



South Downs
National Park Authority

Agenda Item 13
Report NPA21/22-03

Report to	South Downs National Park Authority
Date	6 July 2021
By	Chief Finance Officer
Title of Report	Budget Monitoring Report 2020/21: Provisional Outturn Position
Decision	

Recommendation: The Authority is recommended to:

- 1. Note the provisional 2020/21 revenue outturn position of a net £496,000 below budget variance for the 2020/21 financial year.**
- 2. Approve the revenue budget carry forward requests from 2020/21 to 2021/22 of £1,174,000 as set out in Appendix 2.**
- 3. Approve the following Capital variations as detailed in paragraph 3.5;**
 - i) (£275,000) reprofile to the 2020/21 financial year to fund completion of Phase 2 and future phases of the National Park Signage Project;**
 - ii) (£26,000) reprofile to the 2020/21 financial year to fund two new vehicles to replace the aged Nissan Navara pickup trucks.**
- 4. Approve the use of £35,000 revenue below budget variance as a contribution to the Affordable Housing Reserve and the balance of £461,000 be transferred to the General Reserves as set out in section 3.6**
- 5. Note the Treasury Management overview and position as at financial year-end 2020/21.**

1. Introduction

- 1.1** The South Downs National Park Authority (the Authority) approved the revenue and capital budget for the 2020/21 financial year on the 26 March 2020 (confirmed on 21 May 2020). In accordance with financial procedures, reports on the Authority's projected income and expenditure compared with the budget shall be submitted at least quarterly to Policy & Resources Committee. This report sets out the Authority's provisional outturn position for the 2020/21 financial year.
- 1.2** The Treasury Management Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy were approved by the Authority on 26 March 2020 (confirmed on 21 May 2020). In accordance with financial procedures, the Policy & Resources Committee shall receive quarterly treasury management update reports. This report gives an overview of the current economic and treasury management position of the Authority's provisional outturn position for the 2020/21 financial year.

2. Policy Context

- 2.1** The revenue and capital budgets are developed to align with the Partnership Management

Plan and Corporate Plan priorities. The budget monitoring process reports on variances against approved budgets to identify changes and resource requirements at the earliest opportunity.

3. Issues for consideration.

Provisional 2020/21 Revenue Outturn

- 3.1 The provisional 2020/21 revenue outturn position is a net below budget variance of (£496,000), subject to the approval of carry forward requests detailed in this report. This represents approximately 4.9% of the revised service net budget.

2020/21 Month 9 Variance £'000	Service Area	2020/21 Outturn Budget £'000	2020/21 Outturn Actual £'000	2020/21 Outturn Variance £'000
(17)	Corporate Services	3,872	3,852	(20)
(197)	Countryside Policy and Management	3,431	3,152	(279)
(37)	Planning	2,512	2,297	(215)
18	Strategic Investment Fund	297	315	18
(233)	Total Budget	10,112	9,616	(496)

- 3.2 The provisional outturn position represents a movement of (£263,000) from the month 9 forecast variance of (£233,000) below budget reported to Policy & Resources Committee. The most significant movements are detailed at Appendix I to this report.
- 3.3 The main reasons for the net variance position for the full financial year are summarised below. There are a number of less significant variances and these are reported at Appendix I to this report.
- £260,000 less planning fee income than anticipated resulting from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This represents a 21% reduction of income for 2020/21.
 - (£140,000) net below budget for delegated agreements. This is a result of good contract management and an example of 'payment per application' working within the revised agreements. This may create an income pressure for District Councils, but they are able to recover the majority of this from MHCLG Covid-19 compensation grants.
 - (£88,000) net above budget variance on CIL and section 106 admin income; this is due to the reduction in budget for 2020/21, in line with the expected impact of Covid-19.
 - (£117,000) net below budget variance within local plan and minerals waste policy budgets. This is due to the Soft Sand Single Issue Review of the West Sussex Minerals Local Plan examination having been held virtually and no requests from the Inspector to commission further work. On the Local Plan, several projects did not proceed during the year such as the West Sussex & Greater Brighton Partnership's Local Strategic Strategy and air quality monitoring work in Ashdown Forest.
 - £67,000 net above budget variance on legal costs within planning recovered services.
 - £22,000 costs allocation within planning for a provision for legal costs for judgement in a planning application case.

