Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 11**

Finance and Resources

20 May 2025

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 28:

   Plan and manage the Authority's work so as 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 areas of income generating opportunity.

5. For 2025/26, the Authority's income generation objective (see above) requires us to be able to support expenditure of £9.9 million – an increase of £200,000 on the previous year. The actual budgeted expenditure at the start of the year was £11.9 million. With 'carry-overs' from 2024/25, and additional funding secured since March, expenditure is now projected to be around £13.1m (see item 7).

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

Consideration

7. Since the last update in December, there have been a few significant developments:
    a. **Farming in Protected Landscapes** – in late February Defra confirmed that a further £1.48m would be provided in 2025/26 for grants to farmers for projects that provide benefits for climate, nature, people & place, and relevant objectives in the National Park Management Plan.
    b. **Local Plan** - Along with a number of other local planning authorities, the Authority has received £228k from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to support delivery of the Local Plan. This will enable the Authority to submit the Plan for Examination later this summer.
    c. **Red Squirrel Recovery project** – A species recovery project grant from Natural England of £15k which will enable us to produce a Strategy and Action plan to enhance the Red Squirrel population in the Dales. This will include an assessment of current partners involved and opportunities for grey squirrel control and habitat enhancement for reds.

Financial Implications

8. The projects outlined above will provide over £1.7 million of external funding for the Authority's work in 2025/26. There are a number of significant, multi-year funding bids in development – and these will be important to retaining the Authority's 'spending power' in the light of the likely ongoing squeeze on the public finances.

Legal Implications

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

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

10. None.

Conclusion

11. Members will be well aware that – to maintain the Authority's impact – we need new multi-million pound, multi-year projects to replace the initiatives ending this year (Farming in Protected Landscapes, Grow Back Greener, Tees-Swale etc). A number of big projects are in development, but it is unlikely that any of those will make sufficient progress to yield significant funding before 2027.

Gary Smith
Deputy Chief Executive

'Pipeline' of significant external funding bids

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

Project title	Description	Prospective YDNPA Income	Start/duration
1. Red Squirrel Recovery	To deliver a Strategy to co-ordinate and support red squirrel recovery across the Dales. Identified and supported by NE who have submitted it internally for Species Recovery Bid funding.	£14,000	Sep 25–Mar 26
2. The Herds	Art Fund grant to explore the theme of climate change highlighted by The Herds initiative, through creative outreach activities for community groups, schools and museum family visitors. Facilitate activities inspired by climate concerns and the impact upon the wildlife and landscape of the Yorkshire Dales.	£1,500	May-Jun 25
3. Uncovering stories of women in rural life, past and present	Weston Loan Programme for Research and Development. Provide capacity for staff to enhance their research skills and build knowledge of our collections and those held in larger regional services. Enable work with a socially engaged creative artist to carry out research and community consultation, share our collections and facilitate conversations about the lives of women living in rural areas, today and in the past.	£4,670	Mar–Aug 25
4. Rivers4Life	NHLF funding of £245,000 led by Yorkshire Rivers Trust for a new schools and community education project, Rivers4Life, to inform and inspire about the project work of the charity to enhance and protect the rivers Swale, Ure, Nidd, Wharfe and Ouse and their neighbouring catchments. It will run for three years incorporating a diverse programme of events held throughout the area and at DCM, providing opportunities to learn about rivers and wildlife, and the importance of increasing ownership of sustainable living to help rivers thrive. Exhibition in summer 2026 hosted by The Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes.	?????	Feb 25

