

Report to	<b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee</b>
Date	<b>26 September 2019</b>
By	<b>Performance and Research Lead</b>
Title of Report (Decision)	<b>Quarter I Corporate Performance Report 2019/20</b>

**Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to::**

- 1) Receive and Note the Quarter I Corporate Performance report**
- 2) Consider whether it wishes to make any recommendations to Officers arising from the report**

**I. Introduction**

- 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 the Authority’s performance during Quarter I 2019/20.

**2. Performance Reporting**

- 2.1 For an overview of performance for each of the four objectives in the Corporate Plan, see the Excel spreadsheet: **Corporate Performance report QI 2019-20**. Members will note that this format follows that introduced by the Performance and Research Lead in 2018/19. Key data (where applicable), commentary, a RAG status and next steps or potential risks is noted for each **key priority** or area of **core work**
- 2.2 Members should note that where **projects** are mentioned in the Corporate Performance report, these will be reported separately by the Project Management Officer in her project update. Exceptions to this are: the Arun Valley Vision project; delivering a landscape scale chalk project; delivering a landscape scale pollinator project; working up project proposals for the River Rother, Friston Forest and Portsmouth Water catchment area; delivery of social prescribing projects, and implementing the John Muir project to increase use of the National Park by hard to reach families. These will be reported on later in 2019/20 and so are not shown in the spreadsheet for QI
- 2.3 In general, good progress towards achieving our performance objectives is being made across the board, with **34** of the 45 key priorities or areas of core work achieving **green RAG status** for **performance**, showing that the work is on track

2.4 The table below and overleaf lists the nine areas of work with an **amber RAG status for performance**, where our work has fallen slightly behind schedule, and the reason for this:

Corporate Plan objective	Key priority, project or core work	What we will do	Reason for <u>performance</u> amber status
<p><u>Objective 1:</u> We will develop strategies and support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver our first objective to conserve wildlife, the natural beauty of the landscape and cultural heritage - a thriving living landscape</p>	<p><u>Key priority:</u> Establish the South Downs as a nature recovery network</p>	<p>Publish the South Downs GI Framework and implement a programme of work</p>	<p>The Southern People &amp; Nature Network (formerly SD GI Framework) document is currently being refreshed with a view to publishing the Principles and Evidence base later in 2019</p>
	<p><u>Core work:</u> Maintain heritage assets</p>	<p>Agree action plan for implementing recommendations for scheduled ancient monuments and non-designated assets</p>	<p>Historic England currently processing information provided by ranger teams in 2018 as part of piloting monitoring and recording work</p>
	<p><u>Core work:</u> Maintain International Dark Sky Reserve Management Plan</p>	<p>Maintain key IDA requirements for the Reserve (e.g. mapping, events, annual reporting, planning)</p>	<p>No updated mapping undertaken – to happen later in the year</p>
	<p><u>Core work:</u> Tranquillity mapping</p>	<p>Set up a citizen science project to refresh the existing tranquillity map</p>	<p>In process of recruiting Parish volunteers</p>
<p><u>Objective 2:</u> We will develop strategies, support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver our second objective to promote understanding and enjoyment through volunteering &amp; learning, high quality access management and providing information and events - people connected to places</p>	<p><u>Core work:</u> Improve visitor information on the website</p>	<p>Update the Discovery Map and make it more prominent</p>	<p>Major improvements are planned for the website later in 2019, including updating the Discovery Map</p>

<p><u>Objective 3:</u> We will develop strategies, support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver our third objective to build sustainable communities which are engaged and shaping their environment and supporting sustainable businesses and tourism - towards a sustainable future</p>	<p><u>Key priority:</u> Improve the visitor experience</p>	<p>Improve the SDNP website to deliver business support for the visitor economy and rural enterprise</p>	<p>Major improvements are planned for the website later in 2019, including delivering business support</p>
<p><u>Objective 4:</u> We will develop strategies, support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver our fourth objective to be a confident and secure organisation exercising effective influence delivering shared outcomes through excellent customer service, providing value for money and generating income to support our work</p>	<p><u>Key priority - Our services:</u> Improve performance reporting and project management</p>	<p>Provide improved performance reporting on the SDNPA website</p>	<p>Waiting for the website to be updated before this can be progressed</p>
	<p><u>Key priority - Our services:</u> Make improvements to the SDNPA website</p>	<p>Embed the revised project management process across the SDNPA</p>	<p>Three projects have been through the new approval process and of these only 1 has so far produced a delivery plan equating to 33%.</p>
		<p>Review and implement relevant recommendations from the Citizens Panel online community work</p>	<p>Major improvements are planned for the website later in 2019, incorporating some of the recommendations from the citizens panel</p>

2.5 The table below lists the two areas of work with a **red RAG status for performance**, where our work has fallen behind schedule and the reasons for this:

<b>Corporate Plan objective</b>	<b>Key priority, project or core work</b>	<b>What we will do</b>	<b>Reason for <u>performance red status</u></b>
<u>Objective 3:</u> We will develop strategies, support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver our third objective to build sustainable communities which are engaged and shaping their environment and supporting sustainable businesses and tourism - towards a sustainable future	<u>Key priority:</u> Position the National Park as a sustainable tourism destination	Develop a sustainable tourism network for providers within the South Downs National Park	We are first planning to undertake a survey in January 2020. This will identify providers to form the network.
	<u>Core work:</u> Neighbourhood planning	Continue to share best practice inside and outside the National Park to fully utilise and develop the neighbourhood planning team	In the process of recruiting to the role to take this work forwards

2.6 In most instances, there is no RAG status for **budget**. The three exceptions are in the table below and overleaf with the RAG status and explanation where the budget RAG status is amber:

<b>Corporate Plan objective</b>	<b>Key priority, project or core work</b>	<b>What we will do</b>	<b><u>Budget RAG status</u></b>	<b>Reason for amber status</b>
<u>Objective 2:</u> We will develop strategies, support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver our second objective to promote understanding and enjoyment through volunteering & learning, high quality access management and providing information and events - people connected to places	<u>Core work:</u> Selected improvements to the existing network	I. Complete improvements to the South Downs Way funded by the Mend Our Way campaign	Green	N/A

<p><b>Objective 3:</b> We will develop strategies, support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver our third objective to build sustainable communities which are engaged and shaping their environment and supporting sustainable businesses and tourism - towards a sustainable future</p>	<p><b>Key priority:</b> Increase delivery of affordable housing</p>	<p>Operation of the Authority's affordable housing grant scheme and continued prioritisation of (free) planning advice for affordable housing schemes</p>	<p>Green</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p><b>Project:</b> Deliver a robust planning framework</p>	<p>Adopt the Local Plan summer 2019</p>	<p>Amber</p>	<p>Planning Inspectorate (PINS) invoice came in £20K above projected budget</p>

### 3. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
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. In addition, 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
Have you taken regard 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 organisational performance, no specific issues arise.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	No
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the	No

proposal?	
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	No
Are there any Data Protection implications?	No
Are there any sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy:	No, not directly although during development of the Corporate Plan, sustainability issues are included as part of the process.

#### 4. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

4.1 Robust corporate planning and monitoring of performance are part of the mitigations for our corporate risk as detailed in the table below:

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.

**Tanya Hibberd**

#### **PERFORMANCE AND RESEARCH LEAD**

#### **South Downs National Park Authority**

Contact Officer: Tanya Hibberd

Tel: 01730 819220

email: [tanya.hibberd@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:tanya.hibberd@southdowns.gov.uk)

Appendices I. Appendix I: Corporate Performance report Q1 2019-20

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 [Corporate Plan 2019/20](#)