

AGENDA ITEM 11 REPORT NPA23/24-26 APPENDIX 1
REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25

Revenue Budget 2024/25 balanced to National Park Grant

Revenue Budget 2023/24 Original Budget (Net) £'000	Service Area	2024/25 Revenue Budget						
		2024/25 Adjust' Core Budget*	2024/25 Core Commit-ments	2024/25 Savings	2024/25 Other Adjust-ments	2024/25 Core Budget	2024/25 Short-Term Commit-ments	2024/25 Total Net Budget
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
3,857	Corporate Strategy	4,285	99	(19)	0	4,365	(348)	4,017
0	Corporate Strategy – Seven Sisters Country Park	7	(6)	0	0	1	0	1
2,196	Countryside Policy & Management	2,555	97	(6)	0	2,646	120	2,766
3,719	Planning Services	3,653	8	(30)	0	3,631	2	3,633
9,769	Net Cost of Services	10,500	198	(55)	0	10,643	(226)	10,417
(10,486)		National Park Grant						(10,486)
717		Contribution to / (from) Reserves						69
0		Net Authority Budget						0

The table may have minor visual roundings.

Total Revenue Budget 2024/25 Subjective Analysis by Service Areas (includes all sources of expenditure against all income streams)

2023/24 Original Budget (Net) £'000	Service Area	2024/25 Revenue Budget					2024/25 Budgeted Staff FTE
		Employee Costs	Other Expend-iture	Total Expend-iture	Total Income	Total Net Budget	
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
3,857	Corporate Strategy	2,476	2,098	4,574	(557)	4,017	45.32
0	Corporate Strategy – Seven Sisters Country Park	369	102	471	(470)	1	9.36
2,193	Countryside Policy & Management	2,536	1,860	4,396	(1,630)	2,766	53.52
3,719	Planning Services	2,059	2,937	4,996	(1,363)	3,633	35.66
(10,486)	Defra Grant	0	0	0	(10,486)	(10,486)	0.00
717	Total	7,440	6,997	14,437	(14,506)	(69)	143.86

The table may have minor visual roundings.

Total Revenue Budget 2024/25 Subjective Analysis (includes all sources of expenditure against all income streams)

2023/24 Original Budget (Net) £'000	Subjective Area	2024/25 Revenue Budget by Subjective		
		Core Budget £'000	Short Term Budget £'000	Whole Budget £'000
7,191	Direct Employees	6,889	551	7,440
251	Indirect Employees	230	2	232
373	Premises Related	392	0	392
169	Transport Related	164	10	174
3,134	Supplies and Services	1,935	1,212	3,147
3,022	Third Party Payments	2,996	30	3,026
27	Capital financing Costs	27	0	27
14,166	Total Expenditure	12,633	1,805	14,438
(11,026)	Government Grants	(10,582)	(1,228)	(11,810)
(1,446)	Other Grants and Contributions	(450)	(366)	(816)
(1,997)	Customer Client Receipts	(1,353)	(28)	(1,381)
(415)	Interest	(90)	(410)	(500)
(14,883)	Total Income	(12,475)	(2,032)	(14,507)
(717)	Net Budget	158	(227)	(69)
717	Contribution to/ from Reserves			69
0	Grand Total			0

The table may have minor visual roundings.

Corporate Strategy

The proposed 2024/25 net revenue budget for Corporate Strategy is £4.017 million. The budget for this service area includes the Chief Executive budget, staffing, premises costs and contract costs for outsourced services such as ICT, legal services, monitoring officer and financial services. The short-term budget of (£0.348 million) is mainly due to the increase in investment income.

Corporate Strategy - Seven Sisters Country Park

The Corporate Strategy - Seven Sisters Country Park budget holds a number of transactions in respect of Seven Sisters Country Park. The trading company – South Downs Commercial Operations Ltd - continues to have responsibility for all operations within the Country Park under an operating agreement with the park. The park will continue to employ staff at Seven Sisters Country Park and make other payments in respect of annual fees to East Sussex County Council, building maintenance and insurance, etc. The majority of these costs will be charged back to South Downs Commercial Operations Limited, except part of Ranger salary for a fixed period (1 day/week) and will balance back to zero, except this small charge.

Countryside Policy and Management

The proposed 2024/25 net budget for the Countryside and Management service is £2.766 million. The priorities for the directorate are to concentrate the work of the slimmed-down teams on the High-Level Targets of the Corporate Plan: Nature Recovery, Climate Action and National Park for All, and to work with the Trust to generate new sources of external income. This focus applies to Strategy Leads and their associated staff, and to the three Area Ranger Teams. At the same time, the directorate is simplifying and streamlining its reporting and monitoring systems to align better with the above and with the new reporting requirements being developed by Defra and Natural England. The short-term budget of £0.120 million is for a number of research projects within the Performance and Projects team and contribution towards the Strategic Fund (£0.04m). Final year for Farming in Protected Landscapes funding, of which £0.170 million covers some core salary costs.

Planning Services

The proposed 2024/25 net budget for the Planning Service is £3.633 million which includes the now slimmer staffing structure, payment to Local Authorities for the delivery of the planning function and other expenditure and income to support the delivery of the development management service and planning policy (including Local Plans, duty to cooperate, and community led plans), the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and the duty on social and economic wellbeing (through the Sustainable Futures Team).

The overall planning income budget for 2024/25 is £1.250 million. Income levels are demand led and dependant on the number of applications and major developments within the Souths Downs region, and therefore largely dependent on the prevailing economic conditions. The risk to income levels is mitigated to some extent by the pay-by-application S101 Planning Agency Agreements as demonstrated in 2021/22 following the impact of the pandemic.

