

Report to **Policy & Resources Committee**  
Date **18 September 2025**  
By **Interim Chief Finance Officer**  
Title of Report **Budget Monitoring Report 2025/26: Month 4**  
**Decision**

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**Recommendation: The Policy & Resources Committee is recommended to:**

- 1. Note the 2025/26 Revenue Forecast position as at month 4 of a net £0.005m above budget variance and that this is currently being met by a reduction in unrestricted reserves.**
  - 2. Note the 2025/26 Capital Forecast position as at month 4 being an underspend of £2.886m as explained in paragraph 3.8 and appendix 2 to the report.**
  - 3. Recommend that the National Park Authority approve the use of reserves totalling £0.065m set out paragraph 3.9 to fund variations to the capital programme.**
  - 4. Note the Reserves position as at month 4, as set out at Appendix 3.**
  - 5. Note the Treasury Management overview and position as at month 4, as set out at Appendix 4.**
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**1. Introduction**

- 1.1** The South Downs National Park Authority (the Authority) approved the revenue and capital budget for the 2025/26 financial year on the 27 March 2025. In accordance with financial procedures, reports on the Authority's projected income and expenditure compared with the budget shall be submitted at least quarterly to Policy & Resources Committee. This report sets out the Authority's 2025/26 forecast financial position as at the end of month 4 (July 2025).
- 1.2** The Treasury Management Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy were also approved by the Authority at its meeting on 27 March 2025. In accordance with financial procedures, the Policy & Resources Committee shall receive quarterly treasury management update reports. This report provides an overview of the current economic and treasury management position as at the end of month 4 (July 2025) 2025/26.

**2. Policy Context**

- 2.1** The revenue and capital budgets are developed in accordance with the authority's agreed budget framework alongside the Corporate Plan and the Partnership Management Plan (PMP) in order to ensure that the budget aligns with the authority's priorities and objectives. The budget monitoring process reports on variances against approved budgets to identify changes and resource requirements at the earliest opportunity.

**3. Issues for consideration**

Revenue Forecast

- 3.1 The 2025/26 forecast revenue outturn as at month 4 is an adverse variance of £0.005m. The month 4 forecast has been developed following a review of current and anticipated changes in staffing, as well as other significant known variances. A summary of the forecast revenue position is provided by service area below and the revenue movement between budget and forecast and the key variances by service are provided in Appendix I.

<b>Table I: Authority forecast spend by Directorate</b>	<b>2025/26 Budget Month 4 £'000</b>	<b>2025/26 Forecast Month 4 £'000</b>	<b>Forecast Variance Month 4 £'000</b>	<b>Forecast Variance Month %</b>
Corporate Services	4,538	4,911	373	8.22%
Seven Sisters Country Park	(72)	(102)	(30)	41.05%
Countryside Policy and Management	2,648	2,511	(137)	(5.18%)
Planning	3,844	3,643	(201)	(5.23%)
Strategic Fund Projects	95	95	0	0.00%
<b>Total Directorate Budgets</b>	<b>11,053</b>	<b>11,058</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>(0.05%)</b>
National Park Grant	(9,626)	(9,626)	0	0.00%
Contribution to/from Reserves	(1,427)	(1,427)	0	0.00%
<b>Total Authority Budget and forecast</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	

- 3.2 The most significant element of the budget relates to staffing and salary costs. Paragraph 3.2 and 3.3 outline some of the detail regarding salary budgets whilst appendix I provides further detail on the other elements of the budget. The approved Revenue salary budgets for 2025/26 include a 10% net turnover rate (applied for average of 9 weeks of the financial year), which reduces the overall salary budget by (£0.129m). In addition, a proportion of the salary budget has reduced (£0.459m) to cover those members of staff who are directly involved in activities that generate long term benefits, such as development projects or infrastructure improvements, however these salaries will be offset by a contribution from Capital which are factored into the Month 4 forecasts. The net salary forecast across all services is £0.085m above budget at month 4.
- 3.3 It has been identified that during the budget setting process the salary budget within Democratic Representation & Management, was not fully incorporated. Whilst this creates a variance, it does not represent a financial risk as any associated spend will be fully offset by savings identified across the Park's overall budget and is included within the £0.005m forecast variance. A temporary virement will be made from available resources identified to better represent the current financial position of the authority.

<b>Table 2: Staffing budgets and forecast by Directorate</b>	<b>2025/26 Budget Month 4 £'000</b>	<b>2025/26 Forecast Month 4 £'000</b>	<b>Forecast Variance Month 4 £'000</b>
Corporate Services	887	966	79
Countryside & Policy Management	2,395	2,342	(53)
Growth & Business Development	1,237	1,394	157
Planning	2,124	2,069	(55)
Seven Sisters	419	376	(43)
<b>Total Staffing Budget</b>	<b>7,062</b>	<b>7,147</b>	<b>85</b>

3.4 It should be noted that the forecast represents known staffing levels at the time of review. At 31 July 2025 there were 138.72 FTE's, which included 1 apprentice, 5.02 FTE on fixed term contracts and 6.6 on temporary contracts. There were 5 vacant posts across all departments as at the month 4 position, with many of the vacant posts in the process of being filled. The staffing structure is kept under continuous review and the replacement of vacancies and creation of new posts are only agreed following Senior Leadership Team approval where there is a clear operational requirement and sufficient budget identified. No organisation can expect to operate at full complement and a moderate level of turnover is anticipated.

