

Report to **Policy & Resources Committee**
Date **22 September 2022**
By **Performance and Projects Manager & Project Management Lead**
Title of Report **Q1 Corporate and Project Performance report 2022/23**

Note

Recommendation: Committee is recommended to:

I. Note the content of the Performance Report and highlight areas requiring further clarification or action

I. Introduction

- I.1 The SDNPA considers it important as a publicly accountable body, to monitor its performance. The Policy and Resources Committee has terms of reference which include *“To monitor and identify improvements arising from the outcomes and evaluation of projects identified by the Committee, audits, survey and other feedback and make recommendations as appropriate”* and *“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”*.
- I.2 A recent amendment to the P&R committee Terms of Reference requires that the committee now also: *“...have oversight of bids for grant funding including to receive updates on the submission of bids for grant funding and the application of grants funds received”*.
- I.3 Whilst the report calls on the committee to note the content of the performance report, the terms of reference for the committee include considering if the committee wishes to make any recommendations arising from its consideration of the report. Any such recommendations would be subject to a vote at the committee meeting.
- I.4 The purpose of this report is to update the Policy & Resources Committee on the Authority’s corporate and project performance during Quarter 1 (Q1) of 2022/23: 01 April to 30 June 2022.
- I.5 From Quarter 1 onwards, we will also provide Members with a quarterly update on the High Level Targets – see section 2 below.
- I.6 This report also provides Members with a progress update for the actions from the **Annual Governance Statement** and the **Human Resources and Health and Safety report** (see sections 12 and 13). It also updates Members on **Grant Funding** during Q1 (see section 9).
- I.7 At P&R committee on 25th November 2021, it was agreed that the corporate and project performance report would focus more on delivery against PMP outcomes. **We report** against PMP outcomes via the nine Corporate Plan priority areas (see overleaf for detail)

- 1.8 This Q1 report is structured around the nine priority areas proposed in the Corporate Plan action plan for 2022/23.
- 1.9 In this report, corporate and project performance information is being reported on together, rather than separately. See **Appendices 1 & 2 and the link at the end of the report to the Tableau dashboard** which provides more in depth project and performance information.
2. **Corporate Plan High-Level Targets (HLTs): quarterly progress update**
- **HLT1: To secure an additional 13,000ha, or 33% of land managed for nature by 2030 from a baseline of 25%.** Good progress is being made on this High-Level Target. Examples of work taking place in Q1, include the progression of 59 Call for Nature Sites (C4NS) EOIs. These initiatives are now with Area Teams and Strategy Leads to make contact with the various applicants and progress in a suitable manner. 31 sites are **Green** and are being progressed by a lead officer. This equates to approximately 3562ha.
- 2.1 Two bids from within the SDNP for the Landscape Recovery Scheme pilot were submitted by the 24th May Defra deadline. One of these, Lapwings and Landscapes: Nature Recovery in the Arun Valley, is a consortium of around 17 landowners from Pulborough down to the sea at Climping. The bid covers approx. 2,200ha and aims to create a mosaic of wetland habitats to provide a bigger, better and more joined up habitat for lapwings and other species.
- 2.2 **HLT2: Maintain, enhance and/or restore existing key sites, habitats and species.** The Biodiversity Monitoring Group has agreed with the Area teams to pilot some rapid habitat condition assessments during the summer months in 2022. One is **Biodiversity Metric 3**. This metric is being trialled as it has to be used by Planning to report on Biodiversity Net Gain and using one metric across the SDNP would be preferable. However, it may not be the most appropriate metric for the area teams to use so alternative assessments are also being trialled - such the Sussex Biodiversity Record centre Rapid Condition Assessment of Non Designated Lowland Calcareous Grassland. The Area Teams will report back on the suitability and reliability of the metrics being trialled in September 2022. The final metric(s) chosen will then lead to the definition of "good condition" for each of the four key habitat types in the winter.
- 2.3 **HLT3: South Downs National Park Authority to reduce its carbon footprint by 150 tonnes per annum in line with the 2030 net zero target.** Carbon Accounting will be completed at the end of the year for 2022 – in line with the methodology in use since 2019. Local off-setting opportunities are being explored.
- 2.4 **HLT4: 5% reduction per annum in the overall carbon footprint of the South Downs National Park from the baseline reported in 2019.** A carbon sequestration scheme on the Goodwood Estate, developed with support from the SDNPA and compliant with the woodland carbon code, has been approved as part of the 2021 Woodland Creation Scheme. There are other new woodland planting schemes in the pipeline. To ensure they are compliant with the woodland carbon code takes time and effort. In initial years the pace of new woodland planting may be slow - and annual targets hard to meet. However as experience accrues around applying the Code, this should start to "scale up".
- 2.5 **HLT5: Increase the diversity of visitors to, and those engaging with, the South Downs National Park.** Work is in hand to define and agree outcome measures for A National Park for All.
- 2.6 **HLT6: Devise impact measure for direct engagement.** Work is in hand to define and agree outcome measures for A National Park for All.

