

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING - 25 JUNE 2009

REVISED GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2009/10

Report by: Paul Carey-Kent, Chief Finance Officer

Summary:

This paper sets out proposals for revising the revenue budget of the Authority for the financial year 2009/10 to take account of the year end position and new funding notifications. It has been considered by Resources and Performance Committee which recommends approval by the Authority.

Recommendations:

To approve the revised General Fund Budget for 2009/10.

Papers:

NFNPA 306/09:	Cover paper
NFNPA 306/09 Annex 1:	Revised 2009/10 Budgets
NFNPA 306/09 Annex 2:	Summary of reserves
NFNPA 290/09:	General Fund Revenue Budget for the Financial Year 2009/10

Contact:

Paul Carey-Kent, Chief Finance Officer
Tel: 01962 847525
Email: paul.carey-kent@hants.gov.uk

NFNPA 306/09

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1 Purpose

- 1.1 This paper sets out proposals for revising the revenue budget of the Authority for the financial year 2009/10 to take account of the year end position and new funding notifications. It has been considered by Resources and Performance Committee which recommends approval by the Authority.

2 Revised General Fund Revenue Budget for 2009/10

- 2.1 The proposal for a revised General Fund Revenue budget for 2009/10 is shown in **Annex 1**. The original budget was approved by the Authority at the meeting on 26 March 2009 (NFNPA 290/09).
- 2.2 The overall effect of the changes is a reduction of £11,000 in the amount required from the General Fund Reserve in 2009/10.
- 2.3 Points of note are as follows:
- i) The salary budgets have been updated allowing for a reduced potential pay award of 0.5% which is equal to the current employers' offer for 2009/10. This reduces the budget requirement by £36,000. Should the final award be higher it may be possible to cover this by vacancy savings, but the position would then be monitored.
 - ii) As set out in the Final Accounts report (NFNPA 305/09), there was an underspend of £389,000 in 2008/09. As a result, the use of underspends as carry forwards to 2009/10, as assumed in setting the 2009/10 budget, can be confirmed. An additional undeclared budget carry forward of £25,000 from 2008/09 for the 'Woodland Economic Study' has been requested by Steve Trotter, Director of Conservation, Recreation and Sustainable Development. This has been discussed recently by Resources and Performance Committee and is supported. The result would be that the general reserve contribution for 2009/10 is increased by £25,000 to

£257,000 and the total contribution, including the £163,000 carry forward, is £420,000.

- iii) The Authority has received additional income of £25,000 from Defra primarily for events to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of National Parks. The corresponding expenditure budget to use these funds will be set up within Information and Visitor Services.
- iv) The Authority has received additional income from the Department for Communities and Local Government under the 'new burdens' arrangements:
 - Climate Change Grant - £22,500 - arising from work associated with the Climate Change Policy Statement. It is proposed that this funding be used for a feasibility study of the local renewable energy options in the National Park alongside funding from the Sustainable Development Fund.
 - Habitats Grant - £16,835 - to cover costs arising from the Habitats Regulations Assessments. It is proposed this will be used to fund the assessments being prepared for the National Park Plan.
 - £25,000 sponsorship for two Rangers has also been received from Exxon Mobil and will be used to fund posts in 2009/10.

2.4 The above variations can be summarised as:

	£'000
Salary Savings re Pay Award	-36
New Income Received	-90
Corresponding New Expenditure	90
Additional Carry Forward	<u>25</u>
TOTAL VARIATION	<u>-11</u>

3 Recommendation

To approve the revised General Fund Budget for 2009/10.