Planning Activity

3.5 Planning plays a considerable role in the activities of the Authority, the next section focusses on the number of applications forecast this year and income relating to those. At quarter 1, there is an anticipated above budget variance of £0.041m on Planning Income fees. Note that the value of planning applications received over £0.005m is higher when compared to the same period last year by approximately 50%, and the number of applications under £0.005m by nearly 15%. The forecast is likely to vary by quarter and therefore will be regularly reviewed. Movements in income do not directly relate to changes in workload. Please see other key variances for Planning, provided in Appendix I.

<b>Table 3: Planning Activity</b>	<b>2024/25 QTR 1 Actuals</b>	<b>2025/26 QTR 1 Actuals</b>	<b>2025/26 QTR 1 Variance</b>
Number of applications under £5k	647	743	96
Value of applications under £5k	£186,113	£246,991	£60,878
Number of applications over £5k	4	6	2
Value of applications over £5k	£59,076	£113,535	£54,459
<b>Total Value of Applications</b>	<b>£245,189</b>	<b>£360,526</b>	<b>£115,337</b>

The figures provided above are based on a snapshot of data available at (QTR 1), these figures may change depending on timing and reconciliation, however, provide an indicative position reflective of income received.

Capital Programme

- 3.6 The SDNPA is engaged in delivering several revenue and capital programmes funded from internal and external sources. The table in Appendix 2 shows all current projects that are in delivery during this financial year which use available Authority resources. The table sets out the source of funding, spend to date, forecast spend and variance. Some projects are also in delivery that rely exclusively on external funding and these are not all included but continue to be reviewed by the project lead. Larger externally funded projects are included in the accompanying table.
- 3.7 The spend forecast at month 4 is £3.893m against a budget of £6.779m a variance of £2.886m. This predominantly is a result of two externally funded projects being delivered over multiple years, the budgets for these projects will be reprofiled to future years. The impact is nil on the authorities' resources as they are externally funded.
- 3.8 In addition, the committee is asked to recommend the use of general reserves of £0.003m and to approve a contribution from the CIL reserve of £0.062m as set out in appendix 2. This is being used to fund cost overruns against the acquisition of agricultural equipment and works at Centurion Way respectively. The following paragraphs explain the various sources of funding being utilised to fund the capital programme for 2025/26.
- 3.9 The Committee will be aware that Defra made available £2m of capital funding that we need to execute by the end of the financial year. Members will also be aware authority was delegated at the 8 July NPA meeting to manage this on an agile basis to ensure that this deadline is met. Included in this sum is funding for:
- a. Centurion Way - This project has been progressing since 2014-15 financial year with a number of sources of funding including FIPL, Partners, SDNPA's reserves, CIL, The Trust and Section 106. The overall forecast cost to take the project to the close of phase 9 in 2027-28 is £5.161m. The cashflow as requested over the years is summarized as follows:

Year	Funding £'000	Expenditure £'000
2014/15	59	59
2015/16	593	610
2016/17	27	48
2017/18	42	202
2018/19	-	43
2019/20	-	37
2020/21	-	5
2021/22	21	34
2022/23	297	302
2023/24	871	871
2024/25	480	480
2025/26 onwards		2,470
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,390</b>	<b>5,161</b>

- b. Salary Capitalisation – proportions of some salary costs are able to be capitalised if they are executing direct contribution to assets. This figure has been based on estimates, and quarterly monitoring has been established to assess our use of this resource.
  - c. New Barn Cottage - New Barn Cottage is an SDNPA owned asset at SSCP which is being returned to use after being left derelict for some years. Funding for New Barn Cottage was originally agreed at £207k from the 2023-24 underspend. Whilst work started in 2024-25, the bulk has been delivered in 2025-26 with the funding now sourced from the Defra Capital allocation, which can release back the £207k into our unrestricted reserves. The total allocation is £302k, of which £197k has been spent to date and we anticipate full spend by the end of the financial year. This is intended to bring in a rental income in due course.
- 3.10 SDNPA Carry forwards - £0.215m was agreed at July 2025 NPA meeting (agenda item 15) to fund the ongoing delivery of these projects. This is part of the total £0.870m carry forwards approved at the July 2025 NPA meeting. Included in this is the Midhurst Shoring Up provision which is set aside to deal with costs arising from The Angel Hotel fire in March 2023. It is expected that a substantial proportion of these funds will be recoverable from insurers in due course. When this does happen, this provision will be able to be released back to the unrestricted balances of the SDNPA.
- 3.11 External Contributions – some projects are wholly funded from external contributions; these are detailed in appendix 2. Two major projects are listed below for further detail:
- a. **Downs to the Sea** - This project, which started in 2024 is running until the end of 2027. £2.480m of funding has been raised (NLHF £1.700m and £0.794m from various sources including CIL, Trust and external organisations) is to restore and protect ponds and wetlands. Spend to date is £0.066m.
  - b. **SAMM** - The SAMM project is delivered through funding from East Hampshire District Council and Wealden Town Council over a maximum of 5 years, generating £0.765m of income over that period which contributes to salary and non-pay costs.

