

NFNPA RAPC 271/15

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

RESOURCES, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – 7 SEPTEMBER 2015

BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT 2015/16 – End of July

Report by: Bob Jackson, Chief Finance Officer and Nigel Stone, Finance and Performance Manager.

Purpose:

This report provides a summary of financial performance up to the end of July 2015, the first four months of the 2015/16 financial year.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report provides a summary of financial performance in the first four months of 2015/16, providing detail on potential variances and the responses to them. **Annex 1** sets out the summary financial position, including an indicative split of the 2015/16 budgets across the four aims; further detail is then provided on the Programme Fund (**Annex 2**) and Authority-led Partnership Projects (**Annex 3**).

2. Current Position

2.1 The overall income and expenditure budgets for 2015/16 are £6.27m, as shown in Annex 1. This includes £2.45m from Authority-led partnership projects (externally-funded).

2.2 The overall expenditure position shows £1.60m spend over the first four months of the financial year (25% of budget). Without the partnership projects, spend was £1.27m from a budget of £3.82m (33%).

2.3 The overall income position shows £1.99m received (32% of budget) over the first four months of the financial year. Without the partnership projects, income was £1.80m from a budget of £3.82m (47%).

3. Budgetary Review Process

- 3.1 All budget holders were requested to scrutinise their early budgetary position and provide details of potential over- or underspends; key responses and outcomes are detailed below.

4 Budget Analysis

4.1 Potential Savings, Pressures and Other Issues

Following the latest review of the financial position, the following savings and pressures have been identified within the 2015/16 original budgets:

Potential Savings:	£000
Previously reported	0
Additional Planning Fee Income	50-75
TOTAL	50-75

Potential Pressures:	£000
Previously reported	0
Salaries	20
TOTAL	20

4.2 Likely Savings:

4.2.1 Planning Fee Income (£50-75,000)

Planning Fees for the first four months totalled £113,000 from an annual target of £250,000 (45%). This is some £30,000 higher than would normally be expected at this point in the financial year, potentially leading to some significant additional income for the Authority. This situation will be monitored up to the end of Q2, where a firmer outturn figure can be estimated.

4.3 Potential Pressures:

- 4.3.1 The annual salary budget (as in previous years) allows for a given amount of vacancies during the year; this provision is currently set at 2% of the overall salary budget. During the first four months there were very few vacancies at the Authority and therefore the salary budget is showing as slightly overspent at this stage. Again this will be monitored closely and reported back in subsequent budgetary control reports.

5. Sustainable Communities Fund Monitoring

- 5.1 During 2014/15 the Authority successfully allocated all of the remaining Sustainable Communities Fund monies. The new allocation for 2015/16 is a further £30,000 which has already been earmarked as a contribution towards the Our Past, Our Future Landscape Project (should the bid be successful when we hear in late September).
- 5.2 As well as allocating funding, these monitoring reports must also track the amount claimed from that which has been allocated previously – at the start of this year, the amount ‘allocated but unclaimed’ stood at c£182,000. So far this year, £60,000 (33%) of this funding has been claimed.

6. Developer Contributions

- 6.1 During the first four months of the financial year, a further £34,000 has been received in respect of developer contributions, the vast majority of which are for affordable housing. This brings the total held to around £890,000; however a significant proportion of this total will be utilised later in the year for the Bransgore development.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1 note the current income and expenditure position, including the potential savings, pressures and issues identified.**

Equality and Diversity Implications:

There are no specific equality or diversity implications arising out of this report.

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Annex 1

Budget Monitoring 2015/16
Summary Accounts for the period 1 April – 31 July 2015

	Latest Budget	Payments to date	% of Budget Spent
	£000	£000	
<u>Expenditure:</u>			
Authority-led Partnership Projects	2,452	329	13%
Employee Costs (Salary, Travel, Pensions etc)	2,600	890	34%
Programme Fund	316	97	31%
Sustainable Communities Fund	30	0	0%
Strategy & Planning	76	6	8%
Central Costs (split below)	796	274	34%
Total Expenditure	6,270	1,596	25%

<u>Income:</u>			
Authority-led Partnership Projects	-2,452	-190	8%
National Park Grant	-3,037	-1,534	51%
Planning Income	-250	-113	45%
Shared Services	-320	-87	27%
Income Generation	-17	-4	24%
Investment & Interest Income	-15	-2	13%
Contribution from Revenue Support Reserve (estimated)	-46	-15	33%
Contribution from Other Earmarked Reserves (estimated)	-133	-44	33%
Total Income	-6,270	-1,989	32%

