

North York Moors National Park Authority Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee

6 June 2016

External Funding

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update Members on the work currently being undertaken to secure external funding and to seek approval for any significant changes to the programme agreed in the Business Plan.

2. Background

- 2.1 This report provides a brief update on projects which require external funding, and continues the previous reports to this Committee which have kept Members abreast of our activity in this important area of work.

3. Current External Funding Activity

- 3.1 **Table 1** below sets out an update on projects. Please note that the Table does not include some project ideas that are at a very early stage of officer discussions.
- 3.2 As we continue to operate with the second 1 year extension to the 2012-15 Business Plan, 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.
- 3.3 Work on one large project (c. £2.5 million) has been prioritised in view of the support given by the HLF for an early submission. This is the Rye Project - Members may recall that this was described in the Catchment Partnerships paper at the March NPA. Following the submission of a Project Enquiry Form (PEF) and a resulting site visit by the HLF to the Rye sub-catchment area it was recommended that a Landscape Partnership Scheme application be submitted. The NPA is taking the lead on developing this application which should have been submitted by 1 June 2016 as long as support was secured from Ryedale District Council and the County Council. (Part of the project area extends beyond the National Park and one of the project themes links to flood risk which the County is the lead authority for).
- 3.4 The application will be determined by HLF nationally and a decision will be made in October 2016. The proposed project area focuses on the upper Rye and would run in parallel with other projects which have water management as their primary objective. The overall vision is of conserving and enhancing the Rye landscape and its functionality. The main themes will be:
- **Water habitat** – restoring the riparian and aquatic habitats of the Rye and the rich wildlife it supports;
 - **Water quality** – improving water quality through working with land owners and managers to address nutrient inputs and reduce diffuse pollution;
 - **Water level management (primary focus of a parallel project, a significant by-product of this HLF project)** – employing natural flood risk

management techniques to better regulate water quantity and reduce downstream flooding; and

- **Engaging people** – to better understand the services the river provides us and how we use them in to live, work and play and conserving a record of the river’s cultural significance to local communities and wider beneficiaries.

- 3.5 A match funding sum of £20,000 for the development phase and £160,000 for the subsequent conditional delivery phase has been committed from the NPA. A further update will be provided verbally to Members at the committee meeting.
- 3.6 Members should be aware that the concentration on this project has stalled the wider work on profiling possible external funding over the next few years.

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 Rye within the wider Derwent Catchment	<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; and • Restoration of Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). <p>The National Park is looking to take a lead role in the Rye and Upper Derwent sub-catchments of the Derwent.</p>	Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme.	See main text. Supportive letter from NYCC received.	Conservation	c.£2.5 million (c. £1.9 million from HLF)
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>	National Grid / OFGEM	The Landscape Enhancement Initiative is now open and guidance has been received. There are two windows for applications to be made this year, one that ends in May and one in September.	Conservation	c.£130k per year as a minimum from 2016

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		<p>The majority of the fund will be used for a small number of significant undergrounding works of which this Park is not eligible however 5% (£24 million) of the total allowance has ring-fenced for smaller localised visual improvements and landscape enhancements schemes within the designated areas.</p> <p>Funded projects should be clearly aimed at reducing visual impact and enhancing landscape quality in areas that are influenced by the presence of existing National Grid electricity transmission infrastructure (not distribution lines owned by other companies.) For the North York Moors National Park this means the western fringe area.</p> <p>There is up to £4 million per year across eligible areas (30 in total), until March 2021.</p> <p>The Park is one of the 26 National Parks and AONBs identified as eligible for the fund.</p>		<p>Expressions of interest are being developed for projects relating to cycle trails and access around Sutton Bank and the Western fringe of the National Park with the aim of hitting the first of these windows.</p> <p>Projects likely to be fundable include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Localised tree planting and/or woodland creation; - Management, replanting, and/or planting of new, hedgerows; - Changes to trails, footpaths, cycle ways and riding routes; - Work that enhances the special qualities of the landscape and may also benefit biodiversity or cultural heritage. <p>Grant is available at up to 75%.</p> <p>AONBs or National Park Authorities must submit the applications, even where applications are developed by others. Applications can consist of the grouping together of smaller scale individual projects (developed by communities or others) into potential funding packages or bidding for a “small projects” fund which can then be allocated locally.</p> <p>Each AONB or National Park Authority can normally have a maximum of three applications live in any one year</p>		to March 2021

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
				<p>The AONBs or National Park Authorities would normally be involved in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promoting the scheme and assisting in the identification of possible projects; - liaising with communities or others to develop proposals and assist in preparing applications; - overseeing the implementation and ongoing maintenance/management of approved projects to ensure that money is well spent, objectives are met and quality is maintained; - monitoring and evaluating the benefits of the funded projects over time; - working with the VIP team to publicise projects at a local (and potentially national) level to demonstrate partnership working; and - promoting best practice and lessons learned. 		
3	Only two Turtle Doves?	<p>This project aims to maintain and if possible increase the population size of turtle doves in the National Park. It will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover what makes our combination of forestry and farmland attractive to the birds and use that understanding to benefit them in the future. • Increase the area of favourable habitats available for turtle doves in the National Park through improvement and restoration of such 	HLF – Our Heritage Fund	<p>We are firming up the bid's focus for an application this year. The main element is the upcoming Forestry Commission survey of Cropton Forest and surrounding farmland, but also an outlier survey by Sutton Bank staff, trial sowing of the RSPB seed mix on Spaunton land and possibly similar trials on Forestry Commission land. On the public engagement front, the Moors Messenger article on the species is prompting interest. In addition, an MSc student <i>may</i> do a project linked to our turtle dove work.</p>	Conservation	c.£50k - £80k

