

Report to	Policy & Programme Committee
Date	19 July 2018
By	Performance and Project Manager
Title of Report (Note)	Annual Review of Strategic Fund, and the Sustainable Communities Fund and Local Project Support

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to

- 1) Receive the overview of major project delivery and the year-end budget position of the Strategic Fund**
- 2) Receive the year-end position of the Sustainable Communities Fund and Local Project support**

1. Summary and Background

- 1.1 This report provides the year-end progress report of major projects and provides an overview of the current position of the Strategic Fund (SF), which is the budget used to support major projects. The Committee is asked to receive this information in accordance with its terms of reference which are to exercise oversight of the Strategic Fund and the Sustainable Communities Fund (SCF).
- 1.2 Major projects are defined as those which are over £50,000. Projects meeting that definition are approved by the Policy and Resources Committee (P&R Committee). Projects where the SDNPA contributions exceed £100,000 are approved by the National Park Authority (NPA). All other projects are considered by the Operational Management Team and approved by the Chief Executive. 5 new major projects have been approved during the year but only 3 have gone into delivery.
- 1.3 The report also provides an overview of the [Sustainable Communities Fund](#) for the year. The SCF is a rolling fund established to provide grants to community and voluntary groups, social enterprise organisations and businesses for 'not for profit' projects. To ensure proper scrutiny and well informed decision making an advisory panel, chaired by an SDNPA Member, advises on bids for funding between £5,000 - £20,000; although the power to make the decision remains with the Director of Countryside and Policy Management. 16 new projects were funded during 2017-18 at a total committed cost of £74,902 (although only £24,225 of this had been spent by the end of 2017/2018 with the rest committed through the grants).
- 1.4 In addition, the report provides an overview of the local projects supported by Area Teams from locally held budgets. 49 projects were funded during the year at a total cost of £100,315.

2. Major Projects

- 2.1 There were 5 major projects with funding approved from the Strategic Fund during the year. There are 6 major projects underway in total. Three major projects were completed/closed during the year. The table at **Appendix I** shows the current position for each of them.

- 2.2 New projects approved during the year included, £12,000 Winterbourne and Watercress, this is match funding for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust HLF stage 1 project.
- 2.3 The CHaMP project officer role was extended until 2020 and an additional £25,000 was agreed from the Strategic Fund to cover this. The total SDNPA contribution on CHaMP is £125,000.
- 2.4 An additional £24,258 was approved for Active Access. This money is to fund a further 2 years of the walking and cycling officer for the purpose of this project.
- 2.5 A £25,000 match funding cash contribution was approved from the strategic fund for the Dew Pond Restoration project which is being submitted to the HLF as part of the Changing Chalk bid. This is being led by the National Trust. The project if successful at application stage would be likely to start in January 2019 and continue for a period of 5 years. This project is not yet in delivery.
- 2.6 A £90,000 match funding cash contribution was approved from the strategic fund for the Grazier project which is being submitted to the HLF as part of the Changing Chalk bid. This is being led by the National Trust. The project if successful at application stage would be likely to start in January 2019 and continue for a period of 5 years. This project is not yet in delivery.

3. Non-major projects

- 3.1 In addition to the Major Projects there are an additional 3 remaining projects underway that are funded from the strategic fund and an additional 12 projects underway funded from direct means like E.ON and Core Budgets. One project was closed this year.
- 3.2 The table below sets out the current position of the Strategic Fund. The Annual budget has been updated to reflect the [budget](#) set in March 2018 and the future resources assumptions on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

	Actual Budget 2017-18	Budget 2018-19	Budget 2019-20	Budget 2020-21	Budget 2021-22
Annual Budget (£)	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000
Additional Budget (£)*	75,000	0	0	0	0
Funding from General Reserves (£)**	75,000	79,000	0	0	0
Budget Carried forward (£)***	356,352	497,389	582,793	664,350	814,135
Total Budget (£)	726,352	796,389	802,793	884,350	1,034,135
Requirement for funding (£)	228,963	213,596	138,443	70,215	15,715
Actual / Estimated funding available (£)	497,389	582,793	664,350	814,135	1,018,420