3. Priority area I: Nature Recovery

- 3.1 Two bids from within the SDNP were submitted for the 24th May Defra deadline for the Landscape Recovery Scheme pilot. Both bids are part of the wider Weald to Waves concept which has an aspiration of connecting Ashdown Forest to the sea.
- 3.2 In addition to the 'Lapwings and Landscapes: Nature Recovery in the Arun Valley' bid, 'The Adur Landscape Recovery Project' is led by the Knepp Wildland Foundation (Charity) and aims to connect land to sea with a collaborative approach to revitalising and restoring the River Adur as a corridor of riparian life. This bid is 766ha and has a partnership of 27 landowners.
- 3.3 QI has also seen the development of a 'Green financing' model with Palladium through the NPE and Revere Pilot study and business plan of renaturing 450 acres of Broadreed Farm, West Sussex.
- 3.4 18 projects that are working towards the Nature Recovery priority area have been delivered through the Landscape and Biodiversity Theme Programme Board in Q1. These include 15 ongoing projects and 3 projects that are now complete.

Ongoing projects:

- **Arun Vision:** this project is 60% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Changing Chalk - Dew Ponds:** this project is 5% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Changing Chalk - Grazier Post:** this project is 5% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Cut and collect:** this project is 45% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Floodplain Meadows in the Rother Valley:** this project is 70% complete and **green RAG**. A Further meeting of advisory steering group took place this quarter, with an excellent panel of experts ranging from botanists, geomorphologists and the floodplain meadows partnership, feeding into the repository of knowledge including the historical role of floodplain meadows. The guidance report is now in development, including the historic perspective.
- **Grandfathers Bottom, Butser Hill:** this project is 25% complete and **green RAG**. This project supports the objectives of the South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment through scrub removal to reframe views and draw the eye away from visually intrusive pylons to refocus on the dramatic topography of Butser Hill, the highest point on the South Downs chalk ridge. By enhancing the attractiveness of the car park and reducing its rather 'municipal' feel, the project helps to emphasise the strong sense of remoteness, tranquillity and the timeless quality of this dramatic landscape. This quarter, scrub clearance has taken place with volunteers at Hilhampton, and a new path has been created using a robo mower.
- **Greenspaces:** this project is 90% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Hampshire Hedgerows:** this project is 50% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Lullington Heath:** this project is 50% complete and **amber RAG**. The amber status is due to delays in the programme.
- **On Course to Flail:** this project is 75% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Rampion Monitoring:** this project is 40% complete and **green RAG**.
- **TAP:** this project is 50% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Watercress and Winterbournes:** this project is 25% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Wealden Heath SAMM:** this project is 26% complete and **green RAG**. The HeRe team of the SDNPA has now commenced delivery of the Provision of External Services for Strategic Access Management & Monitoring (SAMM) for the Wealden Heath Phase II Special Protection Area (SPA). This contract combines with the agreed extension of the Whitehill Town Council SAMM contract. The two contracts are delivered as one project, which provides a range of measures intended to mitigate impact from development on the Wealden Heath SPA sites that stagger the boundary of the NP. The aim of the project is to continue the legacy from the Heathlands Reunited project and promote landscapes people know about, care about and use responsibly and sustainably. During this quarter the team has expanded to include the appointment of seasonal Rangers. Work has started on a

number of access improvement measures. This has involved co-ordinating public messaging across the SPA where we have focused on raising the awareness of bird nesting season.