- (£115,000) net below budget variance on mileage, public transport, fuel costs, subsistence for staff and hospitality costs due to the impact of Covid-19 and the reduction of face to face meetings, both internally and externally.
- (£115,000) net below budget variance on property and office costs which includes a refund of business rates for the South Downs Centre of (£38,000) from Chichester District Council due to the impact of Covid-19.
- (£41,000) net below budget variance on training costs due to the impact of Covid-19 and the reduction of external training being held.
- (£98,000) net below budget variance on Theme Board Projects due to the impact of Covid-19.
- (£34,000) net below budget variance for volunteer operations and management costs due to the impact of Covid-19.
- £30,000 net above budget variance on monitoring costs due to governance advice, in relation to Covid-19.
- (£55,000) net below budget variance for research and consultancy costs within Performance and Projects team resulting from projects not occurring this financial year due to Covid-19, but which will be included in next year's budget.
- (50,000) net below budget variance for consultancy costs within the CIL budget.
- £36,000 costs allocated for contribution to bad debt provisions. The provisions are for two unpaid invoices for Chapel Common Heathlands.
- (£33,000) net below budget variance across all areas due to staff vacancies during the year. The approved salary budget for 2020/21 includes an estimated 14% net employee turnover rate, which reduced the salary budget by (£148,000).

Budget Carry Forward Requests

- 3.4 Budget carry forward approval is required for both unringfenced grant funded budgets and non-grant funded budgets in accordance with accounting requirements and Financial Regulations and Procedures. All carry forward requests have been reviewed by the Senior Management Team to ensure that they reflect approved commitments and are affordable in the context of the overall financial position. Budget carry forward requests total £1,174,000 and detailed explanations for these are given at Appendix 2.

Provisional 2020/21 Capital Outturn

- 3.5 There is a zero forecast variance on the capital programme at outturn, subject to approval of recommended variations to reflect the purchase of a replacement vehicle and for the National Park Signage Project. A summary of the capital programme, including the variations, is provided at Appendix 3 to this report.

Impact on Reserves and Implications for the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

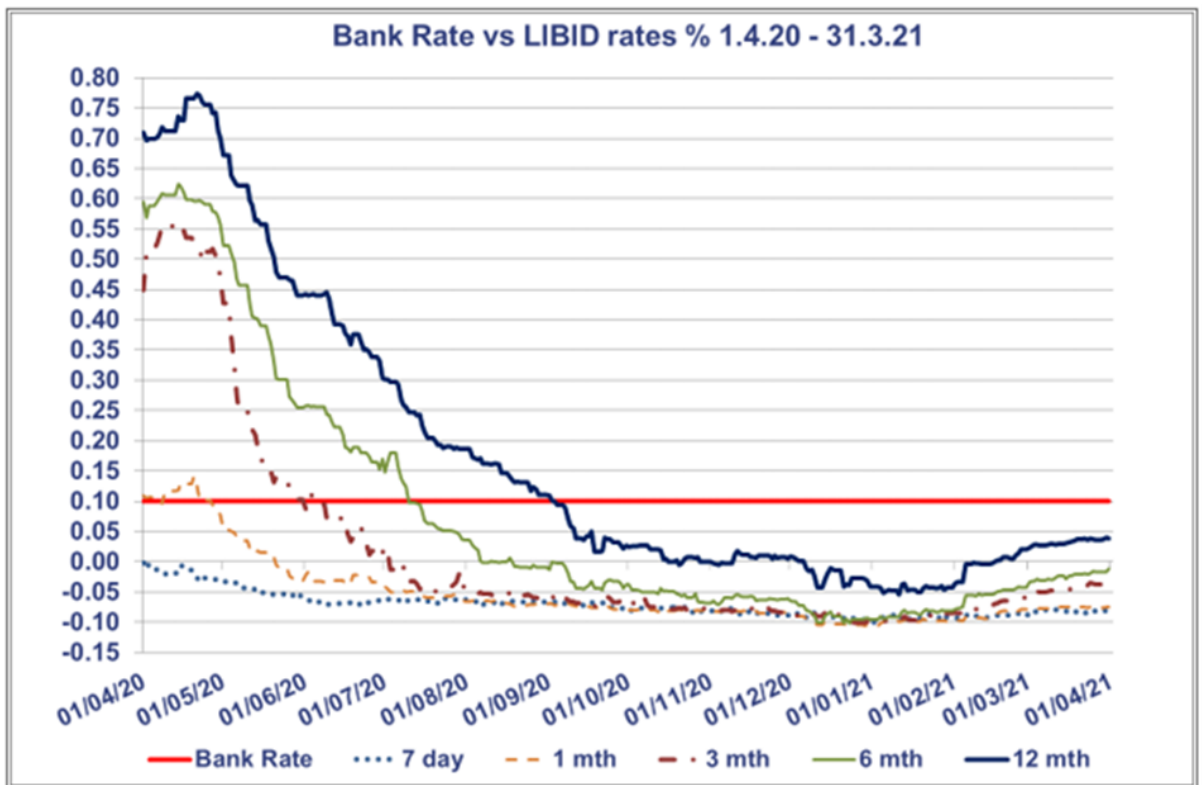
- 3.6 The Authority's approved MTFS sets out resource assumptions and projections over a 5 year term. The provisional below budget revenue position of (£496,000) will have a favourable impact on the Authority's reserves position. It was assumed as part of the budget proposals considered by the NPA in March 2021 that any below budget variation to the 2020/21 revenue budget would be allocated to the general reserve for subsequent transfer to earmarked reserves to meet identified priorities. It is further requested that £35,000 of the below budget revenue variance be used as a contribution to the Affordable Housing Reserve and the balance of £461,000 be transferred to general reserve. The reserves position is provided in Appendix 4.

