Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 9**

Finance and Resources Committee

19 May 2026

Income Generation Strategy: Progress update

Purpose of report

1. To inform Members of progress in implementing the Authority's Income Generation Strategy.

Recommendation

2. That Members note the most recent progress with implementing the Authority's Income Generation Strategy.

Strategic Planning Framework

3. The information and recommendation contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and it's approved strategic planning framework:

   - Corporate Plan Objective 30:
     Plan and manage the Authority's work to make the most effective use of its resources, including generating sufficient income to maintain expenditure at the same level as 2014/15 in real terms.

Background

4. This report is one of the regular updates provided to Members on the *activity* that is underway to develop new income-generating opportunities. For 2026/27, the Authority's income generation objective (see above) requires us to be able to support expenditure of £10.3 million – an increase of £400,000 on the previous year. The actual budgeted expenditure at the start of the year was £11.3 million. However, with 'carry-overs' from 2025/26 (see item 5), and significant additional Defra funding confirmed since March (item 7), gross expenditure is now projected to be around £13.6m.

5. As always, this report focuses on our 'pipeline' of externally funded projects in development. Details of projects for which funding has been secured since the last update, and those bids currently in development are in the **Annex**.

Consideration

6. Since the last update in December have been some significant developments:
    a. Wildlife Rich Habitat Fund (£968,000) – see item 7 on this agenda.
    b. Active Travel (£200,000) – funding from Active Travel England for Phase 2 of the National Parks Capability Fund. This includes activity to prioritise and integrate the Active Travel Plan and undertake feasibility/design work for several potential multi-user routes.
    c. Clapham-Austwick bridleway (£200,000) – funding from North Yorkshire Council to improve the route between Clapham and Austwick as part of the Council's Consolidated Active Travel Fund (CATF) allocation.
    d. Threshfield road crossing (£146,000) – funding from Y&NY CA Mayor's Active Travel Programme to provide a safe and accessible road crossing for children at Threshfield Primary School to walk to school and access key services safely.

Financial Implications

7. The updates outlined above – together with several smaller externally-funded projects (see annex) will provide over £1.5m of additional income for the Authority to invest in the people and places of the National Park this year. There are still a number of significant, multi-year funding bids in development.

Legal Implications

8. The Authority will be entering into, or continuing, contractual arrangements for all the projects outlined above.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

9. The investments in active travel and other route enhancements will have significant positive impacts in widening access within the National Park.

Conclusion

10. The Authority's actual and indicative income from Defra has increased significantly for the next 3 years. This is extremely welcome. However, Members will be well aware that – to ensure we can maintain the Authority's impact – we are still likey to need new multi-million-pound, multi-year externally funded projects towards the end of the current 3-year period. Several such projects are in development and are included in the Action Plan at Item 6.

Gary Smith
Acting Chief Executive

‘Pipeline’ of significant external funding bids

Grants Key: green = funding secured; orange = bid submitted (or imminent); blue = in development; purple = ideas

Project Title	Description	Prospective YDNPA Income (source)	Start and duration
1. Clapham - Austwick Bridleway	Creation of an off-road multi-user route between Clapham and Austwick (part of the Active Travel Plan Network). Resurface approximately 430m of bridleway surface appropriate for all users of the bridleway with a flexi.	£200k (NYC Active Travel Fund)	2026-27
2. ATE Capability Fund	Funding for Active Travel route development, including: prioritisation and integration of Active Travel Network; Feasibility Study Garsdale PBW; Feasibility Study Grassington–Skipton; Feasibility Study – Quiet Lanes	£200k (Active Travel England)	2026-27
3. Y&NYCA Mayor’s Active Travel Programme	Active Travel Fund – Working with NYC to introduce a school crossing at Threshfield – will require match funding from ATE pot.	£146k (Y&NYCA)	April 2026 – March 2028
4. Green Social Prescribing	Joint application with NYMT, NYMNP, HHNL and NNL to the Active Travel Behaviour Change Fund for 18-month social prescribing/walking programme. Possible match funding request.	£100k (Y&NYCA)	June 2026 18 Months
5. Coast-to-Coast: Nature Trail	Collaboration between YDNPA, LDNPA, NYMNPA and other partners with a view to enhancing the new national trail to make it a journey through the finest wildlife in England. Successful pre-development bid includes costs for a Community Engagement Officer based with YDNPA	£40k (NLHF)	Feb 2026 18 months pre-development
6. Tramper	Funding to purchase a Tramper to extend accessibility offer at Grassington or Hawes NPVC’s.	£10k (Damart)	2026-27
7. Environmental Improvements DCM	DCM application for a Future Preparedness Grant. MD-North (NLHF). For environmental improvements in DCM including heating controls etc.	£10k (NLHF)	2026-27
8. DEFRA Pathfinder	Partnership with Y&NY Combined Authority (Lead) and North Yorkshire Protected Landscapes to develop a place-based, locally delivered farm advice service, and devolve funding to enable this to happen.	£100k pa	Summer 2026 3 years

