

Committee: FINANCE AND RESOURCES

Date: 5 December 2023

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 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 2023/24, the Authority's income generation objective (see above) requires us to be able to support expenditure of £9.5 million – an increase of £1m on the previous year as a result of the current high rates of inflation. The budgeted expenditure at the start of the year was £10.8 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. There are two very significant items of external funding that have not previously been reported formally to this Committee:
 - a. **Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)** – the Government confirmed earlier this year that the FiPL programme would be extended by a year, and the amount of funding available increased significantly. As a result, the Authority will receive £2.5m in 2024/25, of which some £2.2 million will be available in grants to farmers and landowners.
 - b. **Coast-to-Coast** – following the Government’s decision to proceed with the designation of the Coast-to-Coast path as a national trail, the Authority has reached agreement with Natural England over the funding to implement the part of the route that passes through the National Park. The Authority will receive funding to cover all staff costs (full cost recovery); legal costs; and, the practical works necessary to give effect to the route. This is likely to amount to around £600,000 over the period up to October 2025.

8. Since the last update in May there have been a number of other significant developments:
 - a. **National Citizen Service** – as part of a partnership with YDMT, who are leading on the project, we are delivering 360 places to 16-17 year olds. The project works with young people from Bradford, Blackburn with Darwen, and North Yorkshire. The project started in September 2023, running until March 2025. Young people are offered three sessions; one in their locality and two in the National Park. The Authority will receive funding of around £45,000 over the course of the next two years.
 - b. **White Rose Forest** – the Authority has secured a further £50,000 from the White Rose Forest to support the achievement of woodland creation targets within the National Park part of the WRF area. The funding will cover the costs of providing specialist advice on planting proposals and promoting awareness of the range of funding opportunities available to farmers and landowners.
 - c. **‘Championing National Parks for Everyone’/‘Three Counties: One River’** - bids have been submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for both these projects. We expect to hear at the end of November whether they have been successful.

9. Other earned income:
 - a. **LNRS** - £20,000 has been secured from North Yorkshire Council to offset additional costs to the Authority from being a statutory ‘Supporting Authority’ in the production of the new Local Nature Recovery Strategy for North Yorkshire.
 - b. **Three Peaks route** - the Authority has received £26,000 from two separate legacies to support works to enhance the route.

Conclusion

10. Members will be well aware that the Authority is already running several multi-million pound, multi-year programmes using external funding. Securing replacement funding for these projects will be essential if the Authority is to retain its capacity to deliver the objectives set out in the National Park Management Plan.

Gary Smith
Deputy Chief Executive

20 November 2023

'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. NCS	Working in partnership with YDMT to deliver NCS Youth Action Programme	c£45,000	June 2023 – Dec 2025
2. Coast to Coast Path	Working in partnership with Natural England, DEFRA and individual Highway Authorities to implement the designation of the Coast to Coast Path as a National Trail.	c£600k	Jan 2023- Oct 2025
3. Access to Eden project (breaking barriers, building bridges)	Scheme led by Eden River's 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. If successful, the project will support development of a new accessible route at Smardale and an engagement programme.	£12k - Development phase (NLHF) £135k - delivery phase (NLHF)	Apr 2023 Apr 2024
4. Championing National Parks for Everyone	Led by Mosaic Peak District this project will increase the depth of engagement of people from BAME backgrounds with the National Parks (North York Moors, Yorkshire Dales and Peak District) to benefit their health and wellbeing, open new opportunities for volunteering and employment and improve the welcome they find when they get there. Following successful development phase, a full application has been submitted. If successful, will fund 3 new posts (officer, trainee and trainer)	£100,000 – delivery phase (NLHF)	July 2024 to 2026
5. Regenerative Farming Study	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	Jan 2024 to Aug 2024

Project title	Description	Prospective YDNPA Income	Start/duration
6. Revere – Dales woodland creation	Bid to Defra Landscape Recovery Grant. Led by 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.	c£50,000 – development phase (Defra)	Jan 2024 to Dec 2024
7. ‘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. Initial Expression of interest submitted and approved, Application for development phase submitted in August 2023. If successful, will fund preparation of delivery application over further 18 months. Earliest delivery could commence is 2025. YDMT is lead partner with YDNPA as accountable body.	c£75,000 – development phase (NLHF) c£3.6 million (NLHF)	Jan 2024 to Jun 2025
8. ‘Recharge in nature’	Part of national sponsorship programme negotiated by National Parks Partnership. Each NPA will receive a ‘Recharge in nature’ grant fund to support local nature restoration, sustainable tourism or wellbeing initiatives.	£60,000 (BMW)	Apr 2024 to Mar 2025
9. 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 (??????)	June 2024
10. 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 (????)	??????

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