

North York Moors National Park Authority

Monday 14 December 2020

Future Historic Environment Staff Resource

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update Members on the actions and resource requirements in delivering the Historic Environment Strategy (HES) in the short and long term.

2. Background

- 2.1 From April 2021, staff resource to deliver actions against the new Historic Environment strategy will reduce to 2.6 FTE across Historic Environment and Building Conservation due to project completion and staff retirement.
- 2.2 The Historic Environment Strategy will inform production of the new National Park Management Plan, on which work has begun. This must include a review of priorities and of the core resource required to deliver statutory and aspirational Historic Environment work.
- 2.3 In the meantime, there is a requirement to deliver core functions such as Planning consultations and as far as possible perform at a level consistent with national standards in the context of significant financial uncertainty for the Authority.

3. Staffing Needs

- 3.1 A review of the long term staffing requirements to deliver HES actions cannot be undertaken in isolation as the resource needs of the Authority will change with the priorities of the new Management Plan.
- 3.2 For 2021/2022, there is still a requirement to contribute to the development of the new Management Plan, deliver legacy work on Land of Iron and Monuments for the Future, respond to Planning applications and support for heritage volunteers and community heritage grants. Current provision is insufficient and, despite the financial uncertainty, as a minimum would need to increase to 3.2 FTE to cover the minimum requirements for archaeology while maintaining the current position for building conservation. The additional resource required for this year would be covered by the existing conservation budget and will enable some continuity of HE work whilst work is ongoing to develop priorities and resource requirements for the delivery of the new Management Plan.
- 3.3 To deliver against all of the priorities in the HES, the core resource will need to double to 5.6 FTE with additional project staff complementing core work. A full review of the resource required and the work programme to be delivered will be included as part of the Management Plan development. Future priorities may include dedicated resources to managing the Authority's Historic Environment Record (HER), identifying and specifying priorities for externally funded Historic Environment conservation work, community engagement activities including volunteering, Conservation Area Appraisal, Management Plan development, support for trainees / apprentices and s106 activities.

4. **Financial and Staffing Implications**

- 4.1 The current MTFS has set a budget of £100.3k for cultural heritage staff for 2021-22. This will need to be increased to £127.6k to cover the costs required for this year which includes recruiting a full time Head of Historic Environment. The additional resource will be covered by the Land of Iron Legacy and existing core historic environment and conservation budgets.
- 4.2 Officers are also exploring the opportunity of partial funding for an additional post of a part time Volunteers and Community Officer with Historic England.

5. **Contribution to National Park Management Plan**

- 5.1 This contributes to objectives E1, E5, E6, E7, E8, E9

6. **Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications to the proposed future historic environment staff resource.

7. **Recommendation**

- 7.1 That:

Members approve the approach to delivering HE priorities for 2021/2022 and support the review of future HE resources required in developing the new Management Plan

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