

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

5 September 2016

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 of ongoing work to better forecast and manage external funding performance over coming years against the newly agreed and ambitious external funding targets.

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 is well underway to develop forecasts for externally funded income over the next Business Plan period and beyond. These forecasts will help in the development of the 2017-2020 Business Plan and determining emerging priority areas for external funding in the new Business Plan period. Section 5 of this report provides details of this work.

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	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 habitats. • 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. 	HLF – Our Heritage Fund	<p>The field survey season for this species has more or less finished and survey work by volunteers, including the pilot survey in and on the fringes of Cropton Forest has proved very valuable. The surveys plus additional observations appear to have revealed an unexpected feature of the best turtle dove locations: rich wild flower grassland nearby. Wild flower seed in grasslands, provided the sward structure is open enough, may be as valuable a food source as the flora of arable margins.</p> <p>A recent meeting between the main partners - FC plus volunteer survey coordinator, RSPB and NPA - has helped re-focus the proposed bid and a new outline is being developed. These are thought to be the main areas of work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forest management advice 2. Agricultural advice 3. Awareness raising (including at Sutton Bank) 4. Parish council and parochial PCs advice re road verges and churchyards 5. Wildlife tourism 6. Encourage links to related projects 	Conservation	c.£50k - £80k

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				7. Research and survey.		
Projects Submitted						
2	Ryevitalise 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. A first meeting of the Yorkshire Derwent Partnership Board was held in mid-July.</p>	Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme.	<p>The stage one application was submitted to the Heritage Lottery on the 1 of June.</p> <p>The total budget for the Project across both development and delivery is just over £3m including a match funding figure of £935k giving an overall intervention rate of 69%. This breaks down into a two year development stage with a total budget of £339,600 budget with £63 of match funding giving an intervention of 81% for that stage; and a four year delivery phase totalling just less than £2.7m with £872k of match giving an intervention rate of 67% for that stage.</p> <p>The balance of the project budget is as follows (please note that there is inevitably overlap across these themes e.g. Project Management includes staff who will deliver across all themes and the water environment theme will deliver much for water quality and vice versa):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Environment 39% • Water Quality 8% • Reconnecting People 20% • Managing Programme 23% • Training Programme 4% • Inflation 1% 	Conservation	c.£2.7 million (c. £2.1 million from HLF)

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contingency 5% <p>Under the overall Ryevitalise Programme umbrella there are 27 different projects across the project's themes with something like 17 delivery partners.</p> <p>A site visit is planned for 16th of August to give HLF assessors opportunity to view the project area and ask the project development team questions. A verbal update will be given at committee.</p> <p>We will be notified of the outcome of our stage one application in October.</p>		
3	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	Following stage one approval for the project a full application was submitted on 4 August. The outcome of the application is expected in October	Park Services	£217k
4	Moor to Sea: new activities and niches on the North York Moors Coast	Building on the successful foundations of CCF Round 3, a smaller-scaled project focused on key growth areas identified during 'Sea Life, See Life'. It will make stronger connections between the moors and the coast, using a network of rail, cycle and	Coastal Communities Fund	Round 4 Stage one Expression of interest submitted 30 th June. We should hear in September 2016 if we are invited to submit a Stage two full application.	Park Services	£275,140 (from CCF)

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		walking routes to encourage visitors to travel to, and along the coast using sustainable transport, develop off-season breaks using identified themes and offer specialist step-by-step business support and promotional expertise to access new markets, amongst other activities.				
5	Over Silton to Thimbleby Bridleway Resurfacing	Project to fund the resurfacing of a section of bridleway between Over Silton and Thimbleby on the western fringe of the park. The existing surface regularly is rendered impassable in prolonged period of wet weather preventing cyclists, horse riders and walkers from using it. Cyclists are forced to use a busy section of the A19 which is dangerous and forces riders to pass under the large National Grid Pylons where they enter the park. Ensuring the existing bridleway is fit for year-round use will provide a traffic-free route that avoids an area where the electricity infrastructure has significant visual impact.	National Grid VIP Landscape Enhancement Initiative	Following a successful Expression of Interest, The Authority was invited to submit a full application to National Grid. The bid was submitted on 25h July. We will hear in September as to whether we have been successful.	Park Services	£44k (including £11k NYMNPA match funding)
Unsuccessful Projects						
None						
Successful Projects						
6	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.	Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership	The Stage II submission to the HLF was successful as was the application for match funding from the David Ross Foundation. The NPA has received the formal Permission to	Conservation	Total project £3.8 million with

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		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.	Scheme.	Start following the inception meeting with HLF. Delivery has commenced with key actions now progressing. As TEL is now a successful programme in delivery it will be removed from future external funding reports and updates will be provided through separate reports on TEL specifically.		£2.8m from HLF.
Approved with Further Development Needed						
None						

4. LEADER Update

- 4.1. Following the second and final application window for 2016, 44 Outline Applications have been received. Of these, 41 were then eligible to proceed to the Full Application stage with 15 finally submitting Full Applications.
- 4.2. To date, 3 Full Applications have been rejected for reasons of eligibility, 2 have been considered by the Executive Group, and the remaining 10 are currently being processed with the intention of being considered at the next Executive Group meeting in September. At the time of preparing this report, whilst decisions have been made on two applications, applicants cannot currently be informed of the outcome of the decision making process due to the restrictions of the pre-referendum purdah period being extended by Defra / RPA until further notice.
- 4.3. There has been a clear drop-off rate in terms of the number of applications progressing beyond Outline Applications with many applicants finding the process challenging. It has been suggested that a new, simplified system will be developed by the RPA for individual LEADER Programmes to utilise and allow smaller grants to be more easily accessed. This is currently scheduled for autumn 2016. The North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER Programme Executive Group have discussed their concerns about the current process, ongoing restrictions and our ability to spend our fully allocation of funding this year, and have subsequently agreed to hold an additional, limited call for projects in late summer/early autumn if restrictions are lifted in time. Whilst the longer term picture for both LEADER and the wider RDPE is unclear, the current proposal is that the 2017 calls for projects will be launched in late autumn.

5. External Funding Forecasting

- 5.1. As part of the process of preparing the Business Plan 2017-2020 forecasting work is taking place to model existing and future externally funded income generated by The Authority.
- 5.2. The report will track quarterly income (confirmed or projected) for secured and unsecured income for the current financial year, through the upcoming Business Plan period of 2017-2020 and beyond.
- 5.3. Secured and unsecured income will be projected forward using graphs so that it will be easy to track the funding provided independently via projects and cumulatively for the full pipeline of projects. This will be shown against the newly agreed annual external funding target of £6 million over the next 4 year Plan period.. This new target for external funding was provisionally agreed through potential revisions to the Authority's financial principles for the new Business Plan, which members discussed at the June full Authority meeting and Scrutiny meeting. The data will help to identify peaks and troughs in funding to enable forward planning for future bid development work and to guide the deployment of resources towards this.

6. Contribution to National Park Management Plan

- 6.1. The rationale behind seeking external funding and new income generation is to secure the delivery of the Business Plan and the Management Plan.

7. **Legal Implications**

7.1 None at this stage.

8. **Recommendation**

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

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