Treasury Management Overview and Position

- 3.7 The economic news in 2020/21 was dominated by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The first national lockdown in late March 2020 significantly impacted the economy, causing an economic downturn greater than the financial crisis of 2008/09. A short second

lockdown in November did relatively little damage and by the time of the third lockdown in January 2021, businesses and individuals had become more resilient in adapting to working in new ways during a three month lockdown so much less damage than was caused than by the first one. The advent of vaccines has been instrumental in speeding economic recovery and the reopening of the economy in the last part of 2020/21. In addition, the household saving rate has been exceptionally high since the first lockdown in March 2020, which has led to an expectation of pent-up demand and purchasing power stored up for hospitality services as they reopen. It is therefore expected that the UK economy could recover its pre-pandemic level of economic activity during quarter 1 of 2022.

- 3.8 The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) cut Bank Rate from 0.75% to 0.25% and then to 0.10% in March 2020 and embarked on a £200bn programme of quantitative easing (QE: purchase of gilts so as to reduce borrowing costs throughout the economy by lowering gilt yields). The MPC increased QE by £100bn in June and by £150bn in November to a total of £895bn. While Bank Rate remained unchanged for the rest of the year, financial markets were concerned that the MPC could cut Bank Rate to a negative rate; this was firmly rejected at the February 2021 MPC meeting when it was established that commercial banks would be unable to implement negative rates for at least six months – by which time the economy was expected to be making a strong recovery and negative rates would no longer be needed.
- 3.9 The Bank of England added some key additional wording to its forward guidance in August 2020 around inflation, which stated “it does not intend to tighten monetary policy until there is clear evidence that significant progress is being made in eliminating spare capacity and achieving the 2% target sustainably”. This appears to be designed to signal that markets should not expect the MPC to increase the Bank Rate to respond to higher inflation unless they can clearly see that the level of inflation will be persistently (rather than temporarily) above target level. This sets a high bar for raising Bank Rate and no increase is expected by March 2024, and possibly for as long as five years. Inflation has been well under 2% during 2020/21; it is expected to briefly peak at just over 2% towards the end of 2021, but this is expected to be a temporary factor and so not a concern to the MPC.
- 3.10 The Authority’s investments at 31 March 2021 are made up of the following:
- £2.0m fixed deposit held with Santander (UK) plc;
 - £2.0m fixed deposit held with Coventry City Council;
 - The remaining cash balance is invested via Brighton & Hove City Council (£11.8m at 31 March 2021).
- 3.11 The table at Appendix 5 summarises the performance of these investments to 31 March 2021. The actual average interest rate earned in period was 0.51% (a decrease from the average rate of 0.65% earned to Month 9 2020/21). The average interest earned for the whole of 2020/21 was 0.73% (compared to 1.11% in 2019/20). The decrease is as a direct result of the reduction of Bank Rate in March 2020 and therefore the maturity of investments made when the Bank Rate was at 0.75%, which are now being held within the balance with Brighton & Hove City Council (which has also seen the average rate reduce due to the Bank Rate decrease). At this time, the interest earned with Brighton & Hove City Council is greater than would be earned with any of the Authority’s approved counterparties, which has resulted in the increased balance held with Brighton & Hove City Council to maintain the best level of yield for the Authority without compromising the security of the portfolio. The investment rates continue to fall, and therefore other external investment options continue to be explored but none are without additional risk to capital security.
- 3.12 The interest rate earned on the investment portfolio has been strong in comparison to benchmark rates, as can be seen by the below graph which sets out the Bank rate and London Interbank (LIBID) benchmark rates during 2020/21:



3.13 The average rate is expected to continue to reduce over into 2021/22 as investments mature (both directly, and within BHCC’s portfolio) and funds are reinvested at a lower rate. Officers regularly review cash flow forecasts closely and regularly to ensure sufficient liquidity remains within the portfolio.

4. Options & cost implications

4.1 It is proposed that the provisional below budget variance will be transferred to reserves as set out in this report, therefore increasing the resources available in future years to support priorities. The proposed transfer to reserves are considered to be the best use of available funding following a review of reserves and expected future commitments.

5. Next steps

5.1 The final outturn position will be reflected in the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts.

6. Other Implications

Implication	Yes/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	No
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	Yes. The provisional budget variance will result in contributions to the Authority’s financial reserves. This has implications for the Medium Term Financial Strategy of the Authority as it impacts on the future resource assumptions and financial projections. The resource implications have been covered within the main body of the report.
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	The proposed carry forwards ensure delivery of initiatives already approved and committed. Internal controls and governance are in place to ensure the economical, efficient and effective use of resources.

Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	No
Have you taken regard of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	There are no implications arising directly from this report. The Authority's equality duty shall be taken into account in respect to all expenditure and programmes undertaken by the National Park Authority.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	Not directly applicable to decisions in this report, however, Human Right implications relating to all expenditure and programmes undertaken by the Authority should be considered.
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	No
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	No
Are there any Data Protection implications?	No
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy:	No

7. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

7.1 There are no direct risks associated with this report as the recommendations are for noting or are within approved budgets and/or available resources.

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Appendices

1. 2020/21 Provisional Revenue Outturn by Service Area
2. 2020/21 Budget Carry Forward Request
3. 2020/21 Provisional Capital Outturn
4. 2020/21 Treasury Management Position
5. 2020/21 Reserves Position

SDNPA Consultees Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management; Director of Planning; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Legal Services, Business Services Manager

External Consultees None

Background Documents This report is presented in accordance with the Authority's Financial Regulations and Standard Financial Procedures.

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2020/21 Provisional Revenue Outturn by Service Area

Explanation of Main Movements

Service Area	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21	Explanation of Main Movements
	Month 9	Outturn	Movement	
	Variance	Variance	Variance	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Corporate Services	(17)	(20)	(3)	Minor net Variance.
Countryside Policy and Management	(197)	(279)	(82)	Variances were greater than forecast at month 9 for the following budget areas; Volunteer Management and Operation, Theme Boards, and Research and Projects.
Planning	(37)	(215)	(178)	(£87,000) below budget variance for consultants on Local Plan and Minerals and Waste budget, (£50,000) over-achievement of planning Income and (£88,000) over-achievement on CIL and section 106 income. There is a below budget variance of (£50,000) on consultants within the CIL budget. These below budget variances are offset by £89,000 above budget variance of legal costs within Development Management.
Strategic Projects	18	18	0	
Total	(233)	(496)	(263)	

Explanation of Main Variances

Service Area	2020/21	2020/21	Explanation of Main Variances
	Month 9	Outturn	
	Variance	Variance	
	£'000	£'000	
Chief Executive's Service	5	8	Salary variance due to the standard employee turnover rate.
Business Services	28	13	£108,000 above budget on Salaries due to agreed additional hours to meet temporary service requirements and a new post for Seven Sisters; this is offset by (£115,000) below budget variance on property and office costs such as gas/electricity, repairs and maintenance, refund of business rates, office stationary and venue hire costs. (£41,000) below budget on Staff Training due to Covid-19. £30,000 above budget variance on monitoring costs due to governance advice, in relation to Covid-19. £36,000 contribution to the provision of bad debt. There are other minor below budget costs for transport costs.
Marketing and Income Generation	(5)	6	£27,000 salary variance due to the standard employee turnover rate. There are other minor below budget costs such as mileage and supplies and services costs.
Governance and Support Services	(45)	(47)	(£19,000) salary variance due to staff not in the pension scheme and a reduction in costs for casual staff covering reception, due to closure of the Midhurst office to Covid-19. (£18,000) mileage and hospitality variance due

			to the impact of Covid-19 and the reduction of face to face meetings both internally and externally and (£10,000) variance on members training.
Total Corporate Services Variance	(17)	(20)	
Director of Countryside Policy and Management	5	20	Salary variance due to employee turnover, offset by below budget variance of mileage costs.
Countryside and Policy Central	(38)	(89)	(£32,000) variance is due to salaries where there was a vacant post, now filled, (Landscape and Biodiversity Lead – Woodland), (£40,000) below budget variance on theme board projects and other minor budget variance on mileage and supplies and services
Countryside and Policy Wealden Heath	(12)	(41)	(£31,000) variance due to salaries where a contribution of £25,000 was received for secondment of staff member to National Parks England. There are other minor variances of mileage costs and supplies and services.
Countryside and Policy Eastern	(43)	(90)	£19,000 salary variance due to employee turnover this is offset by (£57,000) below budget variance on theme board projects and (£34,000) variance on volunteer operations and management costs due to Covid-19, and other minor budget variances on mileage costs and supplies and services.
Countryside and Policy Western	(54)	(42)	(£45,000) variance is due to theme board projects below budget due to Covid-19 and £12,000 salary variance due to the employee turnover rate and minor budget variance on mileage costs.
Research and Performance	(55)	(37)	(£55,000) net below budget for research and consultancy costs due to projects not occurring this year due to Covid-19, but this is offset by above budget variance of £40,000 on theme board projects. (£14,000) below budget variance is due to salaries, where some posts are currently filled with less hours than budgeted and other minor budget variance on mileage costs.
Total Countryside Policy and Management Variance	(197)	(279)	
Director of Planning	2	2	Salary variance due to the standard employee turnover rate, offset by below budget variance of mileage costs.
Planning Development Management	(29)	48	(£22,000) below budget salary variance due to vacant post. £89,000 above budget due to legal fees but this is offset by (£15,000) below budget variance on direct action costs and other minor budget variance on mileage costs.
Performance and Technical Management	35	(123)	£260,000 less planning fee income than budgeted, due to the impact of Covid-19; this is offset by a below budget variance of (£88,000) on CIL and section 106 income and below budget variance of (£50,000) on consultancy costs within the CIL budget. (£140,000) below budget within delegated agreements payments and (£54,000) below budget variance on salaries due to vacant posts within the service. (£50,000) below budget on mileage and hospitality, bank charges and consultancy costs. £35,000 has been requested to be transferred from the underspend to the Affordable Housing reserve – see the section on reserves.

