

Item 4. 2018-19 AONB Partnership Budget and Work Programme

1. Summary

This paper provides the 2018-19 budget and work programme which formed the basis of our funding submission to Defra at the end of January.

2. Background

The budget is virtually the same as the version seen by the Board in December, with the addition of estimates for the proposed 1.5 day/week Funding and Programmes Officer post.

The basis of funding from Shropshire Council for 2018-19 agreed two years ago was for an independent body by this point. Confirmation of the SC contribution in the different scenario we are now in is the purpose of James' meeting with George Candler on 15th Feb.

When the bid was submitted, the extensions to the Landscape Partnership Scheme were not confirmed and so there are no budgets shown for this. There will in fact be costs in the first quarter of 2018-19 on the LPS. Overall, the finishing of the Scheme reduces our overall turnover by more than half. Developing new projects is proving to be slow work partly due to the time available, and work on the Management Plan review in 2018 will compound this.

Income targets for 2018-19 are still challenging, but securing the Commons project contract will make a big contribution.

Requesting further core contributions. It is proposed that financial contributions into the core budget be requested from organisations on the AONB Partnership, and from Parish and Town Councils whose areas include the AONB. Such contributions may be modest, but they may add up to a useful amount and this would also signal commitment and involvement of partners. It was earlier agreed that contributions from Parish and Town Councils would be requested when an independent Conservation Board is formed, but it is suggested to go ahead with this now.

Linked to this, a need has been identified to develop a written reserves policy. This would identify a level of reserves that should be held (in relation to needs such as redundancy liabilities and potentially cash flow). Beyond this level, reserves should not be accumulated but spend levels should be optimised, especially where contributions are being sought. A written policy would also help to secure the reserves within the Shropshire Council finances.

3. RECOMMENDATION:

The Transition Board is recommended to comment on the budget and work programme, and the proposals to seek funding contributions.

This paper has been prepared by Phil Holden, AONB Partnership Manager. For further details contact 01743 254741/ phil.holden@shropshire.gov.uk.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership budget 2018-19, as bid to Defra

Appendix 2 Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Team Work Programme 2018-19 Summary

Appendix 3 Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Team Plan 2018-19 (in Excel)

Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Budget 2018-19

<u>Expenditure</u>	2018-19	<u>Income</u>	2018-19	
	outline budget		outline budget	%
Staff costs (inclusive of NI, pension, training, T&S)	£209,073	Defra AONB Single Pot contribution	£192,884	69.2%
AONB Partnership Manager (full time)	£57,860	Shropshire Council core contribution	£40,830	14.6%
Natural Environment Officer (full time)	£39,362	Telford & Wrekin Council core contribution	£2,694	1.0%
Sustainable Tourism Officer (0.6 FTE)	£23,596			
Community & Landscape Officer (full time)	£39,312	Earned income required into core	£42,425	15.2%
Promotions Officer (0.6 FTE)	£21,067			
Administrator (0.68 FTE)	£15,685			
Funding & Programmes Officer (0.3 FTE) (proposed new post)	£12,191			
All posts by subjective	£209,073			
Salary	£154,637			
NI	£13,639			
Superannuation	£22,887			
Pension lump sum	£15,210			
Travel & Subsistence	£1,650			
Training	£1,050			
Office costs	£31,560			
Rent, electricity and broadband	£15,950			
Rates	£6,100			
Waste collection & cleaning materials	£860			
Office equipment & maintenance	£700			
Printing & stationery	£1,750			
Postage & telecommunications	£1,400			
Office vehicles	£4,800			
Support services (repayment to Shropshire Council)	£31,290			
Promotional Activity	£660			
Website hosting	£240			
Other promotion (in 16-17 Clun walks book for resale)	£240			
Friends of the Shropshire Hills AONB	£180			
Sustainable Business Network				
Partnership running costs	£6,250			
AONB Partnership and sub-groups	£1,200			
Subscriptions (NAAONB, Europarc Federation, etc)	£3,050			
Development work (structure)	£1,000			
Development work (projects)	£1,000			
CORE TOTAL	£278,833	CORE TOTAL	£278,833	
		Total Defra grant & overall rate	£192,884	69.2%
		Total Defra grant to allocate	£192,884	
OTHER ACTIVITY				
RIVERS		RIVERS		
Staff costs (inclusive of NI, pension, training, T&S)	£20,803	WREN Biodiversity Action Fund	£48,526	
Office costs & management	£2,226	Woodland Trust	£10,000	
Habitat restoration	£35,648	Volunteer activity (in kind)	£5,000	
Training & volunteer support	£490	Landowner contributions (in kind)	£3,188	
Survey & equipment	£83	Natural England match activity (agri-environment)	£16,250	
Woodland creation (Woodland trust supported)	£5,000	AONB Partnership cash match funding	£5,724	
Volunteer activity (in kind)	£5,000	Brought forward		
Landowner contributions (in kind)	£3,188			
Natural England match activity	£16,250			
Total	£88,688		£88,688	£0
SHUTTLES		SHUTTLES		
Long Mynd & Stiperstones service operating costs	£18,480	Ticket Income	£2,500	
Leaflet for next season	£900	Concessionary fare compensation	£4,300	
Extra promotion	£300	Shropshire Council contribution	£7,500	
Management fee	£924	National Trust	£5,000	
Miscellaneous running costs		Brought forward	£15,125	
		Carried forward	-£14,721	
		Passenger donations	£900	
Total	£20,604		£20,604	£0
GRAND TOTAL	£388,125	GRAND TOTAL	£388,125	

