

## **Item 5. AONB Partnership budgets update**

### **1. Summary**

This paper gives an update on AONB Partnership budgets for 2016-17 and 2017-18 and beyond.

### **2. Background – notes on budget tables**

- i. Staff costs for 2016-17 closed much as expected. Rent for 2016-17 has not yet been billed, and an allowance needs to be made for this from 2017-18 (unless it is budgeted always a year behind, which is not preferred).
- ii. Nothing has yet been heard on the Business Rate Relief application.
- iii. Telford & Wrekin Council's core contributions for the next three years have been paid up front, and these will be brought from reserves on an annual basis, in order to show in the budgets.
- iv. Various overdue contributions were secured at the end of 2016-17, and income earning exceeded expected levels. This means a small budget surplus on the year was achieved, after allowing for parts of the reserve which are held 'committed' to future expenditure.
- v. For 2017-18 and beyond, a new saving has been achieved through the Sustainable Tourism Officer choosing to move from full time to 3 days/week (from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017). This amounts to a saving of around £12,000 in 2017-18 (the change covering 10 months of the year), and around £14,000pa ongoing (full year saving).
- vi. Earned income targets for 2017-18 and beyond are still challenging, but lower than projected a year ago, and generally in scale with past levels achieved.
- vii. A management fee for the Conservation Fund of £3,000 has been agreed with the AONB Trust. This has usefully established the principle, and if the Fund grows as hoped and the rate of fee applied is maintained, this has potential to grow in future years.
- viii. A case is being made to HLF for us to recoup the costs of additional time put in by Nigel within 2016-17 to interpretation projects on the Landscape Partnership Scheme.
- ix. The Resilient Heritage project would require match cash rather than actually bringing net income into the budget directly, but due to the delay for resubmission, the match requirements projected for 2017-18 have been lowered.
- x. The Upland Commons project second bid was not successful but there is expected to be a further reapplication and this could still prove valuable, in 2018-19 and beyond.
- xi. The Sustainable Business Scheme is winding down due to changing environment for businesses and the time input required from staff.
- xii. When a response is received from Defra on the Conservation Board proposal, budgets for 2018-19 and 2019-20 will be readjusted for expectations of timing on independence from the Council. For now, known changes in staffing costs have been adjusted.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION:**

**The Transition Board is recommended to comment on the work programme and budgets.**

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## **Appendix 1 2016-18 AONB Partnership budgets**