

Committee: FINANCE AND RESOURCES

Date: 28 September 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.

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 was based on planned expenditure of £8.5. This has now risen to in excess of £10 million, with the addition of funding for Farming in Protected Landscapes and the forthcoming 'Growing Back Greener' woodland programme.
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 (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 May there have been a handful of significant project developments:
 - a. ***Growing Back Greener*** – we are in final detailed negotiations with the Woodland Trust over arrangements for the planned 4-year programme of new native woodland creation across the National Park. We hope that the contract will be signed at the end of this month, so that some works can be undertaken in this financial year.
 - b. ***'Net Zero with Nature'*** – as part of a wider national initiative led by National Parks Partnerships, the Authority is working with the Palladium Group (a 'positive impact consultancy') to develop a further ELM test. Building on the work done through the 'Payment by Results' trial, the test will to develop models for how the ELM Landscape Recovery Scheme and other public money could blend with private finance to leverage greater resources for nature restoration, and how agreements could be co-designed with farmers, land managers and investors. The initial Expression of Interest has been approved by Defra and it is hoped that the final proposal will be approved in October. The project would provide funding to cover the Authority's staff time in facilitating the work.
 - c. ***Three Peaks*** – we are providing support to YDMT for a bid for funding for a project based around influencing general behaviour (building on the 3 Peaks Code of Conduct) including littering and sustainable use of the area. The bid – to the European Outdoor Conservation Association (EOCA) - will include funding for the 3 Peaks Ranger post for an additional 1 day per week from April 2022

Conclusion

8. The Authority has an extensive programme of externally-funded projects – several of which are multi-million pound programmes running for several years. There is still a strong pipeline of further projects in development but taking these forward will need careful consideration given the existing pressures on the Authority's staff capacity and core running costs.

Gary Smith
Director of Conservation and Community

14 September 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. Keep Ure River Cool (Phase 1) (Phase 2)	<p>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</p> <p>Project to carry out the habitat creation identified in Phase 1.</p>	<p>£45,000 (Environment Agency)</p> <p>£300,000</p>	<p>May 2021 11 months</p> <p>Apr 2022 2 years</p>
2. Three Peaks	YDMT-led project to influence behaviour and use of the area to make it more sustainable, including reducing litter. Will develop a programme of activity with volunteers; materials to promote sustainable use; engagement events with visitors; and work with local businesses to develop new services (e.g. water refill stations).	£5,000 (European Outdoor Conservation Association)	Apr 2022 12 months
3. 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
4. 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 here. Expression of interest to NHLF successful, now working up the development stage of the project over the next 9 months.	£90,000 (NHLF)	Dec 2022 2 years
5. Growing Back Greener	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 2021 4 years
6. 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
7. Towards a Zero Carbon Visitor Economy	Led by RDC working with RDC, CDC, Eden, SLDC District Councils and Nidderdale AONB a bid has been submitted to the Community Renewal Fund for consultants to develop eight tourism action plans with businesses and	£20,000 (Community Renewal Fund)	Autumn 2021 6 months

Project title	Description	Prospective YDNPA Income	Start/duration
	communities in and around the Yorkshire Dales key tourism centres. If the bid is successful work must be completed by March 2022.		
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	Early discussions taken place 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. Proposed timescale: EOI submitted in early 2022, Preparation of development application over 12 months for submission early 2023, (decision within six months). Preparation of delivery application over 18 months, (submission mid 2024). Earliest delivery could commence is 2025. YDMT expected to be lead partner with YDNPA accountable body.	£2.5 million (NLHF)	April 2025