- **West Burton Stream:** this project is 50% complete and **amber RAG**. The amber status is due to awaiting planning permission.

Completed/closed projects:

- **Bringing back the ELMS:** this project is now complete and will be incorporated into the offer provided by the Trees for the Downs, managed by the South Downs Trust.
- **Channel Payments for Ecosystem Processes:** this project is complete. The project was a successful collaboration between a variety of partners in France and England. The main outcomes were a replicable PES scheme or schemes, a toolbox of interventions and supporting PES documents, engagement with specified groups and 20 policy recommendations. There is a good legacy from the project which means its findings can be replicated elsewhere. The final event for the project was held in Chichester in April.
- **We Love Yew Project:** this project is complete. This project has now entered into a monitoring phase, incorporating a research element, which will continue during the next 4 years. Annual deer habitat impact assessment will be undertaken to assess the impact of deer browsing outside deer exclosures and the increase of natural regeneration inside the exclosures. The first survey was carried out in April.

4. Priority area 2: Climate Action

- 4.1 The carbon sequestration scheme on the Goodwood Estate is the first scheme of this type in the SDNP and is a good case example of a woodland carbon project that can deliver emission reductions through nature based solutions. The scheme is predicted to sequester 14108 (tCO₂e) of carbon, and is now recorded on the UK Land Carbon Registry.

Details of the scheme are available on the UK Land Carbon register:

https://mer.markit.com/br-reg/public/project.jsp?project_id=104000000027212

- 4.2 5 projects are delivering against the climate action priority area through the Connecting People and Communities Theme Programme Boards in Q1.

Ongoing projects:

- **Ouse Valley Climate Action:** this project is 90% complete and **green RAG**.
- **PeCAN project:** this project is 45% complete and **green RAG**. Petersfield's first eco-fair took place on 17th July, with financial support from Petersfield Town Council and 3 East Hampshire District Councillors. The event celebrated earth friendly living and was well attended.
- **Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs) for Schools:** this project is 65% complete and **amber RAG**. Baseline ecological surveys have been completed this quarter at Wallands Primary School. Further construction has taken place at Wallands Primary School, with installation of trees, benches, stage and preparing of ground for next phase. We are awaiting planning permission for works to commence at Carden Primary School, which is the reason for the amber RAG rating.
- **WeCAN:** this project is 12% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Farm Carbon Project:** this project is 42% complete and **green RAG**. All 14 participating farms in the project have received reports detailing their soil analysis results and have created a carbon budget for their holding using the Farm Carbon Toolkit. These results represent a baseline from which to plan future improvements and measure change.

5. Priority area 3: A National Park for All

- 5.1 The SDNP Travel Grant Scheme is now fully allocated and applications have been closed. We have awarded 59 grants to the value of £35,028 which will benefit 4,392 young people through enabling them to participate in educational visits to the SDNP.

- 5.2 The South Downs Trust (SDT) submitted two applications this quarter that had EDI at the core of their proposals. The Downs to the Sea bid seeks to reach underserved audiences and connect them to their natural heritage, especially the water in their lives, to benefit their health and wellbeing and to help protect precious resources that are vital to our

communities. The Ouse Valley Climate Action bid seeks to focus bespoke support, in-depth help for community groups, guided activities for underserved audiences and tailored training for volunteers to build/release capacity and resilience in community climate projects in areas of greatest need.

- 5.3 21 projects that are working towards A National Park for All priority area were delivered through the Sustainable Access, Cultural Heritage and Connecting People and Communities Theme Programme Boards in Q1. These include 17 ongoing projects and 4 projects that are now complete.