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		<p>habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a suitable source of seed early in the breeding season (May-June) when the birds first arrive in spring (if this can be done without risk of spreading disease). • Promote an understanding and awareness of the turtle dove's status- one of England's most threatened farmland birds- and requirements to local people and visitors alike and the significance of the population in the area. 				
4	National Parks England Green Care Bid	<p>The project is National Park England led initiative aim to build on the successful approaches, including Mosaic, to improve health and well-being of in-need groups within populations around England's ten National Parks and by so doing to ultimately reduce differences in life expectancy.</p> <p>The project aims to develop a methodology and best practice for the delivery of health and well-being outreach services within the National Parks.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the project outcomes would likely form the basis for a larger subsequent aimed at scaling-up the methodology developed in the initial project across all NPAs.</p>	BIG Lottery – Reaching Communities Fund	We are awaiting the next move from NPE which is expected after further contact with BLF. All Parks are now likely to be involved.	Park Services	c.£500k

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
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/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 for submission to Arts Council England and will be submitted by winter 16/17 for implementation in spring 2017.	Park Services	£14k
Projects Submitted						
6	Destination Partnerships Moors and Dales	Project to fund the formation and support of two Destination Partnerships for the Moors (North York Moors and Howardian Hills) and Dales (Yorkshire Dales and Nidderdale) attract brands. Development of Destination Action Plans for each partnership and facilitation of business collaboration projects to deliver Destination Action Plan priorities and capitalise on the brands and the areas' special qualities.	EAFRD Tourism Cooperation Call for the YNYER LEP area	An application outline has been submitted to the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) who administers the fund. The project has received stage one approval. A full Business Plan is now being developed for submission in August	Park Services	£217k
Unsuccessful Projects						
7	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	RCBC and NYCC	RCBC allocated some support funding, however NYCC declined to help fund the project. Alternative projects and sources of funding are in development	Park Services	£45k pa for two years

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
		<p>NPA staff to identify how the public health benefits of existing programmes of work could be maximised.</p> <p>A two year post with the aim that the officer would identify sources of external funding support to enable continuation.</p>				
Successful Projects						
8	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 <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 Coastal Communities Fund</p>	Coastal Community Teams via DCLG	<p>The project has been successfully completed with the publication of the North York Moors Coastal Communities Team Economic Plan</p> <p>The UK Government has announced that the CCF will be extended to 2020/21, and that at least £90 million of new funding will be available from 2017/18, with applications to be invited in summer 2016.</p> <p>Details of Round Four of CCF are currently being developed and are expected to be announced in late May. We are registered to attend a pre-application webinar where we will find out about funding priorities and eligibility criteria, and whether our identified projects will be appropriate for a bid.</p>	Park Services	£10k

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
		(CCF). The Team will be comprised of local community groups, businesses and local authorities.				
9	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 Stage II submission to the HLF was successful as was the application for match funding from the David Ross Foundation. The NPA is awaiting the required Permission to Start from the HLF with an inception meeting and associated paperwork in process. Subject to securing that delivery will commence imminently.	Conservation	Total project £3.8 million with £2.8m from HLF.
Approved with Further Development Needed						
10	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 YNYER LEP's growth plans and it now forms part of the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan.	Various TBC.	The Protected Landscapes Rural Growth Plan has been developed with the LEP and the next stage is to wait for appropriate calls for LEP linked funding streams which are relevant to taking forward prioritised activities from the plan. As an extension of the original work, a new document, The Protected Landscapes Rural Growth Plan has been developed that details specific projects the Authority and its partners have prioritised covering the following thematic areas:	Conservation /Park Services	TBC

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
				<p>Supporting High Nature Value Farming: Projects aiming to provide environmental, flood management and biodiversity returns while improving business performance, energy efficiency and developing new products and markets.</p> <p>Tourism- Creating new Visitor Experiences: Projects aiming to deliver an enhanced visitor experience within the 4 Protected Landscapes that is amongst the country's best with excellent service integration.</p> <p>Rural Skills: A programme of work to increase the number of young people gaining the skills that will support the rural economy enabling them to live locally and sustain local communities. It seems unlikely that this will fund any of the sort of work we currently do with apprentices.</p>		

4. **LEADER Update**

- 4.1 The contract to deliver the North York Moors Coast and Hills LEADER Programme was signed by North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) in early February and was quickly followed with the signing of the Service Level Agreement between NYCC and the NPA. Four Calls for Projects were issued (Farm Productivity, Micro /Small Business and Farm Diversification, Rural Tourism and Forestry Productivity) and the Programme formally launched on 8 February.
- 4.2 The first group of Outline Applications submitted are currently in their development phase with the aim of submitting Full Applications by mid-May. All applicants are still being encouraged to submit applications which will create new employment opportunities and growth in the economy.

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.

6. **Legal Implications**

- 6.1 None at this stage.

7. **Recommendation**

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

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