

Financial Update

Agenda Item 14

National Park Authority Board Meeting

14 September 2026

Paper for information

1.	Purpose	1
2.	Recommendation(s).....	1
3.	Contribution to National Park Partnership Plan and/or Corporate Plan.....	1
4.	2026/27 Management Accounts	1
5.	2025/26 Statutory Accounts	2
6.	Scottish Government Commissions	3
7.	2026/27 Budget review.	3
8.	2027/28 Budget planning and Medium-Term Financial Planning.....	3
9.	Appendices.....	3

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the financial update including an update on the Management Accounts for the period ended 31 March 2027 and the Statutory Accounts for 2025/26.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1. That Board Members **note** this report.

3. Contribution to National Park Partnership Plan and/or Corporate Plan

- 3.1. Robust financial and budget management underpins the outcomes and priorities of the National Park Partnership Plan and Corporate Plan.

4. 2026/27 Management Accounts

- 4.1. The Management Accounts for the three months to 30 June are presented in Appendix 1. These are shown against full year and year to date budget.

- 4.2. Income to date totals £3,4m. This is made up of £3m of Grant in Aid and £423k of income from other sources.
- 4.3. Excluding Grant in Aid, income for the first three months is £133k ahead of the Q1 budget. Generated Income is £25k ahead of budget due to increased camping income, alongside £76k public bodies to develop our visitor management digital platform. Property Rental Income is £61k ahead of budget due to phasing which will be reviewed at Q2, offset by Planning Fees which are £29k behind budget.
- 4.4. Operating Salaries to date total £1,7m against an Q1 budget of £1,7m. Permanent and Fixed Term Staff Costs are £18k under budget, whilst Seasonal Staff Costs are £42k ahead of budget, due to the very busy start to the visitor season. Unlike previous years there is no estimated pay award as this was agreed prior to 2025/26 year end and has been phased across the 2026/27 budget.
- 4.5. Operating Expenditure to date totals £0.8m against a Q1 budget of £1m. Administration and Other Staff costs are £31k and £55k under budget respectively. ICT costs are £117k under budget which is down to phasing and timing of invoices.
- 4.6. Net Activity Expenditure budget for 2026/27 is £2,7m made up of £1,9m capital and £788k revenue. Net project capital spend to date totals £127k against a Q1 budget of £568k, an underspend of £441k which is due to slightly later invoicing for major capital projects than initially anticipated. Net project revenue spend to date totals £36k against a Q1 budget of £52k, an underspend of £16k.
- 4.7. The Peatland budget for 2026/27 is made up of £611k capital and £291k revenue. Peatland capital spend to date totals £0k against a Q1 budget of £0k. Peatland revenue spend to date totals £44k against a Q1 budget of £63k. Peatland have overprogrammed to guard against the risk of individual projects slipping or falling.
- 4.8. Nature Restoration Funding for 2026/27 is made up of £1,2m capital and £400k revenue. made up of £750k capital and £275k revenue. There has been no spend in NRF to date, however the team have factored in overprogramming within planned projects.

5. 2025/26 Statutory Accounts

- 5.1. The status of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2025/26 is recorded in Agenda Item 6 - to be considered by Members ahead of this report.

6. Scottish Government Commissions

- 6.1. During the last 3 months we have responded to the following Commissions:

- 6.1.1. Pay and Workforce – requesting past and forecast pay and workforce data including information on costs, FTE and turnover.
- 6.1.2. PSR Quarterly update – capturing progress towards financial and FTE PSR savings targets.
- 6.1.3. Savings Exercise 2027/28 – collection of contractually committed costs and opportunities for savings in 2027/28 across capital and revenue.

7. 2026/27 Budget review

- 7.1. We have kicked off our mid-year budget review for 2026/27. Meetings will be held with the responsible members of staff during September and October, with the revised budget reported as part of the December Financial Update.

8. 2027/28 Budget planning and Medium-Term Financial Planning

- 8.1. An assumption has been made of a flat cash scenario for 2027/28 based on the information available from Scottish Government, and as such we are planning accordingly.
- 8.2. We continue to develop our 2027/28 budget process. For the first time we plan to hold an all-day session in late November for Operational Managers and the Executive Team to identify operational priorities and associated budget requirements for the upcoming year, continuing the evolution of our planning and reporting model.
- 8.3. We continue to develop our Medium-Term Financial Plan and will be looking to finalise this in the second half of the Financial Year.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Management Accounts to 30 June 2026 against FY Budget

Appendix 2 – Management Accounts to 30 June 2026 against YTD Budget

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