#### Review of Reserves

- 3.12 A schedule of reserves held by the Authority is provided at Appendix 3, which gives the purpose, movement, and balance of each reserve. The movements in reserves in 2025/26 to date are shown below and at Appendix 3 for information. The creation of reserves and any transfers to and from reserves must be approved by the Authority. The use of reserves must be in accordance with the approved purpose of each reserve.
- 3.13 The Reserve Table at Appendix 3 sets out reserves under headings that categorise the level of control and influence the Authority has over each type of reserve. The table shows that the Authority holds approved and recommended risk reserves of: £2.069m which must be maintained to demonstrate financial prudence and resilience; Capital Reserves of £0.094m to manage the timing of capital payments across financial years and £8.756m in relation to S106, CIL and other agreements over which the Authority does not have direct control. The reserves over which the Authority has direct influence and control are therefore ‘General Reserves’ which have been fully allocated, and ‘Earmarked Reserves’, which currently stand at £2.187m to meet approved projects and programmes.

#### Treasury Management Overview and Position

- 3.14 The 2025/26 Treasury Management Strategy (which includes the Annual Investment Strategy) was approved by full Authority on 27 March 2025. This section of the monitoring report provides an update to the Authority on the performance against the treasury strategy and indicators.

#### Economic Overview

- 3.15 The Bank of England (BoE) cut Bank Rate by 25bps from 4.25% to 4.00% at its August meeting; consistent with futures markets having already priced in the change prior to the decision. There were signs that the MPC will remain cautious over the fact that some members cited an “upside risk around medium-term inflationary pressures” since May to prevent any second-round effects of higher energy and food prices. Governor Bailey

reiterated the need for a “gradual and careful” approach to reducing rates, calling the latest decision a “finely balanced” one after contending with sluggish economic growth and stubborn inflation. The new BoE forecasts exhibit further inflationary pressures in the medium-term, rising to a peak of 4.0% in September, rather than 3.7%, whilst remarking that it will take till Q2 2027 to return to the 2% target, previously at Q1 2027.

**Investments**

- 3.16 The Authority’s investment portfolio of £15.746m as at 31 July 2025 is made up of the following:
  - £1.500m sustainable fixed deposits held with Standard Chartered Bank;
  - £3.000m fixed deposit held with Lloyds Corporate Markets
  - £8.000m loans to other Local Authorities (4 authorities at £2m each)
  - £3.246m liquid balance invested with Brighton & Hove City Council
- 3.17 Investments held with external counterparties have decreased by £0.3m since 2024/25 outturn in order to meet short term liquidity requirements. Opportunities for further short-term lending in the forthcoming period are being monitored. The parameters for the Annual Investment Strategies were met in full during the period with no breaches.
- 3.18 The table at Appendix 4 summarises the performance of these investments to 31 July 2025. The actual average interest rate earned in the period was 5.01% (compared to 5.62% average for the same period last year). Whilst investment returns have continued to fall in line with market conditions, returns remained substantially above benchmark rates in the period as investments were made in advance of expected interest rate reductions, as well as liquid investments in BHCC holding their rates for an extended period following a Bank of England base rate reduction.
- 3.19 The security of the Authority’s investment portfolio has been monitored to month 4, to assess the risk of loss. These risks were assessed using the financial standing of the groups invested in, the length of each investment, and the historic default rates. The investment strategy sets an allowable risk level of 0.050% (i.e. that there is a 99.950% probability that the Authority will get its investments back). The actual indicator for the period ranged between 0.007% and 0.013%. The indicator has decreased since outturn 2024/25 due to the increasing proportion of the portfolio held in secure local authority investments.

**Borrowing**

- 3.20 The 2025/26 Capital Strategy identified no capital borrowing need for the Authority. This is not forecast to change as at Month 4. The Authority’s cumulative capital borrowing requirements to date is expected to continue to be met internally.
- 3.21 The Authority did not have any external borrowing as at 31 July 2025, although short-term borrowing was undertaken during the period from Brighton and Hove City Council to manage temporary cash flow requirements. The Authority’s cash flow forecast does not predict that any further short-term borrowing will be required for the remainder of the financial year, although the cash flow position will continue to be closely monitored.

**Prudential Indicators**

- 3.22 The below tables show the indicators that were agreed as part of the 2025/26 Treasury management Strategy and the actual indicators for the year. The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) is the cumulative unfinanced capital spend. There is no external borrowing, and therefore the CFR is 100% funded through internal borrowing.

