

Report to	Policy and Resources Committee
Date	21 November 2017
By	Performance and Projects Manager
Title of Report	Quarter 2 Performance Report 2017-18

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to

- 1) Receive the Quarter 2 performance report**
- 2) Consider if it wishes to make any recommendations to Officers arising from the report**

1. Summary and Background

- 1.1 The SDNPA as a publicly accountable body, is responsible for monitoring its performance. The Policy and Resources Committee has terms of reference which include *“To monitor and review the performance, including financial performance, of the Authority in the context of its business delivery, and the management and maintenance of the Authority’s assets in accordance with the Authority’s agreed budget, Corporate Plan and other approved plans, and make recommendations for changes as appropriate”*.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on performance during Quarter 2 of 2017 -18.

2. Performance reporting

- 2.1 An overview of performance for each of the 4 objectives in the Corporate Plan is at **Appendix I**. An overall RAG status has been used for overall performance against the four areas of work, strategy, partnerships, projects and core work. Notable successes and areas requiring further work are listed for each.
- 2.2 In general, performance is sound and good progress is being made across the board. There are a few areas where performance is behind initial estimates for completion. Following discussion with Members, it has been decided that a task and finish group will be established to oversee the review of the Partnership Management Plan (PMP). Work is underway to revise the timetable to incorporate this into the programme.
- 2.3 Planning performance remains good with the speed of decision making continuing to be in excess of Government targets with 89% of statutory cases in the quarter determined within the Government’s target time. Appeal performance for Q1 and Q2 (there are too few appeals in an individual quarter to form a reliable sample) is 62% of appeals dismissed against 67% dismissed in the 2016/17 financial year.
- 2.4 The speed of validation of planning applications remains a source of concern with just 53% of cases validated within 5 days (the same as Q1) against a target of 90%. Whilst the Authority itself performs well in this regard three of our host authorities in particular have poor validation figures. Meetings have been held with the heads of Development Management at

each of these three host authorities and actions have been agreed to improve this performance. As a result performance is expected to improve in Q3 (although likely to remain below target). Validation performance will remain a focus of attention.

3. Projects

3.1 The RAG (Red, Amber and Green) status shows if a project is on track or not. The RAG status is entered manually by staff and is based on an assessment including key deliverables and achievement of targets as well as whether the budget is on or off track. If a project is behind or ahead with delivery or behind or ahead with budget, it will be amber. If it is both off track in terms of delivery and also in terms of budget it will be red. The arrows within the coloured sections show the direction of travel from the previous Quarter.

↓	Downward arrow indicates that performance is lower or worse than the previous reporting period
—	A dash indicates no change from the previous reporting period
↑	Upward arrow indicates that performance is higher or better than the previous reporting period

3.2 The majority of SDNPA led projects have delivered well and are on track and on budget at the end of the quarter. No projects were completed during the quarter.

3.3 Of the 16 remaining projects, 6 are amber status, and 9 are green.

3.4 1 new project was approved during the quarter. Following the culmination of the successful Arun and Rother Connections HLF Project there has been a lack of capacity to develop further project work in the Arun and Western Streams Catchment. The Arun and Western Streams Catchment Partnership is looking to fund a project officer (3 days a week) to develop projects and seek funding. The post will be funded for one year and with the proviso that they bring in enough project work and funding to sustain the role over consecutive years. This has worked very successfully with the Rivers Trust in the Adur and Ouse Catchments. OMT approved £4,000 towards the total cost of the project officer of £29,400; this was an agreed repurposing of £4,000 underspend from a previous project.

4. Other Implications

Implication	
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	No
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	No
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	Implications of this report in itself do not raise an issue of value for money. However the projects that the organisation has funded are assessed for value for money when they are approved. Where appropriate, this is part of the project approval reports received by the Policy Resources Committee. Projects are evaluated individually for value for money when they finish, they are reported regularly to this Committee.
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	No
Has due regard has been taken of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	Yes – as the subject matter of the report is an update on projects and funding no specific issues arise. Consideration of equalities issues are considered as part of the development of a project where relevant.

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 Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy: 1. Living within environmental limits 2. Ensuring a strong healthy and just society 3. Achieving a sustainable economy 4. Promoting good governance 5. Using sound science responsibly	No – not directly although as part of the process for developing projects and when they are approved sustainability issues are included as part of the process.

5. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

- 5.1 Robust corporate planning and monitoring of performance are part of the mitigations for our corporate risk about awareness and favourability with decision makers.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Unforeseen changes to the level of funding provided by relevant Government departments for future years	Likely	Minor	A robust monitoring and project approval system and regular reporting to relevant Committees on projects and the budget available along with a corporate plan which sets clear priorities to support delivery of Partnership Management Plan outcomes.

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Appendices
1. Q2 Performance overview
2. Project progress update

SDNPA Consultees
Chief Executive; Director of Countryside and Policy Management; Director of Planning; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Legal Services, Governance and Support Services Manager; Countryside and Policy Managers, Planning and Technical Manager

External Consultees
None

Background Documents
[Heathlands Reunited background information is available on our website](#)
Information about the rampion windfarm is on our website [rampion-offshore-wind-farm](#)