YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY **ITEM 8**

Committee: **FINANCE AND RESOURCES**
Date: **28 May 2019**

Report: **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 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 34: 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. The levels of income actually *achieved* each year are reported to this Committee as part of the standard monitoring of the Authority's budget.

Consideration

5. To achieve the Authority's income generation objective this year, we need to raise income to support £7.9 million of expenditure. On the basis of grants already secured, and likely earned income, we currently expect to exceed that by £240,000. This includes almost £600,000 to fund the first year of the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme, on which there will be a short presentation at the meeting.

6. Details of the externally-funded projects for which funding has been secured since the last update (February 2019), and those currently in development, are set out in the **Annex**. Since the last update:

   - **Mend our Mountains** – The British Mountaineering Council's Mend Our Mountains *Make One Million* crowd-funding campaign has now ended. Collectively with the BMC we raised over £46,000, which will cover the full costs of improvements to 200m of stone pitching on Bruntscar (the main 3 Peaks route off Whernside). The repair work is well underway and is due to be completed by September.
   - **Tees-Swale Project** – the Authority has secured a commitment of £300,000 from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation towards the cost of implementing the Tees-Swale Project in Swaledale. The money, which would be spread over 5 years, is still dependent on securing NLHF funding of £6.5 million. However, it will go a long way towards demonstrating to NLHF that the necessary match-funding is in place.

7. The Authority has also continued to develop other opportunities in line with the Authority's Income Generation Strategy. The Authority recently secured a contract (£18,000) to develop and trial methodologies for farmers to be able to carry out their own habitat assessments. The contract is part of the development phase of the Tees-Swale project, and builds on the work that has already been done as part of the Results-Based Agri-environment Payment Scheme pilot in Wensleydale.

Conclusion

8. The Authority is continuing to develop a robust 'pipeline' of major externally-funded projects to deliver its objectives and maintain overall funding levels. This includes working with partners to support other projects that would bring significant funding into the National Park (albeit not directly to the Authority).

Gary Smith
Director of Conservation and Community

10 May 2019

Annex

'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. Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected	Project implementation and delivery to support habitat restoration and management through 'High Nature Value Farming' within the Swaledale part of the project area.	£60,000 p.a. (Esmee Fairbairn Trust)	Jun 2020 5 years
	Project implementation and delivery to support habitat restoration (peatland, woodland, hay meadows) and management through 'High Nature Value Farming'. Stage 2 bid to be submitted in February 2020.	£250,000 p.a. (NLHF)	Jun 2020 5 years
2. Curlew Conservation	Data collection and preparatory work for a cross-LNP wader conservation initiative	£25,000 (LNP)	May 2019 1 year
	Cross-LNP programme of interventions to support healthy populations of Curlew and other breeding waders.	£300,000	Mar 2020 3 years
3. Mend our Mountains II	Improvements to 200m of stone pitching on Bruntscar (the main 3 Peaks route off Whernside). Part of the British Mountaineering Council's '*Make One Million*' campaign.	£46,000 (crowd funding)	March 2019 1 year
4. Burnt-tip Orchid	A landscape-scale project in the Ure Catchment that aims to get grasslands within Wensleydale into positive management, reintroduce Burnt Orchid (a section 41 species,) and raise awareness of orchids and their conservation.	£13k (Natural England) £70k (HLF)	Aug 2019 3 years
5. NUCLNP natural heritage grants	Cross-LNP programme of natural heritage grants to support local community conservation work. Bid put back to summer 2019.	£1.3 million (HLF)	Mar 2020 4 years
6. Collection Connections	Building on the success of the 'Spear' project, using the museum collection to explore the landscape.	£n/k (Arts Council)	1 year
7. Treescapes: rising from the Ashes	Local £1m project led by YDMT (as part of a wider national project) to raise awareness of the importance of ash trees in our landscapes, and increase the number of broadleaved trees outside woods being valued, planted and managed. Initial bid to HLF unsuccessful.	£20,000 pa (HLF)	n/k