Central Costs Split

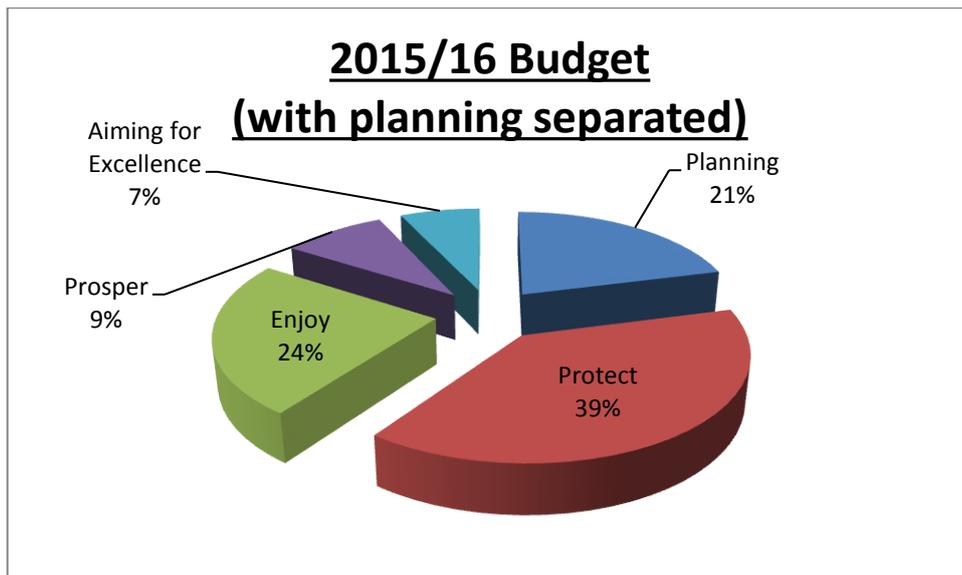
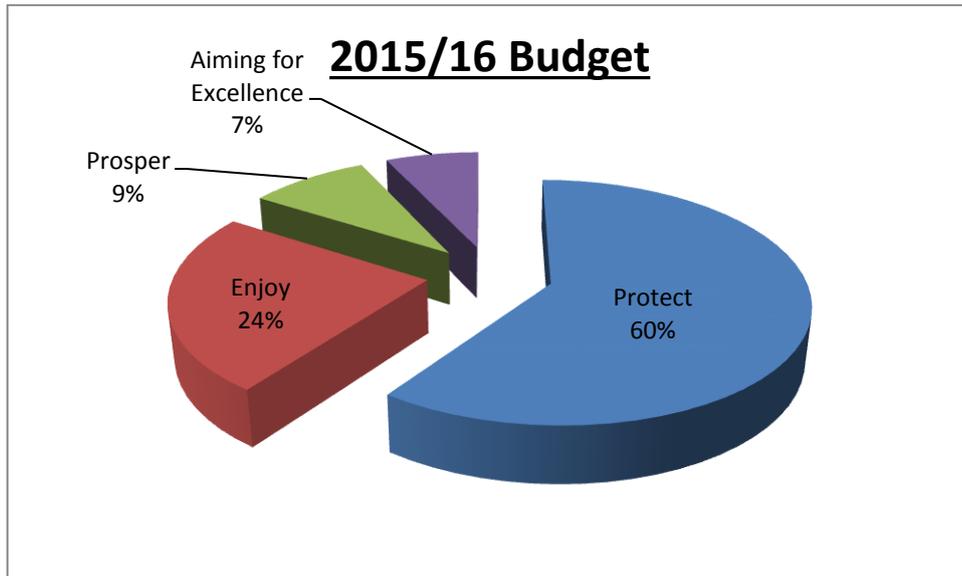
	Latest Budget £000	Payments to Date £000	% of Budget Spent
Secretariat	32	29	91%*
Human Resources	76	15	20%
ICT Services	215	79	37%
ICT R&R Fund	57	3	5%
Member Services	58	19	33%
Finance & Audit Services	66	17	26%
Accommodation	200	70	35%
Business Support (e.g. insurance, printing, stationery)	92	42	46%*
TOTAL	796	274	34%

*These results are high at this stage of the year due to services paid for in advance e.g. insurance cover and National Parks England/UK memberships etc.