Area of work	Key actions and targets
TAKING ACTION - on the ground and in our communities - to conserve and enhance natural beauty and to promote enjoyment and understanding.	
River Clun Recovery Project (WREN funded)	Deliver year 4 project outputs: 1,333m riparian buffer strip, 3 willows pollarded, 50m revetment, riverbed restoration, 1,000 trees planted, 0.5ha woodland creation, 2.16ha aftercare of planted trees, 1 livestock watering system, 200m track restored, 1 gateway surfaced, 1 sediment trap, 1 watercourse crossing.
Stiperstones & Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme (HLF)	Complete wind-up and final reporting for the scheme, and any short extensions, if approved.
'Our Common Cause' Upland Commons project (national)	Support Foundation for Common Land with development phase of project, by providing office space for Project Manager, convening Shropshire Hills Area Group, and providing Area Facilitation role (subject to contract).
Sustainable Tourism delivery	Manage 2018 Long Mynd – Stiperstones Shuttles bus service & plan 2019. Pursue pilot 'supporter giving' project ' Caering for Caradoc '.
Develop Young People's project	Including John Muir Award, Young Rangers and Traineeship scheme.
Develop a Monument Volunteers project	Support local people to survey and care for heritage sites at risk.
INFLUENCING OTHERS - lead and champion the delivery of public benefits from the AONB, working strategically and collaboratively from policy to grassroots level.	
AONB Management Plan review	Undertake engagement, research and consultation for new Management Plan 2019-24. Continue delivery priorities for the team and with key partners. Follow up Shropshire Hills Uplands Forum and work with Uplands Alliance.
AONB Trust	Work closely with the Shropshire Hills AONB Trust to develop fund-raising.
Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund	Support the AONB Trust to implement the fund through grants, and provide advice and support for projects.
Friends of Shropshire Hills AONB	Increase membership of Friends, working with the AONB Trust.
Planning	Comment on relevant LDF documents and key planning applications. Maintain links with local authority planning staff and members.
Local partnership working	Continue to lead Clun Catchment Partnership , input to Teme Partnership & Clun steering groups and support catchment management delivery. Support operation of the Shropshire Hills Destination Partnership . Support delivery of new Shropshire Hills Sustainable Tourism Strategy . Support development of ' Stepping Stones ' project and convene a new Partnership group for the Long Mynd - Stiperstones area. Operate and support local partnership structures including Wrekin Forest .
Input to other strategies & schemes	Provide input to at least 4 strategic consultations (non-planning). Comment on non-planning casework such as EIAs, watercourses and hedges.
Communications & public awareness	Celebrate AONB 60 th anniversary including joint celebration event 19 June. Update website and use social media . Publish 4 Enewsletters and Annual Review , give 10 talks . Hold Hay Meadow Festival 7 July.
Local authorities and Partnerships	Maintain links with relevant departments of each local authority. Input to Local Nature Partnership and other groups.
Evidence base	Collate data as part of Management Plan monitoring framework.
Guidance & strategy	Develop guidance page(s) on AONB website.
Support initiatives led by others	Support at least 15 projects and respond to requests for information.
Support for groups	Support 30 community groups in total (includes through activities above).
MANAGING OUR BUSINESS - develop a robust, effective and financially sustainable AONB organisation.	
Transition process to Conservation Board	Work with Transition Board and Defra regarding Conservation Board proposal, or alternative arrangements as necessary.
Resilient Heritage (HLF)	Implement capacity building project with AONB Trust (subject to approval).
AONB Partnership	Involve members and support & develop the Partnership structure.
AONB Team	Hold monthly team meetings, complete performance reviews and training.
National Association for AONBs	Active involvement with NAAONB and other relevant networks.
Volunteering	Involve 300 volunteers through AONB-led and supported activities.