



Report to the Partnership for South Hampshire Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 30 November 2022
Report of: Paddy May, Bird Aware Project Board Chair
Anna Parry, Partnership Manager
Subject: Bird Aware Solent Annual Budget Request

SUMMARY

The report will seek approval from the Joint Committee for the Bird Aware 2023/24 budget request, a matter that is considered annually.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- a) NOTES the contents of this report;
- b) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to ENDORSE the Bird Aware Partnership's proposed budget for 2023/24; and
- c) consider any comments to be passed to the Joint Committee for consideration

Background

1. The Bird Aware Partnerships work is wholly funded by developer contributions.
2. The amount which will be received in the future cannot be accurately predicted, so a judgement needs to be made annually on an appropriate budget for the coming year. Information collected quarterly related to developer contributions received, and annual planning permission data, helps inform the budget for each coming year.
3. Additionally the Board maintains a financial reserve to cushion the peaks and troughs in development activity and thus money received by the Partnership. This means that if income is lower than outgoings in 2023/24, in the first instance money from the reserves would be used to meet any shortfall.
4. The proposed budget for 2023/24 is £2,242k, which includes a £1,250k contribution to the in-perpetuity fund, leaving £992k for the implementation of mitigation measures. These measures include a team of five all year rangers, further supported by three seasonal rangers during the winter, a campaigns and engagement officer, a dog initiatives leader, a monitoring officer and the partnership manager. For the fourth time, they also include £400k to support site specific projects. The in-perpetuity fund is part of the agreed strategy and vital to allow for the work of the partnership to continue until 2114, whilst payments into the scheme are due to halt in 2034.
5. The budget will also fund the vital monitoring surveys and data collection activities which will be taking place during winter 2022/23. Furthermore, it provides for the development of targeted engagement activities with dog owners and walkers, as research shows that around 47% of all major disturbance incidences involve a dog off the lead.
6. The proposed budget for 2023/24 is therefore:

Table 1: Proposed 2023/24 budget

Item	000s	Comment
Rangers	287	As per the SLA
Dog Initiatives Officer (FT role)	42	Includes element for travel costs
Dog initiatives	10	Promotion, website, resources
Campaigns and Engagement Officer (FT role)	50	Includes element for travel costs
Campaigns operational budget	10	Printing / Design / Freebies
Partnership Manager (0.6 F.T.E.)	45	Includes element for travel costs
Operating budget	10	Same as last year
Monitoring (consultancy support)	50	See note
Contribution to Monitoring Officer role	10	This is in addition to 10% of the site-specific funding money

Site Specific Projects	400 ¹	Same as last year
Sub-total	992	
Contribution to in-perpetuity fund	1250 ²	As taken from the In-perpetuity tables
Total budget	2242	

Differences from 2022/23 Budget

7. The proposed budget for 2023/24 sees a broadly similar request to that of 2022/23 (shown in **Appendix 1** for information). This is because the Strategy is already in full delivery mode and therefore the main activities of the Partnership remain unchanged.
8. The monitoring budget is considerably smaller this year than last (£50k as opposed to £140k) which reflects the fact that the previous period covered the final payments for the 2021/22 monitoring work and the entirety of the five-year review work. As yet, there is no set plan for monitoring during this accounting period, but the results of the 5 Year Review work may dictate a need for such work, hence this element has been included within the budget request.
9. For clarity, the monitoring support officer role (0.7 f.t.e - hosted by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) and the additional work HIWWT undertake related to 'quality control' of the delivery of the site specific projects is paid for through the 10% from site specific projects and the £10k budget previously allocated to the now discontinued access management plans.

For information

Balances at 31/03/2021

Reserves brought forward @ 31/03/21	387,496
Contribution to reserves 21/22	744,083
Reserves carried forward @ 31/03/22	<u>1,131,579</u>
In-perpetuity fund @ 31/03/21	2,864,303
Transfer in 21/22	0
Interest received	22,229
In-perpetuity fund @ 31/03/22	<u>2,886,532</u>

¹ This is in addition to money committed in previous years but not yet drawn down (circa £900k)

² This amount is subject to review in the forthcoming financial review, but will be no less than the figure indicated.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is RECOMMENDED that Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- a) NOTES the contents of this report;
- b) NOTES that Joint Committee will be asked to ENDORSE the Bird Aware Partnership's proposed budget for 2023/24; and
- c) consider any comments to be passed to the Joint Committee for consideration.

ENQUIRIES:

For further information on this report please contact:-

Anna Parry

Bird Aware Partnership Manager

Tel: 02392 834140

Email: Anna.Parry@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Approved 2022/23 Budget

Item	000s
Rangers	287
Dog Initiatives Officer (FT role)	42
Dog initiatives	10
Campaigns and Engagement Officer (FT role)	50
Campaigns operational budget	10
Partnership Manager (0.6 F.T.E.)	35
Operating budget	10
Monitoring (consultancy support)	140
Contribution to Monitoring role	10
Site Specific Projects	400 ³
Sub-total	994
Contribution to in-perpetuity fund	1110
Total budget	2104

³ This is in addition to up to £700k of funds already allocated in previous years which are yet to be drawn down.