<b>Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) (Underlying Borrowing Need)</b>	<b>Original Estimate 2025/26 £m</b>	<b>Forecast as at M4 2025/26 £m</b>
Opening Balance	1,200	1,202

New Borrowing Requirement	0	0
Minimum Revenue Provision	(22)	(22)
<b>Closing Balance – underlying borrowing</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>1,180</b>
External Long-term Borrowing	0	0
External Long-term borrowing as a % of CFR	0	0

\*excludes long term leases

3.23 The below table shows the borrowing limits agreed for 2025/26. The authorised limit is the maximum external debt that the Authority can enter into. The operational boundary is the limit that the external debt is not expected to exceed during the year, although can be exceeded temporarily for operational reasons. This operational boundary was exceeded for six working days during the period to meet temporary liquidity requirements in advance of maturing investments. The Authority did not have any external borrowing as at 31 July 2025.

<b>2025/26 Borrowing Limits</b>	<b>Authorised Limit £'000</b>	<b>Operational Boundary £'000</b>
Indicator set	3,100	2,800
Maximum borrowing during the period	2,961	2,961
<b>Variance</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>(161)</b>

**4. Options & cost implications**

4.1 By continuously identifying and explaining variances against budgets, the Authority can identify risks, changes and new resource requirements at the earliest opportunity. A below budget variance at the end of the financial year would represent an increase in reserve levels and have implications for the Medium-Term Financial Strategy of the Authority.

**5. Next steps**

5.1 Annual budgets are approved by the National Park Authority (NPA). Budget monitoring is a key component of the Authority’s overall performance monitoring and control framework and is reported at least quarterly to the Policy & Resources Committee.

**6. Other implications**

<b>Implication</b>	<b>Yes*/No</b>
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	No
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	Yes. Budget monitoring requires action plans to mitigate above budget variances to ensure that the Authority does not overspend on its available resources. A below budget variance at the end of the financial year could increase reserve levels and may have implications for the Medium-Term Financial Strategy of the Authority.

<b>Implication</b>	<b>Yes*/No</b>
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	Internal controls and governance are in place to ensure the economical, efficient, and effective use of resources.
Which PMP Outcomes/ Corporate plan objectives does this deliver against	None
Links to other projects or partner organisations	No
How does this decision contribute to the Authority's climate change objectives	None
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	No
Have you taken regard of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	There are no implications arising directly from this report. The Authority's equality duty shall be considered in respect to all expenditure and programmes undertaken by the National Park Authority.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	No
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	No
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	No
Are there any Data Protection implications?	No

## **7. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision**

- 7.1 There are no risks directly associated with this report as the recommendations are for noting only.

**Craig Garoghan**

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Appendices: I. 2025/26 Revenue Key Variance by Directorate

2025/26 Revenue Key Variance by Service

2. 2025/26 Capital Forecast
3. 2025/26 Reserves Position
4. 2025/26 Treasury Management Performance
5. Explanation of Key Terms

SDNPA Consultees: Chief Executive; Director of Planning; Chief Finance Officer; Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer; Legal Services; Head of Finance and Corporate Services.

External Consultees: None.

Background Documents Information in this report is taken from audited Financial Management Information Systems maintained by the Corporate Financial Services provider, Brighton & Hove City Council.

This report is presented in accordance with the Authority's Financial Regulations and Standard Financial Procedure.



**2025/26 Revenue Key Variance by Directorate – Explanation of Variance**

	<b>Budget Month 4</b>	<b>Forecast Month 4</b>	<b>Variance Month 4</b>	
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>Explanation of Main Variance</b>
Corporate Services	4,538	4,911	373	Net above budget variance from Members Allowances; Property Services service charges for Stanmer offices, increase in insurance and road tax and increase in equipment costs; IT Services – additional training costs and IT licences; Central Admin Team – employee savings target.
Seven Sisters Country Park	(72)	(102)	(30)	Below budget variance due to a greater than expected level of income during the Summer months.
Countryside Policy & Management	2,648	2,511	(137)	Net below budget variance arising from contributions from Trust and National Parks England, as well as decrease in expenditure on supplies and services
Planning	3,844	3,643	(201)	Net below budget variance arising from vacancies and increase in Planning income.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11,053</b>	<b>11,058</b>	<b>5</b>	

**2025/26 Revenue Key Variance by Service Area – Explanation of Main Variances**

<b>2025/26 Variance Month 4 £'000</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Explanation of Main Variances</b>
8	Chief Executives Service	Above budget variance on salaries and subsistence
212	Business Services	Employee savings to be allocated to service partially funded by restructures across the services and other efficiency savings found in IT.
<b>220</b>	<b>Total Corporate Services Variance</b>	
2	Marketing and Income Generation	Minor Variances
157	Governance and Support Services	Members Allowances, temporary virement to be actioned to correct the issue identified in the budget setting process.
1	Human Resources	Minor Variances
<b>160</b>	<b>Growth &amp; Business Development</b>	
(24)	Director of Countryside Policy & Management	Secondment income from National Parks England
4	Countryside and Policy Central	Minor Variances