Project Title	Description	Prospective YDNPA Income (source)	Start and duration
9. Curlew Conservation	Project with BTO to support Curlew and other Waders across the Dales. Put together with BTO. Bid to Natural England Species Recovery Programme was unsuccessful. But NPP has sourced £20k from Howdens, looking to match fund this and bid to the Yorkshire Water Biodiversity fund for a revised project	£90k (Howdens; Yorkshire Water)	2026 1-2 Years
10. Green Routes	Joint bid with YDMT to IWILL Fund for continuation of NCS activity and youth bursary and project fund.	c.£200k over 3 years	Spring 2026
11. Heart of the Dales	Working with the National Trust on a community engagement pilot, as part of their Heart of the Dales Landscape Recovery Scheme	£17k (National Trust)	April 2612 Months from
12. Our Natural Futures	Bid on behalf of all 15 UK NPAs. Focus on developing systems and opportunities for young people that facilitate youth voice and clearer routes into training and employment in the Green Sector. Submitted April 2026,	£645k (UK Community Fund)	Apr 2027- Mar 2030
13. Westmorland and Furness (W&F) Way	W&F Way, is to provide a signed walking trail to celebrate the formation of Westmorland and Furness Council. The proposed route starts at Alston and finishes at Furness Abbey, using existing long-distance trails where possible. The route will pass through YDNP.	£25k (W&FC)	Summer 2026
14. Three Counties: One River	Partnership of YDMT, Lune Rivers Trust, FoBNL and 3 Wildlife Trusts. Large-scale programme to improve access to nature and supporting nature recovery on the middle and lower reaches of the Lune. Pre-development phase complete October 2025. Revised EoI approved by NLHF (April 2026) to proceed to development stage. Development stage bid planned for submission by November 2026.	c.£500k total NLHF Development YDNPA income tbc	Development 2027 Delivery 2028 - 5 Years
15. Generation Green 3	A £11million Access Unlimited Partnership bid to NLHF (YHA lead). National Parks offer to focus on connection with National Park and Nature – immersive, practical conservation, junior rangers, six-week programmes etc. Invited to apply for development phase but progress stalled as no lead organisation.	£120k (NLHF)	28th May 2026 - Delivery to start Spring 2027
16. Regenerative Farming	Working to develop the regenerative farming approach in YDNP – covering consultancy time, capital grant potential and farm plans		3 Year Pilot?

Project Title	Description	Prospective YDNPA Income (source)	Start and duration
17. Garsdale-Hawes multi-user route	Working with partners to develop and implement a multi-user route along the line of the former Garsdale to Hawes railway line. Currently, preparing and gathering information to make Public Path Creation Order to establish legal access (bridleway).	c.£6-7m	2027 - 4 years
18. Ancient Woodland Revival	Audit, assessment and targeted action to improve Ancient Woodlands across the Dales. Working with Woodland Trust to develop a 3-year project, to include a woodland management officer and capital pump priming. EoI submitted March 26.	£600k	Jan 2027 - 6 years
19. Reaching Communities	Working with YDMT on joint application to the Reaching Communities fund for accredited Activity	£250k (National Lottery Community Fund)	Jan 2027-Jun 2030
20. Trees for Climate 2	Funding will support woodland creation, management and there is potential for engaging with the public as part of the WRF strategy	TBC	TBC
21. New to Nature	Potential for National Parks to collaborate with Groundwork on the next stage of their 'New To Nature' skills and training programme.	?	?
22. Littondale Historical Landscape	Reviving the historical landscape of Littondale through regenerating ancient woodland and the preservation of historical environment features. To include land management changes, access and engagement.	C£500k	2026?
23. Great Yorkshire Rivers	Opportunity to work with the Rivers Trusts to get funding to remove weirs and improve fish passage.	??	2025-2030

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