Project title	Description	Prospective YDNPA Income	Start/duration
5. 'Three Counties: One River'	Working with YDMT, Lune Rivers Trust, Forest of Bowland National Landscape and Sustrans on a major landscape-scale programme focused on improving people's access to nature and supporting nature recovery in the middle and lower reaches of the Lune catchment, including parts of the western extension of the National Park. Pre-development application (submitted by YDMT as lead) to NLHF for £100k was approved Oct 2024. Engagement team delivering some pilot community engagement activities as part of pre-development phase.	£0 Pre-development (in-kind contribution staff time) £tbc Development £tbc Delivery	Pre-development Nov24- Aug25 Development phase 2026/27 Delivery phase 2027 4 years
6. 'Jewels of the Dales' – wildflower revival.	"Jewels of the Dales" iconic / rare plant restoration project. To focus on key plant species as a hook for attracting funding, supporting low-input, nature-friendly farming, and engaging communities across the National Park. Lots of partner interest inc. NT, YWT, YDMT, Bolton Abbey. Future potential 8-year funding up to £10milllion. Submitted EoI in December.	£250k (Development) c£8m (Delivery)	Oct 25 – 1 Year
7. Coast-to-Coast: A Route through Nature	Potential collaboration between YDNPA, LDNPA and NYMNPA. Enhancing the new national trail to make it a journey through the finest wildlife in England. Initial bid for development funding to be submitted in December.	£3 million (NLHF)	Sep 25 18 months development
8. Going Places	A project engaging and involving underrepresented audiences with museum collections through high quality, collaborative touring exhibitions and public programming. 5 networks created and DCM to be part of the Green Spaces Shared Places network. Each network to produce two touring exhibitions over five years (2025-2030). DCM to work with young people to co-create exhibition on network themes. Art Fund – NHLF funded development phase. NHLF application submitted by Art Fund.	£x?? 1 day a week of (staff time ,exhibition)	??? 2025 4 years
9. Green Roots to Jobs	Yorkshire Innovating Policy Partnership – pilot USDD model in Bradford. Partnership project with Bradford College.	£38k	July 25
10. Active Dales	Army Covenant Fund bid for project aiming to strengthen family bonds through supported, meaningful activities and increase awareness of opportunities in the Yorkshire Dales for families to enjoy active and creative time together. Families will experience new activities, build confidence and give them the knowledge to be able to return independently in the future.	£60k	Aug 25-Aug 26

Project title	Description	Prospective YDNPA Income	Start/duration
11. Regenerative farming	This application is driven by the Cumulus Report: "Establishing a Baseline for Evidence and an Action Plan for Regenerative Farming in North Yorkshire funded by the Y&NY CA. A bid to the Carbon Negative Fund has been made for a Regenerative Farming Champion which if successful will develop the regenerative approach in 3 landscapes, YDNP, Nidderdale & Forest of Bowland National landscapes, completing research and working directly with farmers to bring about climate-friendly change.	£140K	September 25 – August 27
12. DEFRA Test and Trial: Upscaling Payment by Results	A practical trial looking at whole farm PbR scheme on 40 farms across the National Park. To include revenue payments to farmers for delivery. Bid submitted but decision delayed pending outcome of Spending Review.	c£60k (Defra)	Jan 2026 18 months
13. 7 Steps to Nature Friendly Farming	YWT-led farming and landscape project around Wild Ingleborough area. Role for YDNPA 2 days pw farm advice. Internal WT application unsuccessful. Wider funding sources being sought.	2 days PW staff for 1 year	TBC
14. Malham NPVC	Redevelopment of the Malham National Park Visitor Centre to make it more accessible and welcoming and increase number of people crossing the threshold and engaging with the National Park through the building. To include a new 'changing place'.	£60,000	Sep 2025
15. Curlew Conservation	Working with the Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership and other local partners to develop a programme of interventions to support healthy populations of Curlew and other breeding waders.	£100,000 pa	????? 4 years
16. Garsdale–Hawes multi-user route	Working with partners to develop and implement a multi-user route (bridleway) along the line of the former Garsdale to Hawes railway line.	£6 million	Aug 2025 4 years
17. Young people – skills and opportunities	UK Community Fund bid in development with all 15 National Parks. Focus on developing systems, mechanisms and opportunities for young people that facilitate youth voice and clearer routes into training and employment in the Green Sector.	£50k - £250k	EOI July 2025 Dev. Phase: Sep 25 (1 year)
18. Generation Green 3	Access Unlimited Partnership bid to the NHLF (YHA lead) National Park offer to focus on connection with National Park and Nature – immersive, practical conservation, junior rangers, six week programmes, longer studies.	£150k over 2 years	EOI April 2025 Dev. Phase: Sep 25–Apr 26