

# Exmoor National Park Partnership Fund Annual Report 2017/18



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Cover photo: PF16-09 Lyn Valley Museum

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# Contents

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<b>Introduction</b>	<b>p.1</b>
<b>Summary Figures</b>	<b>p.2</b>
<b>Fund Criteria</b>	<b>p.3</b>
<b>Partnership Fund Committee</b>	<b>p.4</b>
<b>Contribution to National Park Purposes</b>	<b>p.4</b>
<b>Grant Offers Made 2017/18</b>	<b>p.5</b>

## Introduction

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***The Exmoor National Park Partnership Fund is available to support projects that achieve National Park purposes and provide community and economic benefits.***

*The Partnership Fund, established in 2011, is the main grant funding programme provided by the National Park Authority. The Fund continues to invest in good ideas, providing an open approach, based on a partnership with applicants to shape and deliver projects that can have a sustainable beneficial impact on the National Park.*

*The fund is provided by the allocation of part of the Authority's discretionary budget and is open to communities, voluntary organisations, businesses and individuals.*

## Summary Figures

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Expressions of Interest received: **8**

Projects funded: **4**

Total offered: **£22,000**

Mean grant offered: **£5,500**

Largest single grant offered: **£15,000**

Smallest grant offered: **£750**

Estimated **£42,248** in-kind funding contributed<sup>1</sup>

Estimated **£43,500** match funding secured

Average intervention rate: **23%**

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<sup>1</sup> **Note:** The above figures cover grant offers made in the year 2017-18. The figures are estimates based on the details provided by applicants at application stage on which funding decisions are made. Over the course of a project there may be some variance in the actual spend and match funding which is tolerated within acceptable limits.

# Fund criteria

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The overarching focus of the fund is the achievement of National Park purposes with a weighting to projects that also provide community and economic benefits. Applications are assessed against essential and desirable criteria and how they help deliver the priorities within the Partnership Plan 2012-17.

## **Essential Criteria**

To qualify for funding a project must:

- further one or both National Park purposes:
  - Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage of the National Park
  - Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public;
- contribute to the achievement of strategic priorities set out in the Exmoor National Park Partnership Plan;
- demonstrate community involvement or support; and
- comply with state aid rules.

## **Desirable Criteria**

In addition to the Essential Criteria listed above, weighting will be given to those projects that demonstrate:

- tangible economic and community benefits;
- that other funding has been sought or they have little access to other funding;
- lasting benefits beyond the initial funding period;
- innovation or the use of best practice;
- opportunities for others to learn from the project.

## Partnership Fund Committee

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The Partnership Fund Committee acts as the grant panel for the Partnership Fund. It considers and determines all applications (internal and external) that seek over £2,500 (smaller grants are delegated to the Chief Executive and reported to the Committee).

In 2017/18, the following Members of the National Park Authority served on the Partnership Fund Committee:

**Chair:**

Miss Andrea Davis

**Committee Members:**

Mr Martin Dewdney

Mr Richard Edgell

Mr Michael Ellicott

Mr John Patrinos

Mrs Linda Blanchard

Mr Martin Ryall

## Contribution to National Park purposes

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The overarching aims of the fund are to help deliver against National Park purposes:

1. To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of Exmoor National Park.
2. To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Exmoor National Park by the public.

All projects supported in 2017/18 were scored as contributing to both National Park purposes, with a weighting given to projects also providing community and economic benefits.

## Grant offers 2017/18

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Partnership Fund grant-aid received an allocation of £50,000 for 2017/18.

Over the financial year, the Partnership Fund allocated £22,000 of grant-aid to four (4) projects. This has helped lever in a further £85,748 of in-kind (£42,248) and cash (£43,500) investment for Exmoor.

Two large grants and two small grants were awarded in 2017/18.

The two large grants were awarded to:

- PF16-12 Young Voice Coordinator
- PF16-23 Wheddon Cross Public Toilets

The two small grants of up to £2,500 were awarded to:

- PF16-06 Riverside Skills project
- PF16-09 Lyn Museum

The Chief Executive determined small grants, below £2500, as 'delegated' grants, allowing applications to be fast tracked with a minimum of paperwork for applicants. All delegated decisions are reported to the Partnership Fund Committee.

These small grants, although relatively low in cash value, help to achieve great results, very often matching significant community fundraising efforts, demonstrating good value for money and helping to engage a broad spectrum of people in delivering National Park purposes.



**Table 1 - 2016/17 Grant Allocations**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Partnership Fund contribution</b>	<b>Total project value</b>	<b>Partnership Fund intervention rate</b>	<b>Status as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018</b>
<b>PF16-23 Wheddon Cross Public Toilets</b>	Contribution towards the refurbishment the public toilets at Wheddon Cross and transfer of management to a community trust.	<b>£5,000</b>	£20,000	25%	In progress
<b>PF16-12 Young Voices Coordinator</b>	Support to establish a more formal Young Voices structure and presence on Exmoor over 3 years via the recruitment of a coordinator.	<b>£15,000</b>	£79,368	19%	In progress
<b>PF16-09 Lyn Museum</b>	To support an options appraisal of Lynton Museum and drafting of a grant bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.	<b>£1,250</b>	£3,750	33%	In progress
<b>PF16-06 Riverside Skills</b>	Contribution to support the establishment of a volunteer and green skills training venue and at Brompton Regis.	<b>£750</b>	£4,630	16%	In progress

## Partnership Fund Revisions 2018/19

Authority Members agreed a proposal for a revised Partnership Fund scheme on 7 November 2017.

The main revision was the removal of large grants from 2018/19 to focus the fund on providing small (delegated) grants.

The focus on delegated grants means that the Partnership Fund Committee is no longer required. It was therefore agreed that the Partnership Fund Committee be disbanded and that the necessary Member strategic overview and scrutiny of the fund will be provided by the Finance and Performance Advisory Panel (FAPAP).

Decisions on applications, from Expression of Interest (EoI) to full submissions will pass to Leadership Team. The process will remain managed by the Funding Officer, with technical advice on funding from the Sustainable Economy team, Officers and Members, as appropriate.

An Annual Report, detailing grants awarded, will continue to be presented to the Authority Committee.

In addition to the processual changes above, revised criteria include:

1. A request that all applications secure a *minimum* of 10% cash-match, in addition to any in-kind contributions identified.
2. Application forms include an option to allow applicants to request either a grant, underwriting for a project or a loan.
3. A request that all projects include measurable outcomes that clearly address National Park purposes and agreed ambitions in the Partnership Plan 2018-2023.
4. Project funding will be available for a maximum of 2 years.
5. Funding will not be available to support business development or high-risk projects.
6. All projects will be required to deliver quantifiable publicity and promotion for Exmoor and ENPA, including completing an end of project highlight report in either a text or alternative format and marketing the project through either photographic evidence, short

videos, infographics, or social media presentations as appropriate and relevant to the project.

7. All projects will be asked to include opportunities to address one or more of volunteering, visitor gifting, audience development, or conservation benefits for Exmoor.
8. Any major item purchased through grant-aid are to be classed as community asset and listed as available to communities on Exmoor.

Specific priorities for ENPA within the Partnership Plan may be promoted during the year as and when appropriate. The aim of this is to make the scheme more of 'challenge fund' encouraging applications that help deliver specific ambitions for Exmoor.



**PF16-06 Riverside Skills Project**

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