Planning Policy	(45)	(142)	(£22,000) salary variance due to vacant Planning Policy post and (£117,000) net below budget within local plan and minerals waste policy budgets. This is due to the Soft Sand Single Issue Review of the West Sussex Minerals Local Plan examination been held virtually and no requests from the Inspector to commission further work. On the Local Plan projects did not proceed during the year such as the West Sussex & Greater Brighton Partnership's Local Strategic Strategy and air quality monitoring work in Ashdown Forest.
Total Planning Variance	(37)	(215)	
Strategic Projects	18	18	The variance is due to the Centurion Way Project which incurred extra costs of £37,000 due to the changes in the route, which required plans to be redesigned and additional studies completed before planning was approved. £19,000 of these costs were paid in 19/20 with the balance due in 20/21.
Total Strategic Projects	18	18	
	(233)	(496)	Total Revenue Budget Projects

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2020/21 Budget Carry Forward Requests

Note, 'Contractual' carry forwards are primarily for information and indicate that a Purchase Order or other contractual commitment has been raised by the Authority.

Amount	Service Area	Type	Description
3	Marketing & Communications	Contractual	SCF Grant budget balance left as at the 31/03/2021, One Project to be funded from SCF in 2021/22.
83	Marketing & Communications	Contractual	Capital Funding for Signage Project - project in phase 2 and not completed until 2021/22 so balance of budget needs to be carried forward.
30	Marketing & Communications	Project	Nature Recovery Campaign was tendered for and commissioned and PO for £27,100 for WeAReTilt should have been raised before end of year as the project started before end of year. The remaining £2,100 is for social media promotion for the campaign. The budget was authorised by SMT in December 2020.
24	Marketing & Communications	Contractual	Website Development - Outstanding elements of website contract yet to be delivered.
6	Marketing & Communications	Contractual	Your National Park Campaign - outstanding films to be delivered – delayed because of Covid restrictions.
1	Marketing & Communications	Contractual	Film for Ed Hughes musical Composition - Project delayed due to Covid (almost complete).
3	Marketing & Communications	Contractual	University of Sussex - Ed Hughes musical composition Project delayed due to Covid (almost complete).
7	Marketing & Communications	Contractual	Design and print of Spring/Summer South Downs View - Delayed due to Covid lockdown.
4	Marketing & Communications	Contractual	Peter Anderson Photo Shoot - Delayed due to Covid restrictions.
1	Marketing & Communications	Contractual	Brochure Connect distribution of Spring/Summer South Downs View - delayed due to Covid lockdown.
4	Marketing & Communications	Contractual	Fitzpatrick Woolmer - Bluebell Interpretation - delayed due to Covid lockdown.
1	Marketing & Communications	Contractual	Fitzpatrick Woolmer - Design of SDC signage- delayed due to Covid lockdown.
1	Marketing & Communications	Contractual	Way Design – Interpretation panels at Hesworth Common - delayed due to Covid lockdown.
3	Marketing & Communications	Grant	Grant from Theme Board for Audit Trails Project work to be completed in 21/22.
1	Marketing & Communications	Contractual	Ministry of Design - Design of SDNPA Corp Plan - work delayed and ongoing.
2	Marketing & Communications	Contractual	Petersfield Museum Interpretation - work delayed due to Covid.
4	Marketing & Communications	Contractual	Interpretation – design work - delayed due to Covid.

