

OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Summary: To provide the Executive Committee with a high level update on the financial position of the organisation and performance against the Key Performance Indicators.

Recommendation: That the Executive Committee notes the update.

Report by: Andy Parsons – Chief Executive

1. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

- Q1 income was £959k, £521k in excess of budget. However, if this is adjusted for the Farming in Protected Landscapes funding (initial payment received from Defra) and the National Grid Landscapes Enhancement Initiative funding, income would be £431k for the quarter. This is a variance of just 2% vs the budgeted figure of £438k for the quarter.
- The current cost projections for the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme indicate that £23.4k of core costs relating to officer time will be recharged to the project this financial year.
- All local authority contributions were received during Q1.
- Grants paid were £62k less than budget, but much of this will be due to continued delays to project delivery due to Covid.
- Other expenditure was 14% under budget. Given that the team had poor prior year data on which to base their budgets, due to Covid, and the continued impact on our work at the start of this financial year, this feels like a reasonable variance. Much of the underspend is likely to be due to delays rather than an actual reduction of costs for the year and so a better understanding of the financial position should be available following the Q2 results.
- The Rural Skills programme has restarted in accordance with social distancing guidelines. £15k of the Rural Skills course fees in Q1 relates to deferred income, i.e. payments received in the last financial year and carried forward for courses not yet attended, this amount was not included in the budget for the year as it will net off against an amount likely to be carried forward in respect of 2022/23.

2. OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

- KPI1 Training Days – the target is for everyone to have a minimum of 20 hours of training/ development per annum (averaging five hours per quarter). Five people in the team achieved this in Q1 – although a significant improvement over previous quarters the KPI remains red.
- KPI2 Process Improvements Identified and Implemented – the target is eight per annum (averaging two per quarter). There have been three improvements in Q1: removed the requirement for Voluntary Warden petty cash reimbursements and

replaced through the expenses system; new employee induction process; new agendas for Executive and Board meetings - so the KPI is blue.

- KPI3a % of Spend against the FiPL Grant Allocation for Year 1 – nothing to report as grant allocations will start from Q2.
- KPI3bi % of Pro-active Consultations above Consultation Thresholds that Received a Substantive Response by the Original Deadline – 57% met the original deadline so the KPI is green.
- KPI3bii Performance against Statutory Consultee status (% of KPI3bi that were bespoke) – only 6% were bespoke so the KPI is currently red.
- KPI4 Number of People Directly Engaged – this KPI has an annual target of 1,378 people. In Q1 the number was 506, but as this includes the Voluntary Wardens (who are only counted once) the KPI is red.
- KPI5 New Partnerships – the target is eight per annum (averaging two per quarter). One new partnership was established in Q1: Cotswold Tourism – so the KPI is amber.
- KPI6 Useable Reserves – this KPI is currently under review (due to the significant change with FiPL, etc.) and will be calculated at the end of Q2.

Supporting documents

- Appendix A - Key Performance Indicators

SEPTEMBER 2021