

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

1 February 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.

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 The Authority has been developing an External Funding Strategy to ensure the appropriate process and mechanisms for maximising success 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 some project ideas that are at a very early stage of officer discussions.
- 3.2 Currently it is proposed to operate with the second 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; • 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> <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>Building on the initial development work done by consultants, as outlined in the previous report to FRASC, the East Yorkshire Rivers Trust (EYRT), on behalf of the Derwent Interim Steering Group has let a contract to Toben Saunders Associates Ltd. to further develop the Derwent Catchment Partnership. The Authority is contributing £2,000 towards this work, in addition to the £15,000 that the EYRT has secured, which will facilitate the establishment and engagement of the partnership.</p> <p>The Authority is currently preparing a Project Enquiry Form (PEF) for submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a Rye Catchment-based project incorporating PAWS, habitat restoration, connectivity, and water quality work. The PEF will give HLF the opportunity to provide feedback on the project. The Authority and its project partners shall be meeting with HLF in late January to discuss the project further.</p>	Conservation	TBC

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
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 been ring-fenced for smaller localised visual improvements and landscape enhancements schemes within 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	<p>National Grid has now selected the 4 protected landscapes which have been prioritised for the main VIP scheme of major undergrounding. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset AONB; • New Forest NPA; • Peak District NPA; and • Snowdonia NPA <p>The Landscape Enhancement Initiative is still currently in development with a likely opening date of early 2016. Progression of the scheme is dependent on further discussion of the eligibility of any programme the Authority would like to develop.</p>	Conservation	Up to £600k per year from early 2016 to March 2021
3	National Parks England Green Care Bid	<p>The project is National Park England led initiative aimed 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>	BIG Lottery – Reaching Communities Fund	The Authority has officially submitted an Expression of Interest with NPE to proceed as one of three parks that will form the basis of the project delivery as is currently awaiting confirmation of the next stages.	Park Services	~£500,000

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		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.				
4	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 has allocated some support funding Negotiations are ongoing with NYCC and alternative funding opportunities are being sought.	Park Services	£45,000 pa for two years
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 in winter 15/16 for implementation in spring 2016.	Park Services	£14,000

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
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 outline will be assessed for eligibility. If shortlisted the project will require further development prior to a final application.	Park Services	£217,000
Unsuccessful Projects						
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</p>	Coastal Community Teams via DCLG	The Team has convened for its first workshop to develop the Team's priorities and capture high level project ideas. A draft Economic Plan is now being prepared for wider consultation.	Park Services	£10k

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		<p>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. The Team will be comprised of local community groups, businesses and local authorities.</p>				
Approved with Further Development Needed						
9	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 Protected Landscapes Rural Growth Plan has been delivered to the LEP in preparation of forthcoming discussions to help best align prioritised activities with LEP-administered funding opportunities.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>Supporting High Nature Value Farming: Projects aiming to provide environmental, flood management and bio-diversity returns while improving business performance, energy efficiency and developing new products and markets.</p> <p>Tourism- Creating new Visitor Experiences: Projects aiming to deliver</p>	Conservation/ Park Services	TBC

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
				<p>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.</p>		
10	This Exploited Land	<p>'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.</p>	Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership Scheme.	<p>The Stage Two submission for This Exploited Land was submitted to HLF at the end of October 2015.</p> <p>The submission comprised a number of separate documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP). This 3 part document included: details of the landscape area, its character and significance; the scheme ambitions and management structures; and the projects that are to be delivered. • A total of 45 projects were submitted for the Scheme (with an additional 7 that are 'aspirational'). The projects are split over a number of themes Cultural Heritage, Natural Environment, Access and Engagement and Cross cutting (for example training, volunteers and community grants) and Project Management. 	Conservation	Total £3 million - current stage £198,000

No.	Project Title	Brief Description	Funder(s) if Identified	Update	Lead Department	Budget
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1146 269 1697 639">• In addition to the LCAP the Stage Two submission included a number of supporting documents, such as the specialist reports and assessments made in the development stage, agreements with land managers, the partnership agreement and letters of support, supporting images, detailed budgets and work programmes, job descriptions, and the HLF Round Two application form. <p data-bbox="1146 676 1697 839">This substantial submission is now being reviewed by HLF and their assessor. We are now in regular contact with the HLF officers and our project mentor discussing and clarifying any areas of the scheme.</p> <p data-bbox="1146 876 1697 1075">A HLF site visit has been scheduled for early February. The assessment of the scheme will be reported to the regional HLF meeting and we anticipate an outcome in March followed shortly after by our permission to start.</p> <p data-bbox="1146 1112 1697 1382">In the interim work is still being undertaken to secure the remaining match funding required for the TEL Scheme. We have been invited to supply further information in support of the bid to the independent charitable trust made in November 2015 and to attend their next Trustees meeting in January.</p>		

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				Work is also being identified and programmed across the NPA departments to enable a swift 'start-up' as and when the HLF outcome is known.		