1	Marketing & Communications	Contractual	Ministry of Design - design work delayed due to Covid.
179	Total Corporate Services Carry forwards		
12	Research & Performance	Contractual	Carbon Audit - contract partially completed and paid, remaining delayed due to Covid.
1	Research & Performance	Contractual	WinACC Parish Accounting - contract partially completed and paid, remaining delayed due to Covid.
30	Research & Performance	Project	Health and Wellbeing audit currently out to tender.
4	Research & Performance	Contractual	WEPs Review - report not yet completed until 2021/22.
3	Research & Performance	Contractual	Corporate Plan review not yet completed.
2	Research & Performance	Contractual	Citizens Panel- work partially completed in 20/21 but due to be finished in 21/22.
14	Research & Performance	Contractual	GIS Data Licence renewals required in 21/22.
9	Research & Performance	Contractual	Kingley Vale Interpretation project will not be finished until 21/22.
25	Research & Performance	Contractual	SuDs in School project started but not completed until 21/22.
25	Research & Performance	Contractual	Artscape 2 expenditure delayed due to impact of Covid.
78	Countryside Western Area	Grant	Farm officer post and contribution from the Rural Payment Agency, Defra income for Farm Clusters to be carried forward to 21/22.
20	Countryside Western Area	Grant	Income received from Gatwick Airport in 19/20 for Miles without Stiles Project, balance of income to be carried forward into 21/22. Conditions all met.
1	Countryside Western Area	Contractual	Contribution to repair of Lynch Gate path adjacent All Saints Church, Farringdon.
4	Countryside Western Area	Contractual	SDNPA contribution to the bridleway enhancement project in Binstead. The project will improve the surface and drainage of bridleways 504 and 62, enabling safe, off-road access for riders and other bridleway users from Binstead and connecting with both the Shipwrights Way long-distance trail and the woodland trails at Alice Holt.
1	Countryside Western Area	Contractual	Ecological Consultancy services.
10	Countryside Western Area	Contractual	Delay by Forestry Commission in granting felling licence has resulted in contractor being unable to carry out works until May 2021.

35	Countryside Western Area	Contractual	Natural England will currently not grant consent for bat surveys within disused railway tunnels to be undertaken due to the risk of transferring C-19 from humans to bats.
9	Countryside Western Area	Contractual	Still awaiting planning approval for this C-19 Recovery Fund project at St Catherine's Hill.
2	Countryside Western Area	Contractual	Rother Valley Way route - contractor has yet to complete remaining survey work.
27	Countryside Western Area	Contractual	Contractor unable to carry out extensive ash die-back clearance work along Centurion Way Phase 1 until May 2021.
1	Countryside Western Area	Grant	Carry forward contribution received for the Channel Payments for Ecosystem Services Project (CPES) income will be spent in 21/22.
6	Countryside Western Area	Contractual	Ecological surveys on the Rother valley Way route to be undertaken.
4	Countryside Eastern Area	Contractual	Funding for Battle of Lewes Project.
3	Countryside Eastern Area	Contractual	Installation of three kissing gates.
4	Countryside Eastern Area	Contractual	Purchase order raised for Site Surveys of 15 sites in Eastern Downs.
1	Countryside Eastern Area	Contractual	Pyecombe Golf club for grazing of 14 lambs.
4	Countryside Eastern Area	Contractual	Grants awarded to schools as part of these Learning Network Covid recovery projects. These have been ring-fenced for visits which should have taken place this term but have been cancelled so they can go ahead once restrictions allow.
5	Countryside Eastern Area	Contractual	Grants awarded to schools and ring-fenced for visits which should have taken place this term but have been cancelled so they can go ahead once restrictions allow.
4	Countryside Eastern Area	Contractual	On Course to Flail - Interp panels - but work will not be completed to 21/22.
4	Countryside Eastern Area	Contractual	Equestrian TAN project which provides guidance on a whole-system approach to conservation-based land management, the work is due to be finished in 21/22.
7	Countryside Eastern Area	Contractual	Ewe Dean Fencing Project work not completed in 20-21.
1	Countryside Eastern Area	Contractual	Sussex Heritage Coast Project to facilitation support to finish Strategy & Action Plan review.
25	Countryside Eastern Area	Contractual	Natural Capital in Public Open Spaces - Project set up delayed, delivery starting April. Partnership project with SXLNP, ESCC, A&W and Wealden DC.
10	Countryside Eastern Area	Contractual	Cockshut project to be completed in 21/22.