Ongoing projects:

- **Archaeology Walks Programme:** this project is 50% complete and **green RAG**. In April, 4 walks were led in the South Downs at some of our most iconic archaeological sites: Cissbury Ring, The Caburn, Bignor Hill and Chanctonbury. The walks were led by a noted archaeologist and were offered for free to participants. The walks were well attended and positive feedback was received, including that they were informative and organised. Further walks are being planned for October.
- **Artist in Residence SSCP Heritage Coast:** this project is 65% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Artscape 2 (Timescape):** this project is 80% complete and **green RAG**. Timescape had their end of project exhibition in on early August at Petersfield Museum where SDNPA worked successfully in partnership with Artscape, Butser Ancient Farm and Weald and Downland Museum over an 18 month period. The exhibition showcased all the amazing and truly inspirational work created in situ at each of the outdoor museums focusing on the time periods and artesian techniques of each site. Quote from participant: *'This project has changed my life and allowed me to connect with others and be inspired by the places and creative techniques we learnt. Thank you'*. (participant)
- **Beggars Bush Walk For All, Community Nature Area:** this project is 10% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Communities in the South Downs:** this project is 33% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Community Wanderings:** this project is 50% complete and **green RAG**. Community Wanderings with Saira Niazi has been taking small groups of people (predominantly from London) into the South Downs. Participants have limited to no experience of visiting countryside and so far, all have been first time visitors to the South Downs. Saira uses storytelling as a way to engage the participants, encouraging people to share connections to nature and landscape across faiths and cultures. Drawing on the rich heritage of the South Downs, and telling stories often under-told about a landscape of migrating people, species and ideas, also opens up rural spaces for new visitors to find meaning and belonging. The project will continue to deliver walks into the summer.
- **Egrets Way- Phase 5:** this project is 85% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Egrets Way- Phase 6:** this project is 40% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Footsteps App:** this project is 5% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Iron Age Build at Butser:** this project is 15% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Miles without Stiles:** this project is 90% complete and **green RAG**. The SDNP has paths & routes to suit all abilities and interests, making the South Downs the most accessible of all National Parks. This project provides and promotes Miles without Stiles experiences without steps, stiles or steep gradients. Although these paths are billed as being for people with limited mobility, they have a wide appeal. In addition to wheelchair users they are ideal for families, the elderly and people with visual impairment. Work is now underway to create digital walking route and a downloadable PDF for the Iping Common Snakelet which will become the latest in the Miles without Stiles series.
- **Project Thrive (Allen Gallery):** this project is 0% complete and **green RAG**. In February 2022 the Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) submitted an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a development phase grant for the Allen Gallery in Alton. The proposed programme included Project Thrive as a way to engage young people in the development plans for the venue, link the garden and outside space with the plans and to also expand the links to the surrounding area, with the South Downs National Park key to this. The HCT received the positive news that their application was successful. They will oversee the

engagement elements of the project and will begin to shape and develop the project and partnerships with young organisations this autumn, with delivery due to start in March 23

- **Seaford Head: Archaeological Investigation (Phase I):** this project is 85% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Setting the Standard:** this project is 15% complete and **green RAG**. Historic England are supporting a National Trust and SDNPA initiative to develop, test, trial and launch guidance and toolkits to support improved monitoring and recording of Scheduled Monuments in the National Park. The guidance has the potential to act as a national blueprint, and will ensure a consistent approach is established, including data sharing and collection protocols, terminology and templates. The inclusion of 'how to' guides (including, it is hoped, video guidance) will also enable landowners, land managers, ecologists, local communities and special interest groups to take the initiative when it comes to monitoring and engagement, and ensure better planning in projects that include Scheduled Monuments. The guidance may support farmers when considering and monitoring FiPL submissions and may also be of use in the development of Whole Estate Plans.
- **Shifting the Gaze (extended):** this project is 5% complete and **green RAG**.
- **The Forest: Stop Gap Dance:** this project is 30% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Wriggle Room:** this project is 10% complete and **green RAG**. From May 2022, Towner will deliver an early years programme with pre-school children. Although delivery is focused on pre-school children, the aim is to engage families from target communities in and around Eastbourne through a partnership with Willingdon Trees Community Centre in Hampden Park. Creative sessions, called *Wriggle Room*, will be delivered by two artists and will use sensory learning. The project will use the Willingdon Trees and Towner gallery venues to test new approaches that bring families from different backgrounds together. The project will also draw on Towner's collections and Eastbourne's unique natural landscape as inspiration for creative activities.

