Finance and Resources Committee

28 May 2024

Income Generation Strategy: Progress update

Purpose of report

1. To inform Members of progress in implementing the 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.

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**. It includes hyperlinks to more information about those projects (where available).

Consideration

7. Since the last update in December, there have been a number of significant developments:

    a. **Active Travel** – The bid to Active Travel England for £100,000 to develop an Active Travel Plan for the National Park has been successful. A new Access and Recreation Projects and Teams Manager has been appointed to lead the development of the plan, alongside local communities and partners such as the Unitary Authorities and Sustrans.

    b. **Access to Eden** – The partnership bid to NLHF led by Eden Rivers Trust for a £2.6m National Heritage Lottery Funded Project to break down barriers to access to Eden's rivers and natural heritage has been successful. As part of this project, over the next 3 years YDNPA will be creating a new 1.5km extension to Smardale's Accessible path, co-developing a sensory trail at Podgil, and running a summer programme of activities for users of the two trails. The project will bring in £166,000 of external funding for this work.

    c. **'Championing National Parks for Everyone'** - The partnership bid to NLHF for Championing National Parks for Everyone has been successful. In partnership with Peak District Mosaic, PDNPA, and NYMNPA, the project will open access to National Parks to a more diverse range of people, through building the capacity of Peak District Mosaic and training and supporting a network of 'champion volunteers'. The project will provide £100,000 to fund YDNPA project staff, community champion training and the delivery events and activities in the National Park. YDNPA have provided £5k match funding.

    d. **Recharge in nature** – The bid to BMW's recharge in nature fund has been successful, securing £65,000 to fund the development of a new 'digital access hub', the development of associated resources and a staff resource to deliver 10 accessible events throughout the year.

    e. **Regenerative farming** – on behalf of a partnership of the 5 protected landscapes in North Yorkshire, the Authority has secured £75,000 from the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority's Net Zero Fun for a project to compile an evidence base for the impacts of regenerative farming on greenhouse gas emissions. The project will also develop an action plan to support further take-up of regenerative farming practices, which will be used to secure further funding for implementation.

    f. **'Three Counties: One River'** – the bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, led by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, was not successful. However, the partners have agreed to develop a revised proposal focusing on nature recovery and access to nature. NLHF has indicated it would provide funding to support the 'pre-development' work that would be needed.

    g. **Access Unlimited** – as part of the Access Unlimited Consortium, we have secured a grant of £41,500 to enable 300 young people aged 7-18 years living in areas of social disadvantage to connect with nature in the National Park, particularly through Dark Sky-related activity. An additional grant application is under consideration to fund activity for a further 250 young people.

Financial Implications

8. Each of the successful bids identified above will involve contributions of match-funding from the Authority's own resources. The funding for these was included within the budget for 2024/25 that was approved by Members in March.

Legal Implications

9. None.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

10. Active Travel, Access to Eden, Championing National Parks for Everyone and Access Unlimited projects all aim to increase opportunities for a wider range of people to be able to access the National Park.

Conclusion

11. Members will be well aware that – to maintain the Authority's impact – we will need new multi-million pound, multi-year projects to replace those that are currently in their final year. A number of such projects are currently in development.

12. In the meantime, the Authority, is continuing to secure external funding for a wide range of shorter-term projects – contributing to the over £13m programme of activity planned during 2024/25.

