**Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority** **Item 6**

**Finance and Resources Committee**

**16 December 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 new income-generating opportunities. 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 £13.6m.

5. 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

6. Since the last update in May, there have been a few significant developments:

a. Jewels of the Dales - we have been awarded ‘pre-development’ funding of £202,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to build this project. It will focus on restoration of iconic/rare grassland plant species and supporting low-input, nature-friendly farming. The funding will enable us to employ a Project Manager and two officers. Various consultancy elements will also be undertaken, with input from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.

b. Secured £27,000 from the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority and UK Shared Prosperity Fund to pilot a new a regional green social prescribing programme for North Yorkshire. This is part of a £100,000 partnership programme with the North York Moors Trust, the North York Moors NPA, Howardian Hills and Nidderdale National Landscapes.

c. We have secured £70,000 over two years from the Environment Agency for the ‘Barricading the Bain’ project at Semerwater. The funding will be used to fund works to protect the bankings of the River Bain from erosion and sediment loss to the river caused mainly by livestock.

d. We are now expecting a significant increase (c£50,000) in bank interest compared to the original projection. Due to a combination of higher than expected balances and interest rates.

## Financial Implications

7. The updates outlined above will provide £350,000 of external income for the Authority’s work in 2025/26 and 2026/27. 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. None.

## Conclusion

10. Members will be well aware that – to maintain the Authority’s impact – we need new multi-million pound, multi-year projects to replace initiatives ending this year or next (Farming in Protected Landscapes, Grow Back Greener, Tees-Swale etc). Jewels of the Dales is now into pre-development but is still several years away from potential implementation. Several other schemes are at various stages of development.

**Gary Smith**
**Deputy 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) | Duration |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1. Regional Green Social Prescribing** | Development and pilot of nature-based green social prescribing programme for North Yorkshire (led by NYMT, in partnership with NYM, HHNL and NNL). | £27,000 (Y&NY Combined Authority) | Sep–Mar 2026 |
| **2. Adventures Away from Home** | Delivery of 150 activity days in the NP | £10,500 (UK Youth) | Oct – Mar 2026 |
| **3. Going Places** | A project engaging and involving under-represented 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. | 2 days a week of staff time and traveling exhibition (Art Fund) | 2025<br>4 years |
| **4. Green Roots to Jobs** | Yorkshire Innovating Policy Partnership – pilot USDD model in Bradford. Partnership project with Bradford College. Funding Secured. | £38k | July 2025 |
| **5. ‘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 (NLHF) | Nov 25 – 1 Year |
| **6. Three Counties: One River** | Partnership of YDMT, Lune Rivers Trust, Forest of Bowland National Landscape and 3 respective Wildlife Trusts on large-scale programme focused on improving people’s access to nature and supporting nature recovery for the middle and lower reaches of the Lune catchment. Pre-development phase complete - evidence used to submit EoI for development stage to NLHF in December 2025. Development stage bid (c.£500k) planned for submission by May 2026. Potential 5-year delivery, c.£8million. | £tbc Development<br><br>£tbc Delivery (NLHF) | Development 2026/27<br><br>Delivery 2028<br>5 years |

| Project title | Description | Prospective YDNPA Income (source) | Duration |
|---|---|---|---|
| **7. Coast-to-Coast: Route through Nature** | Potential collaboration between YDNPA, LDNPA, NYMNPA and other partners. 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. | £2 million (NLHF) | Feb 2026 18 months development |
| **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. | £50k? | Summer 2026? |
| **9. Clapham – Austwick bridleway** | Project to create an off road multi-user route between Clapham and Austwick (Delivery of part of the Active Travel Plan Network) Resurface approximately 430m of the public bridleway to a bound surface appropriate for all users of the bridleway with a flexible porous pavement surfacing. | £200,000 (NYC Active Travel Fund) | Delivered by March 2027 |
| **10. Curlew Conservation** | Project developed to support Curlew and other Waders across the Dales. Put together with British Trust for Ornithology. | £240k (Natural England) | 5 years |
| **11. TBC – 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 |
| **12. 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, longer studies. EOI accepted. Invited to apply for development phase | £120k over 2 years (NLHF) | 28th May 2026<br><br>Delivery to start spring 2027 |
| **13. Regenerative farming** | Working to develop the regenerative farming approach in YDNP, Nidderdale & Forest of Bowland National Landscapes - completing research and working directly with farmers to bring about climate-friendly change. Bid to NYCA's Carbon Negative Fund unsuccessful. Considering other options. | | |
| **14. 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. | c£20k 1 year | TBC |

| Project title | Description | Prospective YDNPA Income (source) | Duration |
|---|---|---|---|
| **15. 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. | c.£6 million | 2027<br>4 years |
| **16. Young people – skills and opportunities** | 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<br>(UK Community Fund) | Summer 2026 – Summer 2029 |
| **17. 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. | £600k | 2026 – 6 years |
| **18. 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 the Yorkshire Dales National Park. | £400,000 total secured by W&F | Spring Summer 2026 |
| **19. Championing National Parks for Everyone – legacy** | Working with YDMT on joint application to the Reaching Communities fund for a Continuation/development of Championing National Parks for Everyone type activity | TBD<br>(NLHF Reaching Communities Fund) | Sept 2026 – Sept 2029 |
| **20. New to Nature** | Potential for National Parks to collaborate with Groundwork on the next stage of their New To Nature skills and training programme. | ? | ? |
| **21. 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. Potential part of a LR bid with wider partner involvement | c. £500k? | 2026? |
| **22. Health and Wellbeing Evaluation** | Potential Partnership between research company and all national park authorities to bid for funding for 5-year evaluation of health and wellbeing impacts of Park interventions | £x | ? |
| **23. Dales Fellbeing** | Developing bid to Sport England Movement Fund for funding for second stage of the 'Dales Fellbeing' Project | £15k | TBC |

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