Completed/closed projects:

- **Dark Night Skies activity packs:** this project is complete.
- **Newhaven Travel Hub:** this project is complete.
- **Notes to Self:** this project is complete. The aim of the project was to connect new audiences to rural locations and specific circular walks across South Downs National Park, and support health and wellbeing of those experiencing physical and mental health issues, loneliness and isolation and COVID anxiety. Participants produced postcards to promote local walks further in the community and are being distributed locally in community centres, notice boards and at local SDNPA pop up events.
- **Stop a minute:** this project is complete. This was a project that celebrates the folk stories of Hampshire and which encourages people to 'Stop a Minute' to experience the unusual and unexpected in the outdoors, which has launched at Queen Elizabeth Country Park (QECP). The woven sculpture of a giant's head has been created by the landscape artist Mark Ford of Two Circles Design. The head reflects the story of Ascapart, a legendary Hampshire Giant whose myth grew (along with his stature) since at least the 14th century, associating him with stories set in both Southampton and Arundel. The unexpected piece of art provides a space for play and enjoyment, and has connected to an earlier installation at QECP known as the Giant's Chair, but predominantly plays on the wider folklore of the South Downs associated with giants.

6. Priority area 4: Rural Economy

- 6.1 In Q1 we completed the creation of Our South Downs (OSD), the new business network for likeminded businesses in and around the SDNP. The completed platform was first tested by the Business Focus Group (BFG) and then successfully launched to the public through a Comms team press release on 19th May 2022. During the first three weeks of operational 'go live' the platform has built a member base of 82 and increased its newsletter subscribers to 666.
- 6.2 4 projects that are working towards the Nature Recovery priority area were have been delivered through the Sustainable Economy and Tourism Theme Programme Board in Q1.

Ongoing projects:

- **South Downs Hub at Seven Sisters Country Park:** this project is 10% complete and **amber RAG**. The Pump Barn at Seven Sisters is now licenced for serving and supply of alcohol, plays, dance, film, recorded & live music.
- **Our South Downs:** the setting up of this project is now complete, and it's now ongoing and **green RAG**. The initiative has now launched, which will allow businesses and other organisations to connect with each other, share services and products, and work together towards sustainability.
- **Green South Downs:** this project is 35% complete and **green RAG**
- **Phase 2 Signage:** this project is 100% complete and **green RAG**. Two completed signs have unfortunately been destroyed by motor vehicle collisions. These will need to be replaced and will hopefully be funded through the insurance of the drivers. Maintenance works are now needed to the Phase 1 signs as some are missing letters. This work will be carried out during Q2.

7. Priority area 5: Seven Sisters Country Park

- 7.1 During Q1 the Phase I construction works for the Seven Sisters Country Park were officially completed. This marks a distinctive part in the development of the country park largely focused at Exceat. The Phase I works includes a completed new visitor centre layout, heating and log burner. A new grab and go and trailer in the south car park for takeaway refreshments. A newly refurbished ranger office, improved public realm areas including restricted vehicle bollards to improve pedestrian safety, cycle stands and maintenance area. And a new toilet block providing a changing places facility, baby changing, disabled toilets and 22 unisex cubicles.
- 7.2 The final Phase I works completing in Q2 are the Dairy Barn which has completed the construction works and is awaiting final approval of Health and Safety tests before it opens as offices and facilities for staff at the end of August.
- 7.3 A new Phase Ia construction programme starts in Q2 with a dominant focus on the Facilities Block and Foxhole cottages to enable a good accommodation offer for the Country Park. The Phase Ia works include the successful SELEP grant funding and remaining balance of budget money from Phase I works. Other works for Phase Ia include the consent and M&E planning for the pump barn improvements as well as development into a South Downs Hub. The Phase Ia works are due for completion by the end of December 2022 at the end of Q3.

