

Audit and Risk Committee

14 March 2023

Agenda item number 8

Additional National Park funding

Report by Chief Executive and Director of Finance

Summary

This report updates members on the latest National Park grant allocations from DEFRA.

Recommendation

- i. To note the National Park Grant flat cash settlement for 2023/24.
 - ii. To welcome the additional funding for 2022/23 and thank DEFRA.
 - iii. To provide feedback in advance of the Broads Authority meeting on 17 March 2023.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1. Members will be aware that we have very recently received notice of the following allocations from Defra.
- 1.2. As anticipated, the Authority is to receive a flat-cash settlement for 2023/24 for the fifth consecutive year. This is of course diminishing in value due to continued pressure from inflation.
- 1.3. In addition, and this was not expected, the Authority (along with the 9 National Park Authorities in England) is to receive a supplementary grant of £440,000 in the current financial year (2022/23) “in recognition of the challenging financial circumstances that National Park Authorities face”.
- 1.4. We welcome the additional funding, which we expect to receive before the end of March. The Minister states in her letter: *“The government remains committed to supporting our National Parks and ensuring that you can continue to support thriving local communities and economies, improve our public health and wellbeing, drive forward nature recovery, and build our resilience to climate change.”*
- 1.5. The additional funding from DEFRA may only be used to support National Park activity rather than navigation responsibilities. While it cannot enable a reduction in navigation charges it is likely that some of the expenditure supported by this additional funding will also benefit those that use the waterways.

2. Next Steps

- 2.1. The grant funding will need to be accepted through DEFRA's online system through a Control Change Notice (CCN) before the end of this financial year. The CCN will provide the conditions of the funding which is expected to be in line with recent communications.
- 2.2. Depending on those conditions it is proposed to create a new National Park earmarked reserve which will be used to help the National Park Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 2.3. Members' feedback on this, and the approach to spending the funds, is sought prior to the Broads Authority meeting on 17 March 2023 where a verbal update will be provided.

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Background papers: [New funding for National Parks announced - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funding-for-national-parks-announced)

[Broads Plan](#) strategic objectives: All