4. **External Funding Strategy**

- 4.1. Members have previously been briefed on the work to date developing the Authority's external funding strategy. This work identified the three key areas required to support its external funding function. The diagram below shows the process and the main areas of activity.

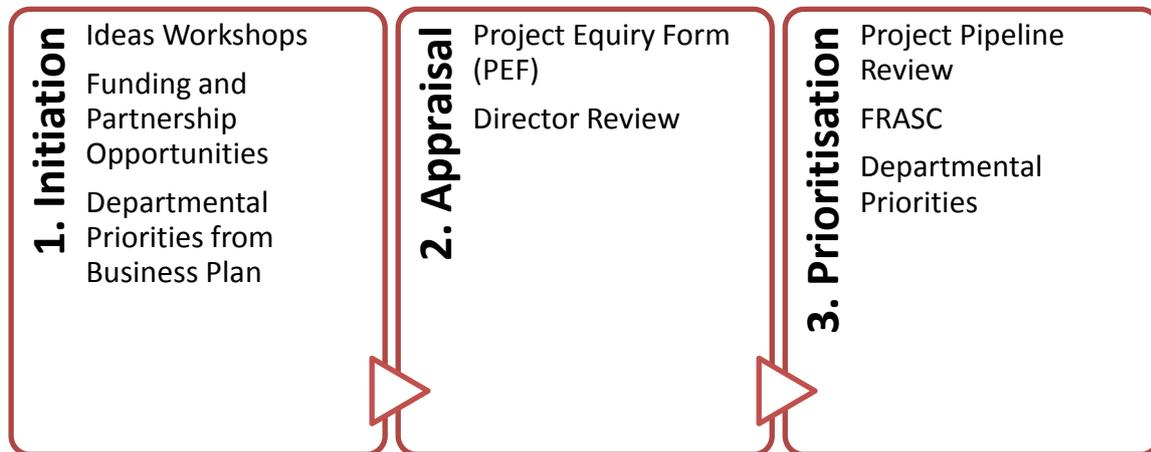


Figure 1: External Funding Process Areas

- 4.2. As part of developing the process for how the Authority effectively prioritises its externally funded work, a Project Pipeline has been developed to provide a high-level view of current and future external funding activity to support strategic decision making and forward planning.
- 4.3. The Project Pipeline provides an accurate strategic view of all current external funding activity represented as a timeline. This allows us to see the potential income available from external funding at different points in the future which is important for financial and resource planning. As such the Project Pipeline should be a useful part of the Business Planning process. It also allows us to quickly keep a check on each project's progress and decide if it requires more resource to drive it towards submission. Members can view the latest snapshot of the Project Pipeline in the FRASC private papers on the Member's Extranet.
- 4.4. It is planned to add information from earned income sources to give a composite picture of planned income from non NPG sources.
- 4.5. The Project Pipeline will be regularly reviewed at Directors and/or Management Team meetings providing an opportunity to more easily review the progress of external funding activity, to identify any possible resourcing issues early and reprioritise if necessary.
- #### 5. **LEADER Update**
- 5.1 Final agreement and signing of the LEADER contract is getting closer and a launch of the Programme in February 2016 is now anticipated. The LEADER Executive Group is due to meet on the 19th January to discuss and agree the detail within each of the four calls for projects. Once this is agreed the calls and associated deadlines for applications will be made public. The NPA remains an eligible applicant under the Rural Tourism priority with funding of up to 40% towards commercial activity available, and up to around 80% for non-profit making projects.

5.2 In aligning with the recent availability of EAFRD support for tourism activity through the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership (YNYER LEP), the maximum LEADER grant for 2016 under the Rural Tourism priority has been set at £35,000 towards capital investment opportunities. The availability of revenue funding is limited within the Programme as a whole and the delivery of strong economic outputs remains essential. The primary output required of all projects will be job creation.

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 in the current scenario of year-on-year reductions to core grant funding.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 None at this stage.

8. Recommendation

8.1. 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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