8. Priority area 6: Delivering the Statutory Planning Service

- 8.1 NPA approved starting work on the Local Plan Review (LPR) at its May meeting. Letters went out to all the parish and town councils to let them know about the LPR and reviews of Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs). We are encouraging parish councils to work with us on the Local Plan Review rather than do their own Community Development Plan (CDP) reviews.

9. Priority area 7: Major Projects

- 9.1 We continue to effectively and efficiently operate all processes and systems for incoming and outgoing monies related to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 legal agreements. CIL has collected £773,021.26 so far this year and has spent £264,699.27 (from allocations in previous years). S106 has collected £64,931.46 and spent £250,160.96
- 9.2 450 projects have been assessed for inclusion in the 2022 IBP. This quarter, CIL projects money has been spent on include new play and outdoor education facilities, highway improvement schemes, a SuDs project at Wallands School in Lewes and improvements to recreation grounds. S106 projects money has been spent on cycleways, a pavilion extensions, footpath improvements, affordable housing and nitrate monitoring.

10. Priority area 8: Generating Income

- 10.1 In the first quarter of 22/23 the Income Generation team has secured £555,810, with almost 4.8 million of warm bids outstanding. This includes the two significant lottery bids, Ouse Valley Cares and Downs to the Sea, which have now been submitted as full applications. New funding has been secured for our Private Finance work, the establishment of a new route connecting the town of Eastbourne to the Downs and improvements to access routes linking to the Egrets Way.
- 10.2 Between April – June 2022 (Q1 2022), the Income Generation and Marketing Team progressed seven applications totalling £6,596,906 (5 of these were new bids, 2 were full bid). Of these, two have been successful, two have been unsuccessful and two are awaiting decision. One of the disappointments came from our DEFRA landscape recovery application, focused on a substantive nature recovery project in the Arun Valley. However, our application scored highly with us placed at second on the reserve list and encouraged to resubmit to the second round (suggested as opening in March).
- 10.3 The following applications that had a final outcome at the time of the last report (i.e. unsuccessful or funding secured or in delivery) have been removed from the main table at 10.4.

Funder & Scheme	Project	Status	Value
DEFRA - Green Recovery Challenge Fund	Downs to the Sea - Water restoration project	Unsuccessful	£1,000,000
DEFRA - Green Recovery Challenge Fund	Restoring Hampshire Hedgerows - Hedgerow Restoration Project	Funding secured and in delivery	£150,000
Changing Places Funding	Seven Sisters Improvements	Funding secured and in delivery	£20,000
Coast to Capital Natural Capital Grant Round	South Holt Farm Private Finance Pilot	Successful.	£65,000
Woolfson Foundation	Seven Sisters Improvements	Funding secured and in delivery	£70,000

- 10.4 In line with the new proposals agreed at Policy & Resources Committee; full applications after that point have been shared with the Committee Chair. Trust activity for this report is unavailable due to holidays, but will be update to the next P and R meeting.

Funder & Scheme	Project	Status	Value
Landscape Enhancement Initiative	Ebernoe and Butcherlands Landscape Enhancement Scheme	Submitted in late March 2022. Still awaiting decision.	£123,293

Lottery Communities Fund	Ouse Valley Climate Action	Awaiting final decision subject to conditions	£2,022,000
Lewes District Council CIL	Ouse Valley Footpath Improvements	Successful. Project due to start soon.	£35,000
Lewes District Council CIL	Cliff Gardens (Seaford Community Partnership)	Successful.	£56,000
Landscape Recovery Pilots	Lapwings and Landscapes: Nature recovery in the Arun Valley	Unsuccessful, but project on reserve list.	£500,000
National Lottery Heritage Fund	Downs to the Sea	Awaiting decision in mid-late September.	£1,418,906
Biffa Award 25 Years Award	Magnificent Seven: Seven Sisters capital works	EOI unsuccessful.	£2,500,000
Shared Prosperity Fund (Various Councils)	South Downs Way connecting Towns to the Downs	Awaiting decision, timescales unclear	£50,000 to 75,000
Shared Prosperity Fund (Eastbourne District Council)	South Downs Way connecting Towns to the Downs	Successful. Awaiting further details from funder.	£50,000

11. Priority area 9: New Ways of Working

11.1 Work is underway to develop the blended working survey to be sent to all staff. This is due to be launched in early autumn and the outcomes analysed during Q3. Work is also underway to deliver changes to the PDR process by Q4 pending the outcome of staff changes.

