

Report to	Policy & Resources Committee
Date	18 July 2019
By	Project Management Officer
Title of Report Note	Annual review of Strategic Fund, Projects, the Sustainable Communities Fund and Ranger Project Support

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

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

1. Summary and Background

- 1.1 This report provides the year-end report of projects delivered within 2018-2019 and provides an overview of the year end position of the Strategic Fund (SF). The Committee is asked to receive this information in accordance with its terms of reference which are to exercise oversight of the Strategic Fund.
- 1.2 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 £2,000 - £10,000; although the power to make the decision remains with the Director of Countryside and Policy Management.
- 1.3 In addition, the report provides an overview of the local or Ranger projects supported by Area Teams from locally held budgets.
- 1.4 A summary of the S106 and CIL projects will be provided in the September P&R committee within the Planning summary report.

2. Strategic Fund Position

- 2.1 The table below sets out the position of the Strategic Fund at the end of Quarter 4. 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 2018-19	Budget 2019-20	Budget 2020-21	Budget 2021-22	Budget 2022-23
Annual Budget (£)	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000
Carry Forward from projects setup in 2017/2018	90,803	100,069 carried forward from 2018/2019			
Additional Funding agreed at P&R committee 25/05/2018 for underspends at year end 17/18	79,000				
Budget Carried forward (£)	406,586	689,727	554,185	703,970	908,255
Total Budget (£)	796,389	909,727	774,185	923,970	1,128,255
Requirement for funding (£)	106,662	355,542	70,215	15,715	15,715
Actual / Estimated funding available (£)	689,727	554,185	703,970	908,255	1,112,540

3. Projects

- 3.1 A total of 13 new projects were started in 2018-2019. Five projects were closed during this period. A total of £208,000 was approved for 10 different projects in 2018-2019 and 8 of these are now in delivery (2 projects are on hold awaiting further funding awards). Table I.1 overleaf shows the overall summary of projects approved in 2018-2019 and funding source.
- 3.2 During 2018-2019 we worked on delivering over 34 projects in total, including the newly approved projects and closed ones as outlined above. The progress for these projects was documented in the quarterly reports to P&R committee with the latest one for Quarter 4 projects in delivery presented at this P&R committee.
- 3.3 Detail on all our projects in delivery at the end of Quarter 4 are contained in the P&R Tableau dashboards and the associated P&R committee report.
- 3.4 There are two worksheets on this Tableau Dashboard. Which are shown in **Appendix I** of the Quarter 4 P&R report,

SPLIT of Awarded Funds for Projects in 2018-2019 £	Number of Projects	
Strategic Fund	208,000	10*
Core Budget	50,000	1
Rampion	84000	1
Live projects	355,280	11
On-Hold	75,000	2

Table I.1 Summary of Number and Funding Source of Projects Approved in 2018-2019

* Projects approved from strategic fund in 2018-2019 include:

- Beacon Hub - £40,000
- Archaeology on the Edge £6,000
- Egrets Way Phase 4/5 £60,000
- Petersfield Museum £10,000
- Bringing Back the Elms £20,000
- Maunder Maps £6,000
- The Inn Crowd £16,000
- Bluebell Community Group £35,000
- Sussex Modern £15,000

4. Sustainable Communities Fund

- 4.1 The SDNPA, through the SCF, has committed £44,728 on 14 new sustainable community projects across the National Park. A dashboard showing these projects for 2018-19 as well as the historic locations and detail of previous years funding can be found in the SCF Dashboard in Tableau. PDF's of the two dashboard views are saved in **Appendix I**.

The link to the SCF Dashboard in Tableau is:

https://public.tableau.com/views/SCFdashboard/SCFProjectLocation?:embed=y&:display_count=yes&:origin=viz_share_link

- 4.2 At its meeting on the 16 October 2018 the National Park Authority agreed to transfer the Sustainable Communities Fund along with its remaining balance to South Downs National Park Trust. The Trust is fundraising to match the amount transferred by the Authority in order to invest approximately £200,000 into an endowment. A portion of the return from the endowment will be used to run the annual grants programme whilst the remainder is reinvested so that the endowment can grow and, in time, offer more funding than would have been possible through the Authority alone. Both the Authority and the Trust will be recognised as founding patrons of the fund in perpetuity.

5. Ranger Projects

- 5.1 In addition to the above budgets there is a local project budget held and used by the four Area Teams for Ranger projects. 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.
- 5.2 During 2018-2019 over 135 Ranger projects were completed at a cost of £197,277. A list of these projects and their location can be found in the Ranger Dashboard in Tableau. PDF's of the dashboard is saved in **Appendix 2**.

The link to the Ranger Dashboard in Tableau is:

https://public.tableau.com/shared/2FYBZQ22S?:display_count=yes&:origin=viz_share_link

6. 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 2018-19 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.
How does the proposal represent	Implications of this report in itself do not raise an issue of

Value for Money?	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.
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.

7. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

7.1 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

1. SCF Dashboard
2. Ranger Dashboard

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

Quarter 4 P&R Report Paper 2018-2019

