

Financial Overview

Each year, we support our expenditure with four main sources of funds:

- National Park Grant from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Other Local Authority special grants from the Department for Communities and Local Government
- Income generation from sales and charges for our services
- Additional funds from grant bodies and partnerships

During the financial year we allocate expenditure to 8 functional headings in accordance with the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice (as shown in the overall financial statement in Annex 10 of this plan). The financial information covers four years:

- Resources used in 2007/08 and 2008/09
- Our budgeted expenditure and income for 2009/10
- Our planned requirements for 2010/11 based on estimates of funding available

Following the confirmation of National Park Grant in December 2008 we were able to draw up a three year financial plan for the 2009/10 budget and the following two years, based on an increase in National Park Grant of 2.75%, together with planning figures for a further inflationary increase of 2.75% in 2010/11. These increases were justified by the Minister because of the huge value and impact National Parks were having across a whole range of important issues. Planning figures for 2011-12 fall into a new Spending Review period and remain uncertain because of the difficult economic position.

- We are pleased to be able to supplement this expenditure by the continuation of Defra's ring-fenced Sustainable Development Fund of £200,000 for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

We also work with partners to secure extra funds for new initiatives to meet our National Park purposes. These are outlined more fully in the following sections. The most significant are:

- Commitment from current Moors for the Future partners towards continuation of the work started under the Heritage Lottery Funded project. A bid to the European Life + programme has been submitted with moorland partners, to extend further the restoration work carried out in the first five year programme, and a significant mix of restoration and research projects with existing and new partners is underway.
- The new Live and Work Rural action programme co-funded by the East Midlands Development Agency, helping people take care of the environment by living and working in sustainable ways.

The matched funding is provided either in cash or through in-kind contributions from our baseline resources, and our partnership and external funding work attracts nearly £5 in outside funds for every £1 of our own resource used.

We continue to be prudent in our approach to financing capital expenditure from our borrowing powers, setting an overall borrowing limit of £1.9m rising to £2.8m over the 3 year Spending Review period (between 2.9% and 4.3% of overall net income). These limits will be revised when work on the capital strategy is progressed, assessing our need for capital expenditure on assets over a 10-20 year period, informed by our work on the Asset Management Plan and our need to ensure that the Authority's asset base is financially sustainable. The availability of borrowing enables us to manage our long term assets more cost effectively, based on the principles of sound investment, rather than the in-year constraints caused by financing capital wholly from the revenue budget.

Contract statement

There has been one contract awarded this year which involved a transfer of 2 members of staff under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981 which complies with the Code of Practice on Workforce Matters in Local Authority Service Contracts.