

**8. UNDERTAKING PROJECTS FOR MOORLIFE 2020 PARTNERS AUGUST 2018 UPDATE (MSC)**

**Purpose of the report**

The purpose of this report is to ask this Committee to approve the continuation of the Authority's work with the MoorLIFE 2020 project partners to deliver projects outside the scope of that project for the duration of it; where this Authority, through the Moors for the Future staff teams, will provide a project management role to continue to improve SSSI conditions across the South and West Pennine Moors.

This report seeks to build on the previous authority granted by ARP Committee (January 2017, Minute Ref 05/17), seeking to raise the authority limit in response to current and future opportunities to fund SSSI recovery.

**Key issues**

1.
  - The large scale works being undertaken by the Authority through the Moors for the Future Partnership's MoorLIFE 2020 and Private Land projects offer significant opportunities to use existing tenders and contracting arrangements to deliver works in addition to these projects and make use of economies of scale.
  - This is in line with the Business Model, in the Moors for the Future Partnership Business Plan, approved by this Committee.
  - This applies to a specific group of partners highlighted in section 4 of this report, working in a genuine partnership on opportunities recognised by the staff team.
  - Appendix 1 sets out the possible (maximum) expenditure per financial year but also the anticipated expenditure profile. The works programme, permissions and resources will dictate the actual expenditure profile.

**Recommendations**

2.
  1. That ARP Committee approve in principle working with the MoorLIFE 2020 project partners to deliver additional projects until the end of the MoorLIFE project (or any extension to it).
  2. That ARP Committee delegates specific project approval (including signatures of related agreements with partners), to an increased maximum combined value of £2.5 million (raised from £1.5m) in any financial year, to the Director of Conservation and Planning, in consultation with the Head of Law and in agreement with the Chief Finance Officer (expenditure will not exceed £2.5m in any financial year).
  3. That the Authority may, subject to compliance with its procurement standing orders, enter into contracts for the delivery of an approved project.

**How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?**

3. This project will directly benefit the strategic outcomes of this Authority contributing to National Park Management Plan 2012-17 Objectives: DL1/ DL3.1 / DL 3.4 / DL 3.5 / DL 4.2.1 / WI 4.3 / WI 4.5 / ES1

These arrangements will also build upon the Authority's good engagement with several major partners (Severn Trent, United Utilities, Yorkshire Water, RSPB,

National Trust, Environment Agency and Natural England) who have significant influence over the management of the moorland landscape. Within this partnership, significant positive changes to the nature of the South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation have been delivered and will continue to be delivered.

### **Background**

4. The MoorLIFE 2020 project, funded by the EU and water companies, has secured €15,996,416 to undertake capital works, science and communications actions across the South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation. This work is being co-funded by the three water companies within our area of work (Severn Trent, United Utilities and Yorkshire Water Services) and being delivered by the Authority, RSPB, National Trust and Pennine Prospects, with support and advice from the Environment Agency and Natural England.

### **Proposals**

5. In line with our business plan MFFP seeks to attract additional funding from ML2020 partner organisation through our bidding activities to achieve outcomes for multiple benefit on restoration sites by dovetailing different sources of funding for tandem delivery. Additionally, the ML2020 project partners periodically ask whether the Authority, through the MFFP programme team, can manage and deliver complementary works on their behalf, using the economies of scale and efficiencies of landscape scale working that our work programme generates. Project partners are Severn Trent Water, United Utilities, Yorkshire Water, National Trust, Pennine Prospects, RSPB, Environment Agency, Natural England.

We ask that this Committee authorises the MFFP programme team to manage and undertake works on behalf of the MoorLIFE 2020 partners outside the current project funding. A maximum value of £2.5 million in any financial year is proposed (expenditure will not exceed £2.5m in any financial year), with approval for this to be delegated to the Director of Conservation and Planning, in consultation with the Head of Law and the Head of Finance and subject to a recognised purchase order from the relevant partner, and an agreed quarterly expenditure and invoicing profile, before works commence.

6. This approach would enable the Authority to retain the leadership role that it has with the Moors for the Future partners, which has been critical in maintaining the Partnership since work started in 2002, and has continued to deliver the successes that have occurred across the Dark Peak and South Pennines, as described in the Peak District State of Nature report.

### **Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?**

7. **Financial:**

The recommendation of the original report specified that should further work be requested beyond the approved value in any given year, separate authorisation from Committee would be sought. Accordingly based on forecasts for 2019/20 and 2020/21 (see Appendix 1) further authority is now requested to raise the project authority ceiling to £2.5m in any given financial year.

This extension of the authority will affect the ceiling level only, and all new projects will be subject to recommendation and acceptance on an individual basis as per the delegated authority set out in the recommendations of this report.

**8. Risk Management:**

**Delivery Capacity**

The Director and Head of Programme Delivery (MFFP) will ensure that there is capacity within the Moors for the Future programme team to complete any new work that is proposed for acceptance under this authority. The MFFP team delivers projects as part of a programme, and the ability to approve complementary projects alongside other major projects means that they can be slotted into that programme in a way that reduces the amount of additional work to a minimum. For example tendering requirements across the programme rather than producing a number of individual tenders. We also have the ability to bring in casual workers to help with the supervision of works on the ground and this can be undertaken very quickly.

We do not anticipate any recruitment being required however, that will be evaluated as part of our on-going programme management, with any new posts being funded on an at-cost basis through agreed project management fees.

Furthermore, since the greater majority of our present and future bidding work to ML2020 partners is focused on attracting further investment into active sites for delivery in tandem with ongoing works, MFFP by design anticipate significant efficiencies in staff resource allocation in delivering any additional works elements.

All projects will be managed according to our Project Management toolkit, using the skills of our current project managers, ensuring that the synergies of delivering complementary projects can be realised.

**Contracting Risk with Partners**

The works envisaged are likely to be those which the MFFP programme team are taking the initiative on to build a more effective and efficient delivery arrangement within the existing portfolio of projects, rather than a partner wanting to avail themselves of a convenient contracting arrangement. As such the nature of contractual arrangements would be of partners working together in reasonable endeavour.

**9. Sustainability:**

Protection of the peatlands of our core work area is a key part of protecting land based carbon, which internationally has the potential to have a huge impact on climate change. In addition, the ecosystem service benefits of our blanket peat work is well known, reducing the risk of flooding, improving water quality and improving the landscape, so highly valued for recreation.

From a business sustainability perspective, this proposal fits within the context of the Moors for the Future Business Plan 2014-2020. Undertaking additional projects for our partners, building on work which is already being done, is a key part of our business model and has allowed massive improvements to the landscape and conservation of the Dark Peak and beyond. Creating synergies between projects is a key component of the sustainability of the Moors for the Future programme.

**10. Health and Safety**

All projects will be managed as currently, in discussion with the Authority's Health and Safety Officer. This includes use of Construction (Design and Management)

Regulations, where applicable.

11. **Background papers** (not previously published)

None

**Appendices –**

Appendix 1 – Summary spreadsheet ML2020 Partner Projects

**Matt Scott-Campbell, MFFP Programme Manager (acting), Conservation and Land Management, 30 August 2018**