2025/26 Variance Month 4 £'000	Service Area	Explanation of Main Variances
(11)	Countryside and Policy Eastern	Decrease in contributions to other organisations, contribution from Adur and Worthing for Mill Hill
(34)	Countryside and Policy Western	Estimated that only 40% of the budget will be spent due to pressures of managing the Farmers in Protected Landscapes programme. This will need to be carried forward as held on behalf of the farming community.
(78)	Research and Performance	Contribution from the Trust for various schemes
<b>(143)</b>	<b>Total Countryside Policy Management Variance</b>	
36	Director of Planning	Legal fees relating to the Phoenix quarter in Lewes
(40)	Planning Development Management	Staff vacancies and reduction in expected consultants fees
(187)	Performance and Technical Management	Increase in income from planning fees
(10)	Planning Policy	£10k allocated for examination costs delayed to 26/27
<b>(201)</b>	<b>Total Planning Variance</b>	

2025/26 Variance Month 4 £'000	Service Area	Explanation of Main Variances
(30)	Seven Sisters Country Park	Increase in revenue across the park due to visitor numbers
<b>5</b>	<b>Total Revenue Budget Variance</b>	

**2025/26 Capital Forecast**

Table 1 below sets out the total capital programme for the authority. Projects with highlighted titles are outlined in the table in this report, and those from which we anticipate an income generation element, are in italics. It is important to note that some of the project resources span more than this current financial year. Table 2 summarises the variances and reprofiles that P&R are being asked to approve.

Project Title	Defra Capital £'000	SDNPA Capital/ Reserves £'000	SDNPA Cfws £'000	SDNPA SIF £'000	External Contribution £'000	Total Resource £'000	25-26 Spend to date £'000	25-26 Forecast Spend £'000	Variance £'000	Comment
<i>Agricultural Kit</i>	160	-	-	-	-	160	153	163	3	<b>Variance:</b> Increase in costs to be funded by reserves
Air Con in Comms Room	7	-	-	-	-	7	-	7	-	
<i>Alternative Model for Woodland Creation</i>	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	25	-	
Barlavington Woodland Connectivity	20	-	-	-	-	20	-	20	-	
Beavers at Foley	70	-	-	-	-	70	-	70	-	
BioChar	75	-	-	-	-	75	-	75	-	
Centurion Way	400	-	-	-	-	400	462	462	62	<b>Variance:</b> to fund from CIL source
Centurion Way Improvement of Asset	50	-	-	-	-	50	-	50	-	
Chilcomb Ponds	11	-	-	-	-	11	-	11	-	
Dark Skies Monitoring Kit	20	-	-	-	-	20	-	20	-	
Ebernoe and Butcherlands Landscape Enhancement Scheme	20	-	-	-	-	20	-	20	-	
<i>Energise Southdowns Solar Panel Investment</i>	100	-	-	-	-	100	100	100	-	
Fencing Goodwood estate, Singleton school and Crouch Farm	9	-	-	-	-	9	-	9	-	

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Defra Capital £'000</b>	<b>SDNPA Capital/ Reserves £'000</b>	<b>SDNPA Cfwds £'000</b>	<b>SDNPA SIF £'000</b>	<b>External Contribution £'000</b>	<b>Total Resource £'000</b>	<b>25-26 Spend to date £'000</b>	<b>25-26 Forecast Spend £'000</b>	<b>Variance £'000</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<i>Foxhole Cottage Gardens</i>	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	25	-	
Grazing at Hookway	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	25	-	
Grazing at SSCP	23	-	-	-	-	23	-	23	-	
Hampshire Hangars	20	-	-	-	84	104	-	104	-	
IT Firewalls	10	-	-	-	-	10	10	10	-	
IT Hardware	12	-	-	-	-	12	12	12	-	
Mid Meadows	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	10	-	
<i>New Barn Farmhouse</i>	302	-	-	-	-	302	266	302	-	
<i>Partner investment in Land</i>	100	-	-	-	-	100	-	100	-	
Pen Hill Ponds	12	-	-	-	-	12	-	12	-	
Pond Creation and Enhancements	32	-	-	-	-	32	-	32	-	
Saddlescombe Farm Fencing	7	-	-	-	-	7	-	7	-	
Salaries capitalised	220	-	-	-	-	220	-	220	-	
Sand Martins	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	10	-	
SDNPA Signage	23	2	-	-	-	25	22	25	-	
South Downs Farm Resilience Programme Regenerative Farming	25	-	-	-	-	25	-	25	-	
SSCP Adopt a Phone Box	8	-	-	-	-	8	-	8	-	
SSCP Fencing	94	-	-	-	-	94	-	94	-	
Stanmer Security Fencing	25	-	-	-	-	25	22	25	-	
Sussex Wildlife Trust Collars	13	-	-	-	-	13	-	13	-	
Turtle Doves	20	-	-	-	-	20	13	20	-	

