

Report to	Resources and Performance Committee
Date	21 June 2012
By	Director of Strategy & Partnerships
Title of Report	Approvals Processes for upcoming Major Partnership Projects
Purpose of Report	To give Resources and Performance Committee advanced notice of bids being made for funds for projects approved by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) Major Partnerships Panel.

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

- 1) note the timescale for current and potential bids for funds in relation to projects approved by the Major Partnership Panel;**
 - 2) discuss appropriate arrangements for timely approval of incoming grants in accordance with SDNPA Standing Orders and delegations. Options for putting these in place will be presented at this meeting.**
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The development of the successful Nature Improvement Area (NIA) bid highlighted the fact that the receipt of the Defra funding of £608,000 could only be approved by the full Authority or the Resources and Performance Committee. The timings of meetings meant there was an appreciable delay which could have caused problems for third parties who were to receive funding from the SDNPA.
- 1.2 With this in mind it is important that arrangements are put in place whereby Resources and Performance Committee can approve future grants to the SDNPA for projects which are already “in the pipeline”.

2. Background

- 2.1 The attached table in **Appendix I** lists a series of projects which have been approved through the SDNPA’s Major Partnerships Panel of Members. With the exception of Collabor8 (which is the extension of an existing EU funded project transferred from the South Downs Joint Committee (SDJC) to the SDNPA), these have all been given the green light for allocation of funds from the Major Partnerships budget line.
- 2.2 In each case the projects listed bring with them the opportunity to bid for extra resources which would come through the SDNPA accounts. In each case some funds would be retained within the SDNPA, for example to cover project overheads, and in some cases monies will be deployed from SDNPA to third parties who are delivering parts of the projects.

3. Resources

- 3.1 There are no additional resource implications attached to this paper over and above those already committed by the SDNPA to deliver its portion of the projects agreed by the Major Partnerships Panel.

4. Risk management

- 4.1 Without a clear process for timely approval of incoming grants, the SDNPA risks either breaching its Standing Orders or causing unnecessary delay in implementation of projects with consequent problem for project partners who may need to start activities in order to meet overall project deadlines.

5. Human Rights, Equalities, Health and Safety

- 5.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

6. External Consultees

- 6.1 None.

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Appendices	I. Anticipated grant funding to SDNPA
SDNPA Consultees	Chief Executive Officer, Director of Strategy and Partnerships,
Background Documents	None