

Maximising Revenues for Protected Landscapes

Headline Findings from Consultation

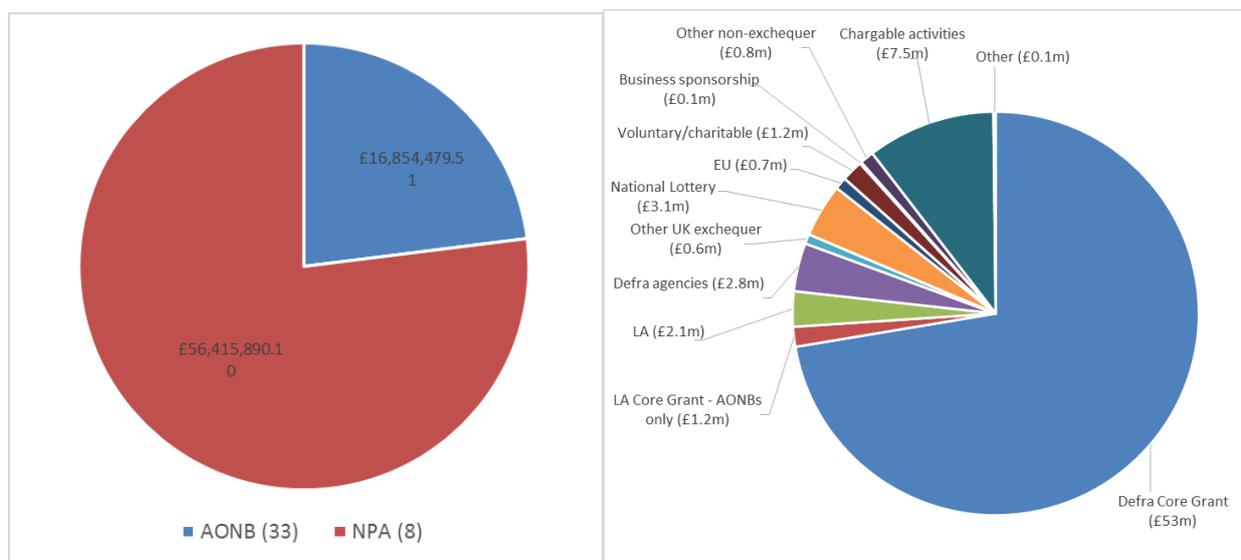
Wednesday 22nd January 2014

Financial trends

B1 of the questionnaire covered financial and other resources received by each organisation during the last financial year and asked for details on the trend over the last three years.

- Collectively, total income received by respondents amounted to £73.3million in the last financial year. Eight NPAs responded, and accounted for the largest percentage (77%) of this, averaging at £7.1million per NPA. The remaining 23% was distributed between the thirty-three responding AONBs, averaging at £500k per AONB.
- Defra Core Grant funding accounted for the largest source of income for both AONBs and NPAs responses. Including project funding from Defra agencies as well, this accounted for 60% (£10.0million) of AONB income and 81% (£45.8million) of NPA income.
- AONBs received more funding from a wider range of sources: their second largest source of income was National Lottery funding which accounted for 17% (£2.8million), compared to only 0.5% (£280k) of NPAs income.
- Local authorities core grant (AONBs only) and Local Authorities project funding, accounted for 8.5% (£1.4million) of AONBs income. NPAs received a higher amount of local authorities' project funding (£1.8million) but this accounted for a lower percentage of income at 3.2%.
- NPAs second largest source of income was revenue raised from chargeable activities (e.g. planning fees, parking charges etc.) which accounted for 12% (£6.8million); AONBs received £660k from this source.

Figure 1: Total amount of income during the last financial year and by source



Source: SQW analysis of consultation submissions

- Collectively, the responses varied in opinions on the trend of funding sources over the last three financial years. Overall patterns were asked of rather than precise figures. As Table 1 shows however, there were several sources on which the protected landscape responses indicated a pattern:
 - Defra core grant funding and local authorities' core grant funding (for AONBs) has decreased.
 - Funding from voluntary/charitable bodies has increased.
 - Funding from business sponsorship and 'other' (examples include volunteer days and S106) has stayed the same.

Table 1: Summary of trends for funding sources over the last three years*

	Upward	Downward	Same
Defra Core Grant	0%	97%	3%
Local Authorities core grant (AONBs only)	4%	64%	32%
Local Authorities project funding	33%	40%	27%
Project funding from Defra agencies – NE, EA etc	30%	39%	30%
Project funding from other UK exchequer sources e.g. LEPs	27%	42%	31%
National Lottery funding	43%	37%	20%
Project funding from EU sources	44%	24%	32%
Funding received from voluntary / charitable bodies	46%	18%	36%
Funding received from business sponsorship	17%	13%	70%
Project funding from other non-exchequer sources	40%	24%	36%
Revenue raised from chargeable activities, e.g. planning fees, parking charges, rental income.	40%	23%	37%
Other, e.g. developer contributions, public funding appeals.	18%	12%	71%

*Source: SQW analysis of consultation submissions
Note: *this is the indicative trend from all 41 protected landscapes responses, not all responses covered every source as some were not applicable*

B2 of the questionnaire asked how the different sources are used for different purposes. Again the question aimed to reveal overall patterns rather than obtaining precise figures. Respondents were asked if different funding sources had a primary role in delivering certain types of activities. Collectively, the responses again varied, key points were:

- Defra core grants have a primary role in delivering the sustainable development fund
- Defra core grants and LA core grants have a primary role in delivering core activities such as management plan preparation and partnership meetings
- National lottery funding has a primary role in delivering activities around conserving and enhancing natural beauty and the understanding and enjoyment of special qualities
- LA project funding, project funding from Defra agencies, funding from voluntary/charitable bodies and project funding from other non-exchequer sources have a primary role to play in delivering activities around conserving and enhancing natural beauty.

Key headlines

- NPAs receive substantially more income than AONBs, and are more dependent on Defra funding, which accounts, overall, for four-fifths of their income.
- AONBs income is more widely spread across different sources, most notably National Lottery Funding, which is used mainly, but not solely, in delivering activities around conserving and enhancing natural beauty and the understanding and enjoyment of special qualities.
- NPAs raise a larger amount of income from chargeable activities than AONBs.
- Almost all respondents noted that Defra core grant funding had declined in the last three years. This analysis indicates that the impact will be greater on NPAs than AONBs.

Further areas to be examined for the report:

- Opinions on the financial trend, analysed by NPAs and AONBs.
- Funding sources and activities, again by NPAs and AONBs.
- Income against source by region – commonalities and any significant outliers?