43	Countryside Central	Grant	Contribution received towards Forestry Partnership. Ongoing for number of years; reducing budget over number of years; Combination of different partners over number of years including Woodland Trust. Part funding a temporary post (Woodland Officer).
55	Countryside Central	Grant	Partners contribution for Heathlands Reunited project - which has not yet been spent. Funding claimed in advance from HLF and other partners. Project due to finish in 21/22.
85	Countryside Central	Project	Theme Board underspend to be carried over to support the South Downs Enterprise Partnership development to support the comms and development of the partnership through marketing and platforms including a feasibility into the 'Made in the South Downs' SDNP product marque.
33	Countryside Central	Grant	Carry forward budget is for the ongoing costs for the Rural Sussex Partnership scheme.
6	Countryside Wealden Heath	Contractual	SDNP Scheduled Ancient Monuments study 2020/21. The commissioned research will undertake a data and evidence review to count monuments, map ownerships and volunteer coverage, review systems, expertise, data sharing and training/guidance needs. 50% fee paid in 20/21 balance due next financial year.
9	Countryside Wealden Heath	Contractual	Artist in residence at SSCP - a multi- strand programme delivering youth programmes, community involvement, artist/writers retreats etc, all inspired by the landscape. 50% fee paid in 20/21 balance due next financial year.
2	Countryside Wealden Heath	Contractual	The project is still ongoing, and filming won't be happening until April 21, unable to progress designs of the plaques yet due to needing the links that the QR codes and NFC tags will be connecting to.
2	Countryside Wealden Heath	Contractual	Outstanding project budget requires c/f as project has been impacted by Covid (restrictions on filming, plaque production delayed as a knock on from filming delays etc.) Filming due to start in April 2021.
2	Countryside Wealden Heath	Contractual	Cultural Heritage Theme Programme Board approved project 'Stop a Minute', delivering two site-based installations with associated engagement activities in the western area of the National Park. 50% fee paid in 20/21 balance due in 21/22.
2	Countryside Wealden Heath	Contractual	Costs for the support, development and build of two new virtual tours for the SDNPA Footsteps App, focused on Pallant House Gallery and Gilbert White's House and Gardens. Delivery details covered by signed agreement between SDNPA, ATS Heritage and partner. 80% Fee paid in 200/21 balance due at the end of the project.
1	Countryside Wealden Heath	Contractual	Project is still awaiting planning consent, and we are thus unable to proceed with the work that requires the archaeological watching brief.
9	Countryside Western Area	Grant	Additional ecological works due to bats and soft ground conditions, so must delay work until May when ground conditions improve.

1	Countryside Western Area	Grant	Belle PCX13/40 compactor plate due for delivery in March but delayed with supplier. Expected delivery in April 21.
5	Countryside Western Area	Grant	TT3017 for Williams Tipper Trailer expected delivery in March. Delayed with the supplier. Expected delivery now April 21.
5	Countryside Western Area	Grant	Production of oak finger post arms for the England Coast Path. Order only part completed. Delivery expected April 21. Funded through external NE grant funding.
14	Countryside Western Area	Grant	Carry forward of underspend on South Downs Way Budget due, as Covid prevented some scheduled work to be completed in 20/21 that needs to be completed in 21/22.
665	Total Countryside and Policy Carry forwards		
45	Planning Policy	Grant	Income received from DCLG in 2018/19 and 2019/20, so budget needs to be carried forward into 2021/22. Conditions already met.
60	Planning Policy	Grant	Shoreham Cement Works. A scope for transport work has been agreed with West Sussex County Council and Highways England but we can't yet give the go ahead for the work given the current pandemic and the profound impact that this has had on traffic levels. Project delayed due to Covid 19.
142	Planning Policy	Grant	Balance of Grant Income received in previous years for Neighbourhood Planning, so needs to be Carry Forward.
13	Planning Policy	Contractual	Balance of Defra income received in 16/17 (50K) cost centre ring-fenced for income to be spent on this project Business Development Fund - help other LAS advice in neighbourhood planning.
10	Planning Policy	Contractual	Minerals and Waste - West Sussex Soft Sand Single Issue Review Carry forward of one-off funding.
10	Planning Policy	Project	East Sussex transport model project.
50	Performance & Technical Mgr.	Project	Shoreham Cement Works. A scope for transport work has been agreed with West Sussex County Council and Highways England but we can't yet give the go ahead for the work given the current pandemic and the profound impact that this has had on traffic levels. Project delayed due to Covid 19.
330	Total Planning Carry Forwards		
1,174	Total Carry forwards for 20/21		

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2020/21 Provisional Capital Outturn

Capital Project	2020/21 Month 9 Adjusted Budget	2020/21 Outturn Variation	2020/21 Outturn Adjusted Budget	2020/21 Outturn Actual	2020/21 Outturn Variance	2020/21 Outturn Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
National Park Signage Project Phase 2	286	(275)	11	11	0	0.0%
New Vehicle	26	(26)	0	0	0	0.0%
Seven Sisters	0	0	150	150	0	0.0%
Total Capital Budget	312	(301)	161	161	0	0.0%

Details of variation requests and explanation of significant variances

Capital Project	Variation Type	Value	Description
National Park Signage Project	Reprofile (subject to NPA approval)	(275)	The variation is due to Covid-19 lockdowns delaying the project through the impact on suppliers who have consequently furloughed many staff.
New Vehicle	Reprofile (subject to NPA approval)	(26)	Due to Covid-19 the decision was taken to delay purchasing of a vehicle in 2020/21. Two new vehicles will be purchased in 2021/22 to replace the aged Nissan Navara pickup trucks.

