

Report to	Policy & Resources Committee
Date	21 November 2017
By	Performance and Projects Manager
Title of Report	Mid – Year Project Update

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to

- 1) Receive the overview of major project delivery and the current budget position of the Strategic Fund**
- 2) Receive the current position of the Sustainable Communities Fund**

1. Summary and Background

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of major projects and provides an overview of the current position of the budget to support the major projects, the Strategic Fund (SF). The report also provides an overview of the Sustainable Communities Fund (SCF) for the year to date.
- 1.2 The annual review of the SF and the SCF for 2016-17 was reported to the P&R meeting in July 2017. This report is a half year report which provides an update on the current position for 2017-18.

2. Update on Major Projects and the project pipeline

- 2.1 There are 6 major projects underway. 2 new projects from the SF have been approved so far in 2017-18. The Watercress and Winterbourne HLF partnership HLF project focuses on the headwaters of two of the UK's most iconic chalk rivers, the Test and the Itchen it is a landscape of distinctive wetland habitats, supporting a rich diversity of wildlife, as well as heritage industries, villages and their communities. This landscape is at risk: land management practices, dependence on natural resources, the deterioration of the built heritage and a lack of joined-up action all threaten its character and quality.
- 2.2 The project partnership will take action to sustain this landscape for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations. Communities will develop the skills and expertise to be able to take the long-term lead in delivering their local catchment improvements. The project has 4 programmes. 1. Action for headwaters, a community catchment approach; 2. Celebrating our headwater heritage; 3. Healthy headwaters; 4. Rediscovering skills.
- 2.3 The project aims to develop a community-focused catchment approach which will improve resilience, restore landscapes and built heritage structures, reverse species declines and reduce pollution. Project objectives are:
 - Ensuring that communities play an essential role in caring for their local headwater heritage
 - Increasing the resilience and quality of headwater biodiversity, reversing declines and providing a buffer against pressures such as pollution, water extraction and climate change
 - Re-establishing the traditional skills needed to care for the natural and built heritage

- Enthusing and inspiring people to understand more about the heritage of the area and to champion and care for the natural and built environment
- 2.4 The project is led by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. The SDNPA approved £12,000 of funding over 7 years, with the contribution being spent on areas within the SDNP.
- 2.5 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 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 approach has worked very successfully in the Adur 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.
- 2.6 The Secrets of the High Woods project has completed during the quarter. The table at **Appendix I** shows the current position. Details of all projects are reported elsewhere on this agenda as part of the Q2 update report.
- 2.7 The project pipeline sets out the projects we know staff would like to bring forward over the next 5 years that are likely to require funding from the Strategic Fund. As these projects are developed they will be brought forward to the Policy & Programme Committee for approval as required. The details are at **Appendix 2**.
- 3. Update on the Sustainable Communities Fund**
- 3.1 The Sustainable Communities Fund budget comprises £158,801 carried forward from 2016-17 and £20,000 allocated as part of the budget. The SDNPA SCF has made total grant payments and conditional grant offers to the value of £78,437 to projects so far this year, which leaves £100,364 currently unallocated.
- 3.2 The 9 projects approved this year are: Meon Valley Archaeology £1,754; Roman Shoe Making at Butser Ancient Farm £1,102; The Four Men Theatre Production £2,000; an Edward Thomas workshop £1,750; Blackdown Air Disaster Memorial £800; Fittleworth Community Shop £10,000; Twyford Lock £6,500; Reeves Photo Archive £10,000; Clausentum Fen Regeneration £2,000. One Panel meeting, where large grants of over £2,000 and up to £10,000 are determined at the meeting, and two small grant decision meetings for grants up to £2,000 remain for this year.
- 4. Resources available in the Strategic Fund**
- 4.1 The budget for the strategic fund from 2017-18 to 2021-22 is set out in the overview table below. An assumption included in the table is that the SDNPA will maintain the current level of funding for 2017-18 onwards as approved in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The level of funding available for projects will of course vary depending on the level of funding put into strategic fund on an annual basis. There are sufficient resources to support the projects identified in the project pipeline along with reserving up to £150,000 per year for the Big Chalk Project as and when it is developed. As projects which have received funding come to an end the requirement for future funding reduces and is particularly noticeable from 2018-19 onwards. By 2019 a new Partnership Management Plan delivery plan will be in place with a pipeline of priority projects to which this fund will be applied.

	Budget 2017-18	Budget 2018-19	Budget 2019-20	Budget 2020-21	Budget 2021-22
Annual Budget	295,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000
Carried forward	554,632	327,777	467,152	631,531	819,816
Total Budget	849,632	547,777	687,152	851,531	1,039,816
Requirement for funding	521,855	80,625	55,621	31,715	6,855
Estimated funding available	327,777	467,152	631,531	819,816	1,032,961

5. P&P Committee Considerations

- 5.1 Funding for projects over £50,000 up to £100,000 have to be approved by P&R Committee. Regular quarterly performance reporting to this Committee contains an update on projects, including major projects.

6. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	It will be the case that per the standing orders and the terms of reference for this Committee projects will come forward for approval in due course.
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	This report poses no direct resource implications as it reports a mid-year position for the Strategic Fund and the Sustainable Communities Fund.
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	Value for money for individual projects is assessed at the development stage, mid-way through a project and at the end, through an evaluative process that is reported to this Committee. Setting aside a fund to support projects represents a positive return on investment as it enables projects to go ahead which might not otherwise.
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	None
Has due regard has been taken of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	There are no direct equalities impacts arising from this report.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	None

Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	None
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 negative impacts – all projects will contribute positively to some extent to the delivery of Partnership Management Plan outcomes, all of which are aimed at delivering sustainability.

7. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

7.1 Any project specific risks are

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
There may be some risks to our reputation if we are unable to provide cash match funding for some of our larger projects. This would also potentially reduce the types of funding we were able to apply for.	3	3	The main mitigation for this is to keep close scrutiny of the strategic fund and apply a rigorous prioritisation process when approving those projects that commit the SDNPA to significant funding over a number of years. Further mitigation for this risk, is the work that will be carried out to generate income for the South Downs National Park and also potentially for the SDNPA.

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Appendices
1. Major projects
2. Project pipeline

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

External Consultees
None

Background Documents
[Quarterly report to Governance Committee](#)
[SCF criteria](#)
[Previous P&R Committee Report](#)