

Report to	South Downs National Park Authority
Date	19 December 2019
By	Landscape and Biodiversity Lead (Water)
Title of Report Decision	Approval of ChaMP 2 (Chalk Management Partnership) Project

Recommendation: The Authority is recommended to

- 1. Approve the involvement of the South Downs National Park Authority in the ChaMP 2 project (2020-2025);**
- 2. Approve the allocation of £100,000 from the Strategic Fund, to be allocated as a contribution of £20,000 per year for the five years of the project.**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report outlines the ChaMP 2 (Chalk Management Partnership) project and seeks the support of the National Park Authority for involvement in the project and approval of project funding.
- 1.2 The ChaMP 1 Project began 5 years ago with a major focus on interventions to reduce the potential for the contamination of groundwater in the Brighton Chalk block. This has been successful, especially in terms of agricultural practice in the rural environment, but many projects are longer term and are still being developed and delivered (for example, Wild Park Rain garden).
- 1.3 ChaMP 2 will have a much wider focus looking at multiple ecosystem service benefits, an overall strategy for the chalk block including green infrastructure, nature recovery networks and climate change issues (especially soil carbon).
- 1.4 The ChaMP 2 project will continue the good work undertaken so far by the ChaMP 1 project and create a more sustainable approach. Three major partners, Environment Agency, Southern Water and Brighton and Hove City Council have already committed to this second stage. Full details of the ChaMP 2 project are set out in the Project Brief at **appendix 1**.
- 1.5 Members are asked to note that, whilst this report would normally have been presented the P&R committee prior to consideration by the NPA, in this case this has not been possible. Partners have now confirmed their commitment to the project and if the NPA delay their decision until February or March 2020, this will leave insufficient time before the project is due to start to ensure the necessary arrangements are in place.

2. Policy Context.

- 2.1 This project relates to several national drivers including drinking water standards, the Defra 25 year plan and the need to undertake works to mitigate for and adapt climate change. It contributes to the following PMP outcomes.
- 2.2 Outcome 1. The landscape character of the South Downs, its special qualities, natural beauty and local distinctiveness have been conserved and enhanced by avoiding or mitigating the negative impacts of development and cumulative change.
- 2.3 Outcome 2. There is increased resilience within the landscape for its natural resources, habitats and species to adapt to the impacts of climate change and other pressures.
- 2.4 Outcome 3. A thriving and connected network of habitats and increased population and distribution of priority species now exist in the National Park.
- 2.5 Outcome 8. More responsibility and action is taken by visitors, communities and businesses to conserve and enhance the special qualities and use resources more wisely

3. Issues for consideration

- 3.1 There are many benefits to this project but in terms of the National Park there are great opportunities to develop green infrastructure, networks for nature recovery and climate mitigation measures over and above ongoing resource protection work.
- 3.2 The continuation of the project has the support of several organisations, with funding and in kind commitments made.

4. Options & cost implications

- 4.1 Working in Partnership brings great benefits in terms of shared goals, collaboration and increased funding, including in kind contributions. The total direct cost to the Authority will be £100,000 (£20,000/year over 5 years). This cost will be met from the Authority's Strategic Fund.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 If approved, the ChaMP 2 project will commence in April 2020. In advance of this we will complete a collaborative agreement with partners and finalise a project delivery plan. As a 5 year project there will be a midterm evaluation and a final evaluation in year 5, and both will be presented to the Policy & Resources Committee. The evaluation of the ChaMP 1 project is nearing completion and a learning from this will be incorporated into this new project.
- 5.2 The project has received internal officer support from the Landscape and Biodiversity Theme Programme Board and SMT.

6. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	No.
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	<p>The proposal requests funding of £100,000 over 5 years to be met from the strategic fund. In addition there will be an element of staff time to assist in steering the project and overseeing implementation.</p> <p>At present the SDNPA hosts the project manager, if this arrangement continues then there will be no change in overheads in regard to IT and salary administration.</p>
How does the proposal	The requested SDNPA contribution would be matched by financial contributions from three other partners and additional in

represent Value for Money?	kind contributions. The project also has sought additional funding which includes monies from section 106 agreements and a large contribution from Highways England for the Wild Park Rainscape project (to be delivered in 2021).
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?	Yes. All of the partner organisations involved in the project have a duty to comply with the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act'). Whilst the project is predominately landscape based the community engagement elements of the project will delivered in a equalities compliant way including using accessible venues. Aspects of the project include linking areas of urban fringe designated as an area of multiple deprivation and linking the communities to the National Park, promoting inclusion.
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 Data Protection implications?	None.
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy?	The project work is based upon sound science and supporting research and monitoring work has been undertaken by the University of Brighton. The key basis of the project is sustainability of the landscape and the water supply and living within environmental limits.

7. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
1. Project underspend in specified financial year for restricted funding	Low	Medium	Manage Technical Delivery Programme to ensure expenditure within current financial year. Manage milestone prep and reporting with funders.
2. Unable to progress priority projects (funding, service infrastructure, maintenance issues,	Low	Medium	Proactive funding plan. Close partnership working, ensure timely investigations of infrastructure in target areas

partner engagement, public perception)			
3. Lack of wider engagement with partner organisations	Low	Medium	Ensure strategic level engagement within partners organisation, maintain ChaMP on relevant partner agendas, build up learning and expertise. Ensure partner coms specialists work together to plan and deliver key messages and impact.

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Appendices I. Project Brief.

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

External Consultees 'none'

Background Documents [EOI presentation to project board](#)
[Project Brief](#)