying Officers and to ensure the project is both deliverable and aligned to strategic objectives. Regularly review new PEF submissions at Directors Meetings and/or Management Team meetings.

4.4.3 Project Prioritisation**Purpose:**

- Provide an accurate strategic view of all current external funding activity.
- Provide an opportunity to review the project progress and reprioritise if necessary.

Activities:

- Update and maintain the department's external funding priorities.
- Update and maintain FRASC External Funding update report table.
- Develop a Project Pipeline table to provide a strategic view of all external funding projects, and the resources committed to deliver them, to inform project prioritisation and monitoring decisions.
- Regularly review the Project Pipeline at Directors and/or Management Team meetings.

4.5 Members will be updated with progress of this work in forthcoming FRASC 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 to developing and prioritising projects.

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