

Report to	Policy & Resources Committee
Date	29 March 2018
By	Performance and Projects Manager
Title of Report Decision	Project Approval – Truleigh Hill Landscape project

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to

- 1) Endorse the release of £84,000 from the Rampion Mitigation Fund for the Truleigh Hill Landscape project**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting is a report setting out the background to the Rampion Windfarm scheme. Part of the mitigation of the cable laying is for a Section 106 fund of £242,500 for the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) to enhance and improve affected areas in line with its Purposes & Duty.
- 1.2 Following the approval process agreed by Officers for these types of project; this report asks Members to endorse the release of £84,000 from the S106 Mitigation Fund for the Truleigh Hill Landscape project. The decision will be taken under delegated powers by the Director of Planning.

2. Policy Context

- 2.1 The projects relate directly to PMP outcomes as set out in the PID at **Appendix I**.

3. Issues for consideration

- 3.1 Truleigh Hill is a high point on the South Downs (216m). It was used for radar defences during WWII and there are 4 tall (47m) telecommunications towers around the hill which were originally part of the radar station at Truleigh. These towers are highly visible as 'eyesore' landmarks for many miles in all directions and in many skyline views of the wide and open downland. The newly installed wind turbines of the Rampion wind farm now also break the horizon in views over the coastal plain from Truleigh Hill further adding to the detrimental and incongruous influence of infrastructure on this part of the National Park.
- 3.2 The area is a hotspot for both recreational activities but there are also antisocial activities in this area of the National Park which is effectively the urban fringe to Brighton, Shoreham and the coastal plain. Truleigh Hill is a focal point of the South Downs Way (SDW) having a large Youth Hostel which has thousands of visitors - 5000 overnight stays per year and between 6000-10,000 day visitors. This is in addition to the many residents and visitors which use the South Downs Way and the surrounding public rights of way network.
- 3.3 The Truleigh Hill Landscape Project aims to take a holistic and stakeholder-led approach to improving the landscape character of Truleigh Hill through consistent and appropriate landscape management interventions. The project proposes the appointment of a project

officer to work with the wide range of local stakeholder groups to develop a programme of works for the area based around a coordinating landscape management plan. It is proposed that funding for the project officer role is for a period of 2 years.

- 3.4 The project officer will be responsible for developing a landscape management plan for the Truleigh Hill area through reviewing the existing evidence base and commissioning ecological surveys. The project officer would work alongside SDNPA staff including the area ranger, infrastructure strategy lead, communications teams and volunteers to engage with project stakeholders and deliver a cohesive, community endorsed landscape management plan and immediate/long term action plan.
- 3.2 The project will comprise two district stages, each of which lasts for a year. The first stage will result in a landscape management plan, evidence base, an engagement event and action plan. The second stage would include the implementation of the full action plan from the first stage. It is anticipated that the types of activity that are likely to be included in this are; scrub clearance/downland restoration, tree removal, new screening & structure plantings. However, the full extent of the actions required will not be known until the action plan from the first stage has been developed. Details of the project are in the PID in **Appendix 1**.

4. Options & cost implications

- 4.1 The total project cost is £84,000 all of which will come from the Rampion mitigation fund. There is currently £168,500 remaining in the Rampion mitigation fund. If the full £84,000 is approved there will be £84,500 left to fund other projects or mitigation work. The relevant parts of the Rampion Section 106 Agreement is at **Appendix 3**.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 If the project is approved, officers will begin to implement the project plan. A mid-year and end of year project review and end of project evaluation will be carried out for this project. Quarterly monitoring on progress will be required as E.O.N., who are the Rampion developers, require regular updates on what the fund is being spent on and progress of project that have been funded once in delivery.

6. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	No
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	The proposed project will required some in-kind support from SDNP staff, as outlined in the PID. This requirement has been factored into their workloads.
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	The proposed project will deliver an enhanced landscape and engagement with key local stakeholders.
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	None
Have you taken regard of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	The proposed recruitment exercise will be carried out in line with the Authority's recruitment policies and practice. The equality implications of specific activities and works will be assessed as the phase 2 programme develops.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the	None

proposal?	
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	By improving the local environment and through the engagement of stakeholders, it is anticipated that the project will help address the incidences of anti-social behaviour that occur in the area.
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	Risk Assessments for any works that are required as part of the project will be developed when they are required.
Are there any Data Protection implications?	Any personal data relating to stakeholders for the project will be kept secure and only those officers who need to for the project it will be able to have access.
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy	The proposed project meets all of the principles of the Sustainability strategy. Five principles are: Living within environmental limits, Ensuring a strong healthy and just society, Achieving a sustainable economy, Promoting good governance , Using sound science responsibly

7. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

7.1 The risks associated with the project and their mitigations are at **Appendix 2**.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Funds allocated are not used appropriately to deliver the project	2	6	Project delivery will be overseen by the project team and monitored by the Water and Chalk Themed Board. Mid project evaluations will be reported to this Committee.

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Appendices

1. Project Initiation Document
2. Risk register
3. Section 106 agreement (relevant parts)

SDNPA Consultees Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management; Director of Planning; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Legal Services; Strategy Lead Landscape and Biodiversity (Chalk), Countryside and Policy Manager (East); Infrastructure Strategy Lead.

External Consultees None

Background Documents [SDNPA response to Rampion consultation](#)
[Rampion information on SDNPA website](#)
[Rampion FAQs on SDNPA website](#)

