

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING 24 APRIL 2007

BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD TO 31 MARCH 2007

Report by: Pat Higgins, Chief Finance Officer

Summary

This report sets out the provisional actual expenditure figures for the 12 months to 31 March 2007. The figures reflect the position shown in the financial system at 31 March but work still needs to be undertaken to ensure that expenditure and income arising during March and April are charged to the correct financial years.

Recommendation

To note the current expenditure position for the National Park Authority and approve the transfer of any underspend in the Sustainable Development Grants budget to the Sustainable Development Grants Reserve and the transfer of all other budget underspends to the General Fund Reserve.

Resources:

Routine

Papers:

NFNPA 178/07: Cover paper

Contacts:

Pat Higgins

023 8028 5821

Pat.Higgins@NFDC.gov.uk

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING 24 APRIL 2007

BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD TO 31 MARCH 2007

Report by: Pat Higgins, Chief Finance Officer

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the provisional actual expenditure figures for the 12 months to 31 March 2007. The figures reflect the position shown in the financial system at 31 March but work still needs to be undertaken to ensure that expenditure and income arising during March and April are charged to the correct financial years.

2 General Fund current position

- 2.1 The current approved service expenditure budget is £4.224 million, following approval by the Authority at its meeting in February 2007 to transfer £110,000 and £293,000 to the Sustainable Development Grant and General Fund Reserves respectively, for under-spends in 2006/07. In addition, a further £100,000 was transferred to the General Fund Reserve for interest earnings.
- 2.2 The current detailed forecast for the General Fund budget is attached as **Annex 1** to this report. The summary shows an under-spend of £1.055 million between the revised approved budget and actual expenditure for the period to 31 March 2007.
- 2.3 The main reasons for the variations are as follows:
- 2.3.1 The provision for salaries shows a net under-spend of £297,000 after setting off income and the net cost of employing temporary agency staff to cover for permanent posts until appointments have been made.

2.3.2 Other main areas of under-spend against profile are:

	£
▪ Historic buildings - grants	20,000
▪ Natural Environment – supplies and services	26,000
▪ Communications - supplies and services	32,000
▪ Spatial Planning - supplies and services	8,000
▪ Listed Buildings – supplies and services	32,000
▪ Information, Interpretation and Tourism – supplies	43,000
▪ Recreation Management – supplies and services	18,000
▪ Transport and Traffic Management – supplies	9,000
▪ Development Control – supplies and services	11,000
▪ Secretariat – supplies and services	9,000
▪ Training and Staff Development	27,000
▪ Member Services - supplies and services	8,000
▪ South Efford House – Premises	13,000
▪ IT Infrastructure	51,000
▪ Allocable Central Overheads	90,000
▪ Amenity Trees	11,000
▪ Sustainable Development Grants	51,000
▪ Start-up costs	272,000

2.3.3 Income from Planning Application Fees (and sales of copies) is currently £258,000 against a revised budget for the year of £240,000, a net increase of £18,000.

2.4 Investment interest received to date is £111,000, compared with a revised budget level of £100,000.

2.5 Included within the overall savings figure of £1.055 million is £51,000 relating to Sustainable Development Grants. As Defra funding for this is ringfenced, the underspend cannot be subsumed within the General Fund balance and therefore an additional £51,000 needs to be transferred to the Sustainable Development Reserve. This reduces the General Fund underspend to £1.004 million.

2.6 As at 31 March 2007 the Authority will have received goods and services that relate to 2006/07 but for which payment has not yet been made. Budget responsible officers are currently in the process of determining such items. The 2006/07 expenditure figures will be updated to reflect these items, which will result in the current underspend being reduced. The amount of the adjustment is not available at this stage and may also alter the current Sustainable Development Grant position.

2.7 The budgetary control report considered by the Authority in February 2007 and the assumption made when setting the 2007/08 budget was that the 2006/07 underspend would be £1.1 million. Information currently available has reduced

this by £96,000 and the surplus is likely to reduce further once final details of outstanding commitments and income are known.

- 2.8 Final outturn figures will be presented to the Authority in June but it is proposed that the Authority now approves, in principle, the transfer of the actual outturn underspend on Sustainable Development Grants to the Sustainable Development Grants Reserve and the transfer of the outturn overall underspend balance to the General Fund Reserve.

3 Recommendation

To note the current expenditure position for the National Park Authority and approve the transfer of any underspend in the Sustainable Development Grants budget to the Sustainable Development Grants Reserve and the transfer of all other budget underspends to the General Fund Reserve.

**FORECAST FULL YEAR REVENUE EXPENDITURE 2006/07
AND ACTUAL FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 2006 TO MARCH 2007**

	FULL YEAR FORECAST					PERFORMANCE TO MARCH			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
	Original Budget	Previous Variations	New Variations	Forecast Outturn	Notes	Profiled Budget	Actual to Date	Actual to Profiled	% of Profile Spent
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s		£000s	£000s	£000s	
Conservation of Natural Environment	415	-40	0	375		340	256	-84	75
Conservation of Cultural Heritage	684	-110	0	574		527	368	-159	0
Recreation Management	222	-20	0	202		194	145	-49	75
Promoting Understanding, Information, Interpretation and Education	585	-21	0	564		556	386	-170	69
Traffic & Transport	118	0	0	118		114	94	-20	82
Ranger Services	9	-2	0	7		7	3	-4	43
Development Control	746	-40	0	706		673	515	-158	77
Forward Planning	398	-20	0	378		368	281	-87	76
Training and Staff Development	47	0		47		47	21	-26	45
Corporate Management and Administration	1,403	0	0	1,403		1,398	1,100	-298	79
Holding Accounts		-150	0	-150					
Service Expenditure	4,627	-403	0	4,224		4,224	3,169	-1,055	75
Interest Earnings	0	-100	0	-100		-100	-111	-11	0
Net Expenditure	4,627	-503	0	4,124		4,124	3,058	-1,066	74
Transfer to (from) Specific. Res.	0	110	0	110		110	110	0	0
Transfers to (from) General Res.	393	396	0	789		789	789	0	0
TOTAL REVENUE	5,020	3	0	5,023		5,023	3,957	-1,066	79