Project Title	Defra Capital £'000	SDNPA Capital/ Reserves £'000	SDNPA Cfwds £'000	SDNPA SIF £'000	External Contribution £'000	Total Resource £'000	25-26 Spend to date £'000	25-26 Forecast Spend £'000	Variance £'000	Comment
Wildflower Enhancement at Dangstein Farm Rogate	17	-	-	-	-	17	-	17	-	
Midhurst Shoring Up Works	-	-	116	-	-	116	10	10	(106)	<b>Reprofile:</b> Ongoing reserve to recharge to insurers on completion
SSCP Car Park Improvement Works	-	50	-	-	-	50	79	79	29	<b>Reprofile:</b> Revenue cost miscodes, deferred to 26-27 Actual is commitment for next year £30k on South Car park
Changing Chalk - Dew Ponds	-	-	-	6	61	67	5	67	-	
Changing Chalk - Grazier Post	-	-	-	4	72	76	20	76	-	
Communities in the South Downs	-	-	-	13	-	13	-	13	-	
Forestry Partnership	-	-	47	-	-	47	-	47	-	
Grandfather's Bottom	-	-	-	30	239	269	-	269	-	
Green South Downs	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	
Our South Downs	-	-	-	8	-	8	-	8	-	
Timescape Residencies 24	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	
Downs to the Sea: Recovery and Resilience in Wetland Habitats	-	-	-	-	2,487	2,487	96	289	(2,198)	<b>Reprofile:</b> Multiyear Project

Project Title	Defra Capital £'000	SDNPA Capital/ Reserves £'000	SDNPA Cfws £'000	SDNPA SIF £'000	External Contribution £'000	Total Resource £'000	25-26 Spend to date £'000	25-26 Forecast Spend £'000	Variance £'000	Comment
Farming in Protected landscapes	-	-	-	-	738	738	355	738	-	
Wealden Heath SAMM	-	-	53	-	767	820	355	144	(676)	<b>Reprofile:</b> Multiyear Project
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>4,448</b>	<b>6,779</b>	<b>1,980</b>	<b>3,893</b>	<b>(2,886)</b>	

<b>Table 2 Variation category</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Reprofile	(2,951)	No call on authority resources in 2025/26. £2.8m is externally funded and the remaining from resources already allocated in revenue and reserves.
Variance	65	£0.062m from CIL resources and £0.003m from general reserves.
<b>Total Variance</b>	<b>(2,886)</b>	



**2025/26 Reserves Position**

<b>Reserve Type &amp; Title</b>	<b>Purpose of Reserve</b>	<b>2025/26 Opening Balance £'000</b>	<b>Contribution to/(from) Reserves (pre M4) £'000</b>	<b>Movement Between Reserves £'000</b>	<b>Contribution to/(from) Reserves (post M4) £'000</b>	<b>2025/26 Estimated closing balance £'000</b>
<b>General Reserve</b>						
Working Balances (MTFS)	Working Balances to support MTFS	791	305	0	(57)	1,039
<b>Approved Risk Reserves</b>						
Working Balances (Minimum)	Working Balances	672	0	0	0	672
Planning Reserve	To fund unforeseen planning inquiries, changes to future delegation arrangements, significant income falls and support for neighbourhood plans	358	0	0	0	358
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>						
Partnership Management Plan Reserve	To fund outcomes identified in the Partnership Management Plan	216	0	0	0	216
Strategic Fund	Reserve to hold unspent Strategic Fund Allocations	317	0	0	(64)	253
Affordable Housing	Funds to implement an Affordable Housing Strategy within the NP	161	0	0	0	161
Invest to Save	To Support future schemes to save money in future years	1,017	0	0	0	1,017
Trading Company Borrowing Reserve	To allow the company to borrow funds to purchase assets to allow operations at SSCP to begin	220	0	0	(220)	0
Climate Change Fund Reserve	Funds to support the Authority becoming a 'net zero organisation by 2030	42	0	0	0	42

