

Committee: FINANCE AND RESOURCES

Date: 25 May 2021

Report: 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 progress with implementing the Authority's Income Generation Strategy, and the implications of the ongoing impacts of Covid-19.

Strategic Planning Framework

3. The information and recommendation contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and its 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.
5. Achieving the Authority's income generation objective in 2021/22 will require us to generate enough income to fund expenditure of £8.2 million (Members should note that this is incorrectly shown in the Corporate Plan as £8.1 million). The budget agreed in March is based on planned expenditure of £8.5, and we expect that to rise significantly in the coming months.
6. This report focuses on our 'pipeline' of externally-funded projects. Details of projects for which funding has been secured since the last update (February) 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 February there have been some significant project developments:
 - a. **'Payment by Results'** – we have secured £23,000 from Defra to extend this national practical trial of a new approach to agri-environment support for a further 12 months, working with Natural England and farmers on 18 farms in Wensleydale.
 - b. **Raydale Project** – we have secured £54,000 from Defra for this 1-year test project looking at how to optimize collaboration between farmers in the development of a landscape-scale recovery plan, as part of the forthcoming national Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme.
 - c. **Keep Ure River Cool** – we have secured £45,000 from the Environment Agency to further develop the 'Keep Ure River Cool' project. This includes a feasibility study looking at ways to tackle pollution entering the Semerwater SSSI, and funding for some riparian habitat creation, which will be carried out by the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust.
8. Members will be aware that we are still awaiting final confirmation of the scale and timing of the national 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' scheme, which was announced as part of the Government's Agricultural Transition Plan in November. Hopefully, the details will be confirmed in time to provide a verbal update at the meeting.
9. Similarly, following the Authority's commitment to an ambitious new Dales Woodland Strategy (December NPA meeting), we are now in advanced discussions with the Woodland Trust over funding for a 4-year programme of new native woodland creation across the National Park. Again, we hope to be in a position to provide a verbal update at the meeting.

Conclusion

10. The Authority has continued its recent success in securing external funding, and has a strong pipeline of externally-funded projects currently in development. Whilst our core Government grant continues to decline in real terms, other project funding continues to increase.

Gary Smith
Director of Conservation and Community

11 May 2021

'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. Payment by Results	One year extension to existing national pilot project in Wensleydale, developing a new approach to agri-environment schemes based on the environmental outcomes achieved.	£26,000 (Defra)	Apr 2021 1 year
2. Raydale project	Project to look at how to optimize collaboration between farmers in the development of a landscape-scale recovery plan – as a test for the forthcoming national Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme.	£54,000 (Defra)	Apr 2021 1 year
3. Keep Ure River Cool (Phase 1) (Phase 2)	Working with YDRT and EA, project to identify sites along the River Ure and its tributaries where habitat creation would increase shade and reduce water temperature Project to carry out the habitat creation identified in Phase 1.	£45,000 (Environment Agency) £300,000	May 2021 11 months Apr 2022 2 years
4. Net zero with nature	Led by Palladium, with National Parks Partnership and YDNPA, a project to test out ways in which private finance could be 'blended' with public money as part of the ELM (Landscape Recovery) scheme	£5,000 (Defra)	Jun 2021 9 months
5. Peak District mosaic project	Working with the Peak District and the North York Moors NPAs, 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. First round application to Green Recovery Fund successful, second round to go in August.	£90,000	Dec 2021
6. New native woodland	A programme of support being developed by the Woodland Trust, as part of the Northern Forest, for identifying, facilitating, planting and maintaining new native woodland in the National Park	tbc (Woodland Trust)	Sep 2022 4 years
7. SUNO catchment woodlands	As part of the White Rose Forest, a project to identify and facilitate opportunities for new woodland to help reduce flood peaks in the Swale, Ure, Nidd and Ouse (SUNO) Catchments	£45,000 pa (White Rose Forest)	Sep 2021 3 years

Project title	Description	Prospective YDNPA Income	Start/duration
8. York and North Yorkshire Natural Catchment Flood Risk Solutions	Project led by City of York Council to target natural flood management measures over the wider catchments of the Rivers Swale, Ure, Nidd and Ouse (SUNO).	??	Apr 2022
9. Curlew Conservation	Project developed by partners in the Northern Upland Chain LNP for a programme of interventions to support healthy populations of Curlew and other breeding waders. Bid drafted but still looking for a suitable funding source.	£100,000 pa (NLHF)	Jan 2022 4 years
10. Burnt-tip Orchid	Aims to get grasslands within Wensleydale into positive management, reintroduce Burnt Orchid and raise awareness of orchid conservation.	£13k (Natural England) £70k (NLHF)	2021 3 years
11. 'Marginal gains'	Integrated environmental/business advice to improve the resilience and core profitability of upland livestock farming in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale AONB, as part of the post-Covid recovery programme	????	????
12. HER enhancement	Enhancement of the HER for the new area of the National Park using LidaR	£20k (Historic England)	Apr 2022 2 years
13. Cautley Valley Access enhancement	Replace the footbridge near the Cross Keys Inn with an accessible bridleway bridge and improve access for all into the Cautley valley. Working with NT and CCC Highways to improve visitor experience through road safety and parking.	£50k (NT, CCC, YDMT?)	April 2022
14. Three Counties Project	A landscape-scale partnership centred around Kirkby Lonsdale and the western extension of the National Park	£2.5 million (NLHF)	April 2024