2015/16 Original Budget (£3.82m – not including partnership projects) shown as ‘Protect, Enjoy, Prosper & Aiming for Excellence’

	Protect*	Enjoy	Prosper	Aiming for Excellence
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Employee Costs (allocated)	1,600	550	235	215
Programme Fund	103	175	38	-
Sustainable Development Fund (approximation)	15	10	5	-
Strategy & Planning	76	-	-	-
Central Costs (allocated)	490	168	72	66
TOTAL	2,284*	903	350	281

*Includes up to £0.8m of costs directly related to the Planning Service



Annex 2

Programme Fund 2015/16	Original Project Budget	Payments to date	% of Budget Spent	Notes on significant variations
	£000	£000	%	
PROTECT*				
Landscape Projects	10	2	20%	
Ecology and Catchment Co-ordination	14	0	0%	Various projects underway, no invoices to date
Woodfuel and Woodland Projects	15	15	100%	Up-front contribution
Natural Environment Evidence Base (HBIC / WRC)	6	0	0%	Contributions paid in Q2 and Q3
Our Past, Our Future (Landscape Partnership)	28	0	0%	Will be paid when HLF funding confirmed
Archaeological Projects	10	1	10%	
FC Archaeology SLA	6	2	33%	
World War I Project	8	8	100%	Up-front contribution
OTHER (Projects less than £5,000)	6	3	50%	
PROTECT SUBTOTAL	103	31	30%	
ENJOY*				
Access and Recreation	16	0	0%	
Health and Wellbeing	5	1	20%	
Education	9	2	22%	
Educational Campaigns	8	0	0%	
Interpretation & Information	15	7	47%	
New Forest Centre Agreement	40	20	50%	
New Forest Show	6	2	33%	
Media and Promotion	25	5	20%	
Publications	24	3	13%	
Partnership Publications	8	7	88%	'Park Life' delivered in April 2015

	Original Project Budget	Payments to date	% of Budget Spent	Notes
Ranger Projects	12	1	8%	
People and Wildlife Ranger Projects	5	1	20%	
OTHER (Projects less than £5,000)	2	0	0%	
ENJOY SUBTOTAL	175	49	28%	
PROSPER*				
New Forest Business Partnership Events	5	1	20%	
New Forest Marque	15	15	100%	Up-front annual contribution
Sustainability Projects	9	0	0%	
Sustainable Tourism	7	1	14%	
OTHER (Projects less than £5,000)	2	0	0%	
PROSPER SUBTOTAL	38	17	45%	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	316	97	31%	

*The designation of projects to 'Protect, Enjoy & Prosper' are for illustrative purposes only and do not constitute the total funding allocated to each area by the Authority (see Annex 1).

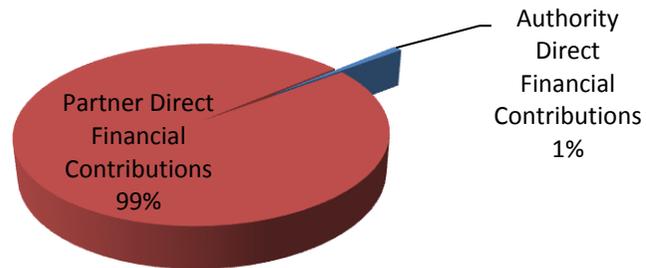
Annex 3

Authority-led Partnership Projects 2015/16

	Authority Direct Financial Contributions	Partner Financial Contributions	Total Project Budget	Total Payments to date	Payments as % of budget	Notes on significant variations
	£000	£000	£000	£000	%	
New Forest Remembers (WWII)	0	70	70	0	0%	Remaining funding does not have to be spent this year
Higher Level Stewardship	0	60	60	15	25%	On track
Land Advice Service	0	60	60	23	38%	On track
Water Catchment Pilot	0	15	15	0	0%	Will be spent later in 2015/16
New Forest Produce	15	15	30	11	37%	Work is currently underway to review Marque delivery
HLF Landscape Partnership (Dev)	0	70	70	64	91%	Funding decision by HLF expected on 22 nd Sept
World War I Project	8	12	20	8	40%	On track
Local Sustainable Transport Fund (2 National Parks)	0	1,000	1,000	174	17%	On track
DfT Family Cycling Experiences	0	1,150	1,150	34	3%	Funds must be spent or works contracts signed by end of September – on track
TOTAL	23	2,452	2,475	329	13%	

On average, for every £1 the Authority contributes it generates a further £13 from partner organisations (excludes transport grants).

2015/16 Authority-led Partnership Project Funding



2015/16 External Funding as % of Total Funding