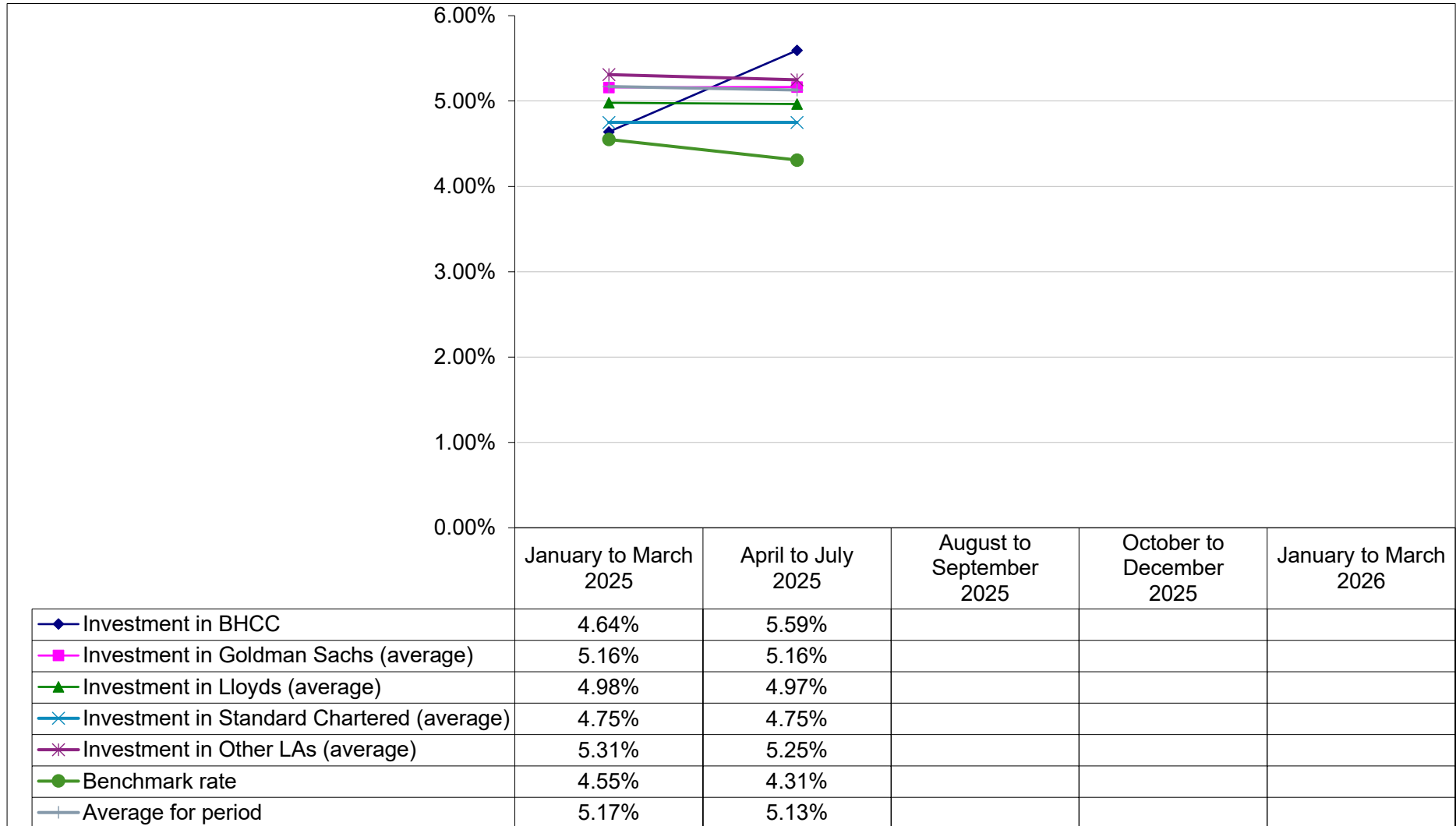
Reserve Type & Title	Purpose of Reserve	2025/26 Opening Balance £'000	Contribution to/(from) Reserves (pre M4) £'000	Movement Between Reserves £'000	Contribution to/(from) Reserves (post M4) £'000	2025/26 Estimated closing balance £'000
Nature Based Solutions (Green Finance) Reserve	Funds to support the management of nature recovery funded from income received in previous years	497	0	0	0	497
<b>Funds held in lieu of Agreements</b>						
South Downs Way	Funding transferred from South Downs Joint Committee	20	0	0	0	20
Section 106 Receipts Reserve	Receipts primarily used to develop infrastructure within the National Park	339	0	0	0	339
Section 106 interest on statutory receipts		586	0	0	0	586
Community Infrastructure Levy Reserve*	Receipts to fund infrastructure in development areas	7,811	0	0	0	7,811
<b>Capital (Timing) Reserves)</b>						
Capital Receipts	Proceeds from disposal of assets available for use on capital expenditure	39	0	0	0	39
Estates Management Reserve	To support refurbishment of area offices	50	0	0	0	50
Vehicle Repairs and Renewals	To fund purchase of replacement vehicles	5	0	0	0	5
<b>Total Reserves Balances</b>		<b>13,141</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-341</b>	<b>13,105</b>

\*The value of the Community Infrastructure Levy reserve represents amounts receivable in accordance with Financial Regulations and the Town and County Planning Act 1990.

