Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 6**

Finance and Resources Committee

17 December 2024

Income Generation Strategy: 6 month 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 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 across the extended National Park area.

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 2024/25, the Authority's income generation objective (see above) requires us to be able to support expenditure of £9.7 million – an increase of almost £700,000 on the previous year as a result of the high rates of inflation. The actual budgeted expenditure at the start of the year was £13.1 million. And is now estimated to be £13.8m.

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 May, there have been a number of significant developments:

    a. **Ure Dales** – The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Ure Dales Landscape Recovery scheme is intended to improve a range of peatland and other habitats along Upper Wensleydale. The project has secured funding for a 2-year development phase. The Authority is supporting this and has secured funding of £28,000 in 24/25 and £70,000 in 2025/26 to cover specialist staff input. Further funding may be available should the development phase be successful.

    b. **Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)** - Defra has confirmed a national extension of funding for FiPL staff for the next 2 years. Initially, this will be to support the completion of existing projects. From September 2025, the staff are likely to be redirected towards providing wider advice and guidance to farmers to help them get into the national agri-environment schemes (although there is still a possibility that there may be some additional FiPL grant money too). The funding amounts to £236,000 in 2025/26, and £186,000 in 2026/27.

    c. **Grow Back Greener** – Along with other projects funded from the Government's Nature for Climate Fund, Grow Back Greener has been extended by a further 12 months to allow more time to meet its initial targets. As a result, the Authority will receive around £57,000 for staff next year, as well as around £660,000 to fund the creation and maintenance of new woodlands.

    d. **House Birds** – the YDMT-led project to support conservation of House Sparrows, House Martins, Swifts and Swallows within Dales villages has secured funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. YDNPA will receive £13,000 per year for 3 years to run aspects of the project, including citizen science, leading on surveys and nest box installation.

    e. **Public Rights of Way** – The Authority has agreed a 5-year funding settlement with North Yorkshire Council to contribute £50,000 per annum (from 2025/26 onwards) for management and maintenance of public rights of way.

    f. **Off-road mobility scooter for Malham NPVC** – YDMT has helped secure £10,000 from Damart UK towards the costs of an off-road mobility scooter (e.g. Tramper) and storage at Malham.

    g. **Three Counties Partnership** – on behalf of the partners, YDMT has secured £100,000 from the National Lottery Fund to support 'pre-development' work on a future 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.

Financial Implications

8. The projects outlined above will provide around £1 million of external funding for the Authority's work in 2025/26. The full funding for Grow Back Greener is dependent on the Authority achieving the woodland creation target.

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. Most of the projects are nature conservation activities with no direct EDI implications. However, the provision of a further off-road mobility scooter at Malham will enhance the opportunities for people with disabilities or mobility issues to access the special qualities of the National Park. The House Birds conservation project will also include work with two vulnerable adult groups, supporting single mothers and refugees/asylum seekers, plus three youth groups (Skipton Education & Learning for All, Get Out More and Barnardo's Young Carers).

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 currently underway. The extension of several of those (including Farming in Protected Landscapes and Grow Back Greener) for another year is welcome and will avoid the external funding 'cliff-edge' that we were facing next year. A number of big projects are in development, but it is unlikely that any of those will make sufficient progress to yield significant funding in the next two financial years.

Gary Smith
Deputy Chief Executive

‘Pipeline’ of significant external funding bids

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

Project title	Description	Prospective YDNPA Income	Start/duration
1. Ure Dales Landscape Recovery Scheme	Working with YPP to deliver certain aspects of the Ure Dales Landscape Recovery scheme. To include species surveys, woodland advice and planting, farmer/landowner engagement, Historic Environment surveys and research. Initially 2 year project development phase	£28, 000 for 24/25 + £70,000 for 25/26. (YWT)	Oct 24–July26
2. House Birds	Project to support wildlife in villages and towns around the YDNP by providing homes for birds that nest in buildings (e.g. swift). Includes Citizen Science-based monitoring. Led by YDMT. RSPB & YWT also involved.	£13k pa (NLHF)	Jan 2025 3 years
3. 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)	June 2024 18 months
4. Three Dales	Project led by YWT based around Ingleborough NNR, YDNPA asked to submit a competitive quote for YWT’s access brief, includes access improvements across the area and visitor hub at Ribblehead.	£20k (YDNPA)	May-Oct 2024
5. 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	April 25 1 year
6. 7 Steps to Nature Friendly Farming	YWT led farming and landscape project around Ingleborough area. Role for YDNPA 2 days pw farm advice. Pending result of internal WT application.	2 days PW staff for 1 year	TBC
7. ‘Jewels of the Dales’ – wildflower revival.	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. Lots of partner interest inc. NT, YWT, YDMT, Bolton Abbey. Submit EoI in December.	£ 250k	April 25 – 1 Year initially.

Project title	Description	Prospective YDNPA Income	Start/duration
8. 'Three Counties: One River'	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 partner) to NLHF for £100k was approved Oct 2024.	£tbc Development £tbc Delivery	Pre-development Nov 2024 - Aug 2025
9. Regenerative Farming	Programme of support ('Farming at the Sweet Spot') to incentivise farmers in protected landscapes in North Yorkshire to take up regenerative farming practices and move towards the 'Maximum Sustainable Output' on their land – improving profitability; and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.	c£400,000 (Y&NY CA)	Apr 2025 3 years
10. Malham NPVC	Re-development 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' and 'tramper'	£60,000 £10k secured for Tramper 24/25	Jan 2024
11. 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
12. 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 2025
13. Linton Bottoms Water Recovery	Project to mitigate impact from Swinden Quarry – improvements to silt ponds and river habitats to halt silt and enhance river. Potential Water Recovery Fund bid – needs to be developed up to £500k project	£500k (aspiration)	Summer 25
14. Young people – skills and opportunities	Potential project involving several National Parks to take scale up the 'green career' / Youth Voice work of Generation Green e.g. skills development/youth volunteering USDD)/apprenticeship/traineeship/youth voice. Possibly the National Lottery UK Fund.	£50 k - £250k	Sep 2025 2 – 5 years
15. Going Places	A project to engage and involve underrepresented audiences with museum collections through high quality, collaborative touring exhibitions and public programmes. The project will establish five networks of 3-5 small to mid-sized museums, with each network producing two touring exhibitions over five years (2025-2030). Art Fund – NLHF funded development phase.	No Income …support in kind in development phase	Jan 25 1 year

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