12. Project Performance Reporting: Strategic Fund Implications

12.1 The Strategic Fund has been closed to new project funding applications since the start of Q3 2021/22. Therefore there is no change to the strategic fund balance as presented to Members in the Q2 Performance and Project report.

12.2 The Theme Programme Boards were awarded a £300,000 budget for specific project delivery in respect of our PMP outcomes for 2021/2022, which in addition to carried over funding provided a budget of £512,905. A total of £238,550 had been allocated to projects by the end of Q1.

13. Annual Governance Statement

- 13.1 The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2021/22 detailed 5 actions for 2022/23. These will be monitored throughout 2022/23 and reported on quarterly. See Appendix 2 for progress on the Annual Governance Statement actions for Q1.

14. Human Resources & Health and Safety

- 14.1 The Human Resources & Health and Safety paper for 2021/22 detailed 8 actions for 2022/23. These will be monitored throughout 2022/23 and reported on quarterly. See Appendix 3 for progress on the Human Resources and Health and Safety actions for Q1.

15. Other implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	It will be the case that, as per the standing orders and the terms of reference for this Committee, projects will come forward for approval in due course.
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	There are no direct resource implications to this report, as the recommendations are for receive and review only. This report reports a position for projects in delivery at the end of Quarter 1, which includes projects funded from the Strategic Fund, which is funded from approved budgets.
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	Value for money for individual projects is assessed at the development stage, midway through a project and at the end, through an evaluative process that is reported to this Committee. Setting aside a fund to support projects represents a positive return on investment as it enables projects to go ahead which might not otherwise
Which PMP Outcomes/ Corporate plan objectives does this deliver against	We have listed in the report and appendices which PMP outcomes and corporate plan objectives our corporate and project work link to
Links to other projects or partner organisations	N/A
How does this decision contribute to the Authority's climate change objectives	Please see the Climate Action section of this report which sets out high level targets around climate action.
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 - Priority area three outlines the projects that have a specific focus on encouraging all people including those with protected characteristics to engage with and access the National Park. Projects across all priority areas are subject to an equalities impact assessment at the appropriate stage of their development and are monitored and adjusted accordingly. Any issues identified are highlighted within this report.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the	

Implication	Yes*/No
proposal?	
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
<p>Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>No, not directly although during the development of the Corporate Plan, sustainability issues are included as part of the process. All projects will contribute positively to some extent to the delivery of Partnership Management Plan outcomes, all of which are aimed at delivering sustainability. We also consider sustainability issues as part of our project approval process.</p>

16. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

16.1 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.
There may be some risks to our reputation if we are unable to provide match funding for some of our larger projects. This would also potentially reduce the types of funding we were able to apply for.	Possible	Moderate	The main mitigation for this is to keep close scrutiny of the Strategic Fund and apply a rigorous prioritisation process when approving those projects that commit the SDNPA to significant funding over a number of years. Further mitigation for this risk is the work that will be carried out to generate income for the South Downs National Park and also potentially for the SDNPA.

Anne Rehill, Performance and Projects Manager & Liz Gent, Project Management Lead, South Downs National Park Authority

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Appendices

1. QI Corporate performance 2022-23
2. QI 2022-23 Annual Governance Statement update
3. QI 2022-23 Human Resources & Health and Safety update

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

External Consultees
 None

Background Documents
[Corporate Plan 2020-25 year 3 action plan.](#)

Tableau Dashboard Link for QI Report:
https://public.tableau.com/views/PRProjectsDashboardQI202223/ProgrammeandRAGstatus?:language=en-GB&publish=yes&:display_count=n&:origin=viz_share_link