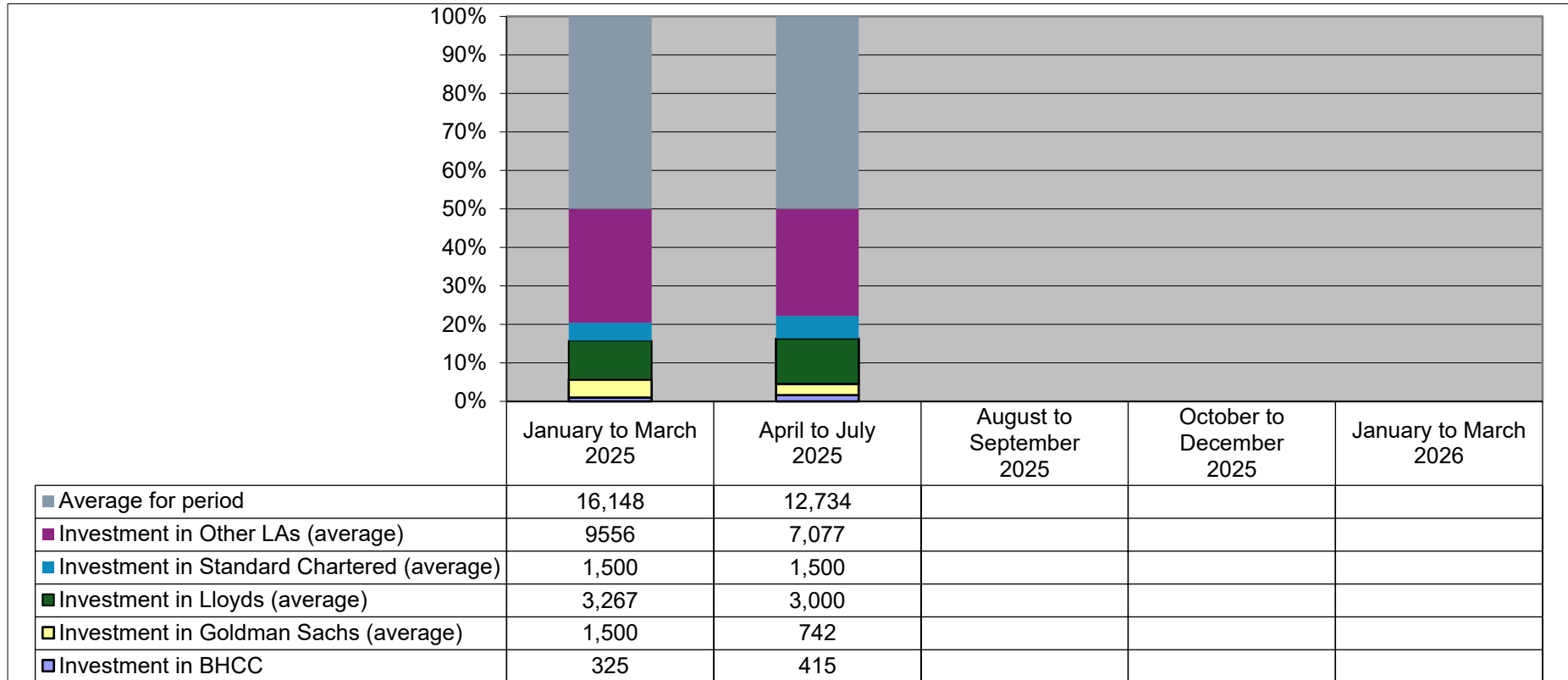
The reserve value may not represent the value of actual income received due to agreed payment terms and profile of payments for some developments.

**2025/26 Treasury Management Performance**

Average Interest rate achieved on Investments compared to Benchmark (7 Day-LIBID)



Average amount invested (weighted by amount per day)



**Explanation of Key Terms**

Key Term	Explanation
Above budget Variance	Difference between budgeted and actual/forecasted activity which would have an adverse impact on the Authority’s financial position, e.g. expenditure in excess of available budget, or less income than budgeted.
Below budget variance	Difference between budgeted and actual/forecasted activity which would have a favourable impact the Authority’s financial position, e.g. less expenditure than budgeted, or more income than budgeted.
Budget Carry Forward	Unspent revenue budgets to be moved from one financial year to another where circumstances mean that it is not possible to spend budgets in the current financial year.
Capital Expenditure	Expenditure involving the acquisition or enhancement of assets with a long-term value to the Authority, such as land, buildings, and major items of plant, equipment or vehicles.
Capital Programme	Approved budgets for capital expenditure over the Medium-Term Financial Strategy period which supports priorities informed by the Members’ Budget Workshops and outcomes identified in the PMP.
Capital Reprofile	Unspent capital budgets to be moved from one financial year to another where circumstances mean that it is not possible to spend capital budgets in the current financial year.
Financial Procedures	Approved procedures which set out the responsibilities of Members and officers of how Financial Regulations are to be applied in practice.
Financial Regulations	Approved responsibilities of Members, directors, statutory officers and managers in looking after the financial affairs of the Authority. It seeks to ensure high standards of financial conduct, and probity in dealing with public money.

Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)	Planned use of resources over a five-year period taking into consideration assumptions for anticipated changes in commitments, savings and grant income.
Movement	Changes in actual/forecasted activity compared to previously reported forecasts.
Non-Grant Funded Budgets	Expenditure budgets that are not funded by grants from external bodies
Provisional Outturn Position	The anticipated year-end financial position of the Authority subject to any required approvals and assessment from external auditors.
Reserves	Funds retained to provide for future services and activities, usually earmarked for specific purposes, subject to maintaining prudent levels and any statutory limitations
Revenue	Expenditure and income required to meet ongoing day-to-day activities of the Authority. Examples include salaries, wages, material, supplies and services.
Ringfenced Grants	Financial assistance from external bodies to fund specific activity, where conditions exist to repay the grant should it not be used to fund the specified activity.
Unringfenced Grants	Financial assistance from external bodies to fund activity, where no conditions exist to repay the grant.