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. Championing National Parks for Everyone project	Led by Mosaic Peak District this project will increase the depth of engagement of people from BAME backgrounds with the National Parks to benefit their health and wellbeing, open new opportunities for volunteering and employment and improve the welcome they find when they get there. Bid to NLHF successful delivery in all 3 National Parks (North York Moors, Yorkshire Dales and Peak District). Will fund 2 new posts (officer, trainee and provide funding for a trainer on a consultancy basis)	£100,000 - delivery (NLHF)	July 2024 to 2026
2. Active Travel	Working with Active Travel England ‘to support capability building activities that will enable National Parks and co-located local authorities and highway authorities to develop inclusive active travel programmes.’ It includes building technical capability to plan and deliver high quality walking, wheeling, and cycling infrastructure networks; building effective partnerships; engaging local communities; and collecting evidence of impact to inform optimisation of future programmes.	£100,000 (Active Travel England)	April 2024 1 year
3. Regenerative Farming	Partnership with other protected landscapes in North Yorkshire to compile an evidence base for the impacts of regenerative farming on greenhouse gas emissions, and produce an action plan to support further take-up of regenerative practices across the protected landscapes.	£95,000 (Y&NY CA)	Jan 2024 to Aug 2024
	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; significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and enhancing natural capital.	c£400,000 (Y&NY CA)	Sep 2024 2.5 years

Project title	Description	Prospective YDNPA Income	Start/duration
4. Access to Eden project (breaking barriers, building bridges)	Scheme led by Eden Rivers Trust providing access to the Eden Valley's natural heritage for people who experience barriers to getting out into nature. It focuses on improving physical and mental health and well-being through: exploring, rediscovering and connecting paths and trails along the River Eden; and, undertaking practical conservation work to increase the connectivity of the wildlife habitats those trails pass through. Delivery bid submitted to NLHF, match funding Defra accessibility fund and YDMT. If successful, the project will support development of a new accessible route at Smardale and engagement programme.	£135k - Delivery phase (NLHF)	Apr 2024
5. Recharge in nature	Part of national sponsorship programme negotiated by National Parks Partnership with BMW. Each NPA will receive a 'Recharge in nature' grant fund to support local nature restoration, sustainable tourism or wellbeing initiatives.	£65,000 (BMW)	Apr 2024 to Mar 2025
6. Ure Dales Landscape Recovery Scheme	Working with YPP to deliver certain aspects of the LR Bid. To include species surveys, woodland advice and planting, farmer/landowner engagement, Historic Environment surveys and research. Initially 2 year project development phase	£50,000 pa (Defra)	July 24 – July26
7. 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.	c£60k (Defra)	June 2024 18 months
8. 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	£10k pa (NLHF)	Jan 2025 3 years
9. 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 2024 finish Oct 2024
10. Revere – woodland creation	Working with Palladium and National Parks Partnership – developing a mechanism that would enable both landowners and tenant farmers in the National Park to access competitive, long-term, private finance payments for creating and managing new woodland. This mechanism would then be used to fund a significant programme of woodland creation. NPP prioritising work with SDNPA at the moment.	?	

Project title	Description	Prospective YDNPA Income	Start/duration
11. 'Three Counties: One River'	Working with Sustrans, YDMT, Lune Rivers Trust, and Forest of Bowland AONB on a landscape-scale partnership centred around Kirkby Lonsdale, including the western extension of the National Park and Forest of Bowland towards Lancaster. Development application turned down in December. Need to re-consider approach.		
12. 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 (????)	Apr 2025 4 years
13. Hawes-Garsdale	Working with partners to develop and implement a multi-user route (bridleway) along the line of the disused Hawes to Garsdale railway line	£6 million	Aug 2024 5 years
14. Malham NPC	Redevelopment of the Malham National Park Visitor Centre to make it more 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	Jan 2024
15. Linton Bottoms Water Recovery Bid	Project to mitigate impact from Swinden Quarry – improvements to silt ponds and river habitats to halt silt and enhance river. Tarmac interested. Potential Water Recovery Fund bid – needs to be developed up to £500k project	£500k (aspiration)	Summer 25
16. 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	£3 million (NLHF)	Sep 2025
17. Species-rich grassland / Jewels in the Dales	Being packaged as "Jewels in the Dales" iconic / rare plant restoration project. To focus on key plant species as a hook for attracting funding and engaging communities. Project proposal received from Dr Jane Smart.	£ 2 – 3 million?	Summer 25 5 Years