

Committee: FINANCE AND RESOURCES

Date: 6 December 2022

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 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 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.
5. Achieving the Authority's income generation objective in 2022/23 originally required us to generate enough income to fund expenditure of £8.5 million. The current expenditure projection for the year is £12.7 million. For 2023/24, the objective will rise significantly – to around £9.5 million – as a result of the current high rates of inflation but the projected spend is already at £10.7 million, and will rise further in coming months.
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 project developments:
 - a. White Rose Forest – the Authority has secured £49,000 to cover the costs of work in 2022-23 as part of the White Rose Forest partnership to identify potential new woodland planting sites within the Swale, Ure, Nidd and Ouse catchments.
 - b. Ingleborough Caving Archaeology – through the ‘Our Upland Commons’ project, the Authority has secured £43,000 to fund and manage a project to assess a number of cave sites and previous archaeological finds, as well as engaging with the wider caving community to promote on-going conservation.
 - c. [Revere](#) woodland development – working with Palladium, the Authority has secured £38,000 to research new approaches to supporting woodland creation in the National Park. The aim is to design a mechanism that would enable both landowners and tenant farmers who were interested in planting trees to access competitive, long-term, private finance payments for woodland creation, with minimum bureaucracy.
8. Other earned income:
 - a. Pre-application planning advice – at the September Authority meeting, Members approved an increase in fees for pre-application advice to cover significant additional costs. This is likely to increase projected annual income by around £15,000 in future years (although this is offset by higher staff costs etc associated with increasing inflation).
 - b. Visitor-related income - at the half-year point, income from car parking tickets and retail sales (net profit) was significantly above the projected target (by £66,000 and £21,000 respectively).
 - c. Bank interest income – is also well above target (by £14,000); this trend will accelerate following the raising of interest rates.

Conclusion

9. The Authority has several multi-million pound, multi-year programmes underway. The pipeline of projects in development remains strong. Securing significant and long-term external funding for projects in the next few years — to replace the current multi-million pound projects — will be essential if the Authority is to retain its capacity to deliver its current objectives.

Gary Smith
Director of Conservation and Community

18 November 2022

'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. York Flood Resilience Innovation project	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).	£5,000 pa. (Environment Agency)	Mar 2023 4 years
2. Net Zero With Nature – woodland creation	Led by Palladium, with National Parks Partnership and YDNPA, a project to try to secure private finance to support delivery of the ambition set out in the new Dales Woodland Strategy.	£35,000 (Palladium)	Jan 2023 Development Phase
3. 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. First stage bid to NHLF successful, now recruiting project officer with a view to delivering community consultation events and pilot projects in all 3 National Parks (North York Moors, Yorkshire Dales and Peak District). Pending a successful second round application the delivery phase would see a project officer and an apprentice in the Yorkshire Dales.	£13,000 development phase £100,000 Delivery phase (NHLF)	Nov 2022 to Sept 2023 2023 to 2025 (24 months delivery)
4. Access to Eden project (breaking barriers, building bridges)	Scheme led by Eden River's Trust providing access to the Eden Valley's (green and blue) natural heritage for people who experience barriers to getting out into nature. It focuses on improving their physical and mental health and well-being sustainably, 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. The development stage application was successful, and the YDNPA is developing two accessibility projects as part of the scheme.	£12k Development phase (NLHF) £??? Delivery phase (NHLF)	April 2023 April 2024
5. Cautley Valley Access enhancement	Replace 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.	£200,000 (NT, CCC, NHLF?)	Apr 2024

Project title	Description	Prospective YDNPA Income	Start/duration
6. Keep Ure River Cool (Phase 2)	Working with YDRT and EA, project to create new habitat along the River Ure and its tributaries to increase shade and reduce water temperature (on sites identified through study being carried out Nov-Mar 2022).	£300,000	Apr 2023 2 years
7. Curlew Conservation	Working with YDMT and other local partners to develop a programme of interventions to support healthy populations of Curlew and other breeding waders.	£100,000 pa (????)	Jun 2023 4 years
8. 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)	2023 2 years
9. 'Three Counties' Project	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. Expression of interest submitted and approved, Preparation of development application for submission Summer 2023, underway. If successful preparation of delivery application over further 18 months, (submission 2024/25). Earliest delivery could commence is 2025. YDMT expected to be lead partner with YDNPA accountable body.	£2.5 million (NLHF)	April 2025