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2020/21 Reserves Position

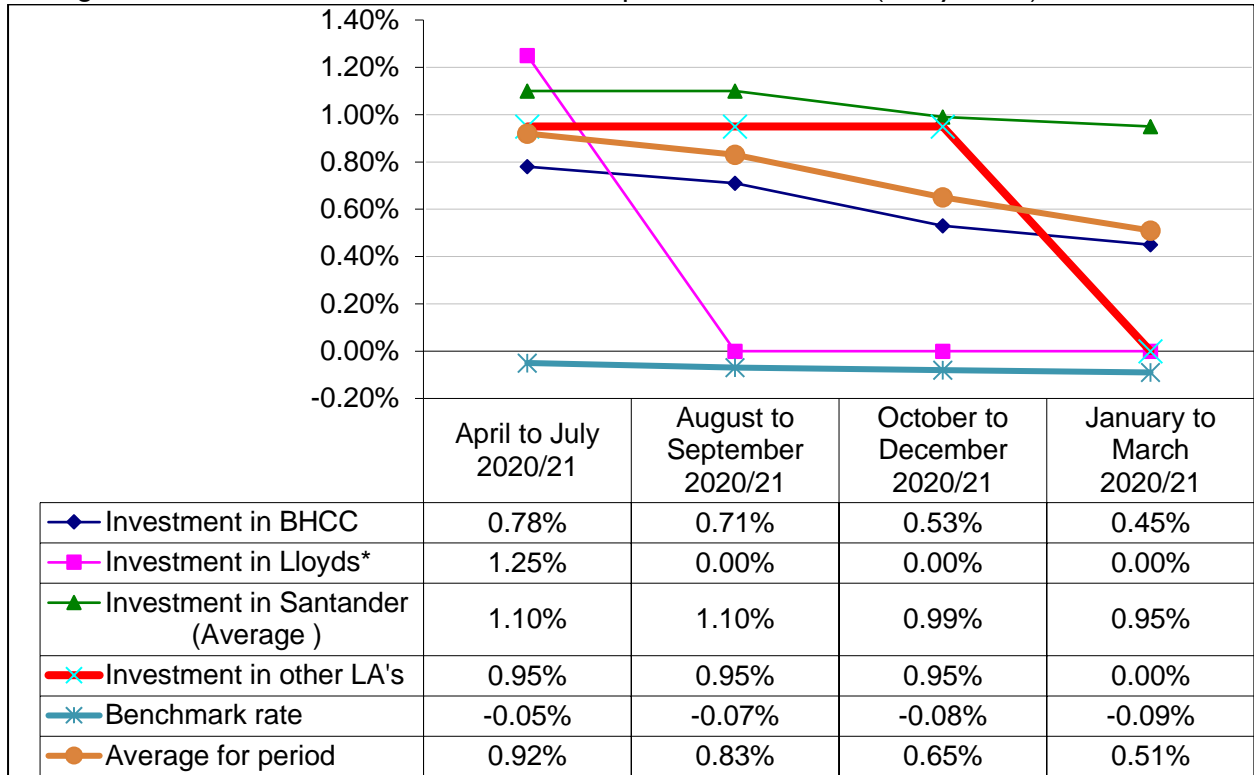
Reserve Type and Title	Purpose of Reserve	2020/21 Month 9 £'000	Move-ment Between Reserves £'000	Contrib-utions to/from Reserves £'000	2020/21 Provisional Outturn £'000
General Reserves:					
Working Balance	Working Balance	595	0	0	595
General Reserve	General Reserve representing the 2020/21 approved budget surplus	0	(35)*	496	461
Earmarked Reserves:					
Partnership Management Plan Reserve	To fund outcomes identified in the Partnership Management Plan	301	0	0	301
Planning Reserve	To fund unforeseen planning inquires, changes to future delegation arrangements, significant income falls and support for neighbourhood plans	558	0	0	558
Strategic Fund	Reserve to hold unspent Strategic Fund allocations.	520	0	214	734
Affordable Housing	Funds to implement an Affordable Housing Strategy within the National Park	126	35*	0	161
Climate Change Fund Reserve	Funds to support the Authority becoming a 'net-zero' organisation by 2030.	141	0	(15)	126
South Downs Way	Funding transferred from South Downs Joint Committee	20	0	0	20
Section 106 Receipts Reserve	Receipts primarily used to develop infrastructure within the National Park	558	0	(34)	524
Section 106 Interest on Statutory Receipts		146	0	31	177
Community Infrastructure Levy Reserve**	Receipts to fund infrastructure in development areas	4,609	0	1,144	5,753
Capital Reserves:					
Capital Receipts	Proceeds from disposal of assets available for use on capital expenditure	23	0	0	23
Estates Management Reserve	To support refurbishment of area offices.	1,028	0	(150)	878
Vehicle Repairs and Renewals	To fund purchase of replacement vehicles	32	0	0	32
Total Reserves Balance		8,657	0	1,686	10,343

* Subject to approval by the Authority.

** The value of the Community Infrastructure Levy reserve represents amounts receivable in accordance with Financial Regulations and the Town and County Planning Act 1990. The reserve value may not represent the value of actual income received due to agreed payment terms and profile of payments for some developments.

2020/21 Treasury Management Performance

Average Interest rate achieved on Investments compared to Benchmark (7 Day-LIBID)



Average amount invested (weighted by amount per day)