*An additional £75,000 was allocated to 2017/2018 to fund the Centurion Way project as approved at Policy & Programme Committee January 2017;

**Includes additional allocation of £75,000 in 2017/18 towards Centurion Way project as approved the Authority in March 2017; and £79,000 contribution from the 2017/18 outturn variance as reported to Policy & Resources Committee in May 2018;

***The 2017-18 carried forward figure has been adjusted to remove projects outside of the Strategic Fund.

4. **Rampion S106 projects**

4.1 The Rampion Board, approved 4 projects in 2017-2018 to be funded from the Rampion S106 fund to a total of £91,123. The fund has a total of £242,500 leaving a balance of £151,377 for future projects. The approved projects include:

- £29,000 on the Truleigh Hill YHA (an additional £20,000 has also been put towards this project from the National grid)
- £21,320 on Longlands Wood Sustainable coppicing project
- £21,803 on Beggars Bush walking route; and
- £19,000 on Heritage Coast interpretation

5. **Sustainable Communities Fund**

5.1 The SDNPA, through the SCF, has spent £24,225 (with a committed total of £74,902) on 16 new sustainable community projects across the National Park. A list of these projects for 2017-18, their match funding and geographical spread can be found in Appendix 2 along with a summary of the financial position of the fund. The uncommitted SCF budget for 2017-18 was £174,000 comprising £20,000 allocated from the budget and a carry forward of £154,000.

6. **Local Projects**

6.1 In addition to the above budgets there is a local project budget held and used by the four Area Teams. It is used in one of two ways, either as financial support for action by a community or land manager, or to pay for direct SDNPA interventions where this would not otherwise occur. Projects include restoration or enhancement of the landscape and its biodiversity, cultural heritage, interpretation and management and improvement of access.

6.2 49 projects were funded during 2017-18 at a cost of £100,315. A list of these projects, their match funding and geographical spread can be found in **Appendix 3**. Case studies showcasing these projects are produced on a regular basis and are available on the intranet for Members to view.

7. **P&R Committee Considerations**

7.1 The [mid-year review of major projects and the SCF](#) was reported to the Policy & Resources Committee meeting in November 2017.

8. **Other Implications**

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	No
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	Annual funding for the Strategic Fund, Sustainable Communities Fund and Local Projects are approved as part of the budget setting process. Funding for the 2017-18 financial year and future years resource assumptions have been approved by the National Park Authority. The year-end project budget position and future funding resource implications have been covered within the main body of the report. In addition, the cost of exiting officer time to support the project will be funded from existing service budgets.
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 this Committee. Projects are evaluated individually for value for money when they finish. This is reported regularly to the Policy and Resources Committee.
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	No
Has due regard 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. It is a requirement that funding provided to third parties is utilised in a way that is compliant with the Authority's enhanced equalities duty
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.

9. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

9.1 There are no significant risks associated with the subject matter of this report. All projects funded from the Strategic Fund have their own risk registers, which are monitored regularly.

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 this Committee on projects and the budget available
Reputational risk if we are unable to provide cash match funding for some of our larger projects	Possible	Moderate	Work to generate income for the South Downs National Park and also potentially for the SDNPA. A robust monitoring and project approval system and regular reporting to this

			Committee on projects and the budget available
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Appendices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview of major projects 2. Overview of other projects 3. SCF map and budget summary 4. Local Project Map and table of local projects
SDNPA Consultees	Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management; Director of Planning; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Legal Services, Business Service Manager, Governance and Support Services Manager, Operational Management Team
External Consultees	None
Background Documents	Mid year project update November 2017 – report to P&P Policy and Resources Committee May 2018 Grazier and Dew Pond project report to Policy and Resources Committee March 2018 Policy and Programme Committee January 2017 Authority Committee March 2017