

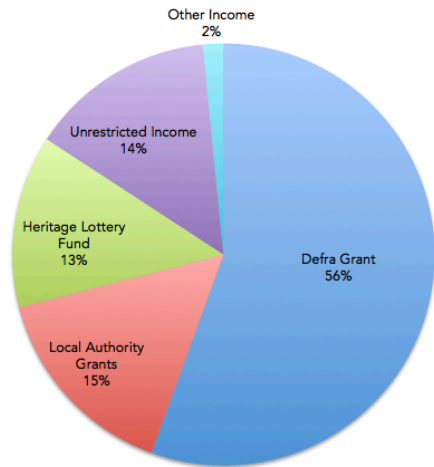
Our 20-year Vision for the Tamar Valley

The people of the Tamar Valley are stewards of this rare valley and water landscape, of high visual quality, a unique wildlife resource with a remarkable heritage, which is a legacy of thousands of years of human occupation. By supporting a thriving community with a sense of belonging and identity, we will ensure the sustainability of the area as a peaceful, tranquil breathing space, at a time of unprecedented change.

The AONB partnership comprises of 28 organisations that cover the geographic extent of the AONB and provide a breadth of expertise and insight into local issues.

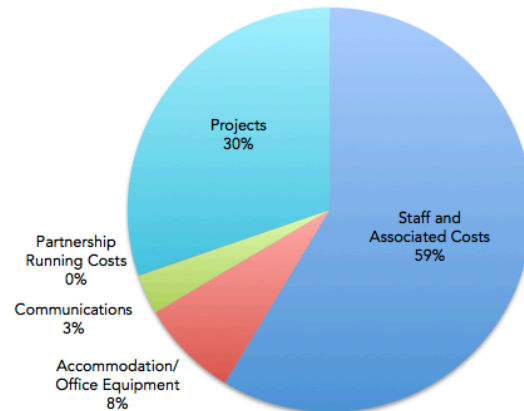
Finances 2015-16

Income



Total Income £276,128

Expenditure



Total Expenditure £276,128

We receive our core funding from DEFRA, Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, West Devon Borough Council and South Hams District Council.

Working with partners

- Partner on the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project helping to develop and steer this Devon-wide, multi-partnership project.
- AONB together with Devon County Council, Devon Hedge Group and Devon Local Nature Partnership partly funded an Ash dieback seminar at Bicton College where it was agreed that an Ash dieback Action Plan was required.
- Partners have provided an invaluable role in providing support and expertise to make the Helping Hands for Heritage project a great success.

Conserving and enhancing the landscape

- A great deal of work has been carried out by the AONB team on the National Grid Visual Impact Provision project and the potential to underground cables across the Tamar estuary. In autumn 2015, the Tamar Valley AONB heard it narrowly missed out on being in the top four projects to be taken forward.
- A draft proposal was worked up for the National Grid's Landscape Enhancement Initiative and submitted their comments for spring 2016.
- Helping Hands for Heritage project continued to promote awareness and record heritage across the Tamar Valley AONB and the legacy of the project should continue take this forward in the future.

Bringing the rivers back into focus

- Soil carbon pilot work in the Tamar Valley led to discussions about a potential partnership project focussing on priority areas in the Tamar catchment.
- In autumn, AONB contributed £3,600 to enable the Tamar Invasive Project to continue.
- In spring 2015, initial project ideas were developed for a potential LIFE bid, a joint venture with the Environment Agency, to maximise opportunities for funding around the rivers, water quality, flood defence, soils and biodiversity.
- Helping Hands for Heritage volunteers recorded the AONB's 'Watery Heritage' in autumn working with the Westcountry Rivers Trust.

Supporting the economy and communities

- AONB and Forestry Commission funded a 'Timber and fuel from woods and hedges' event at Crocadon Sawmills. 70 people attended from across the South West and beyond.
- In spring 2016, the AONB team collaborated with TAVATA, the World Heritage Site (WHS) and National Trust on a proposal to seek funding from the South West Tourism Growth Fund. An itinerary was developed for press trips with a focus on the Tamar Valley.
- The AONB team provided advice for the St Dominica Heritage Trail around St Dominick and worked closely with the organisers who secured £8,000 from Tesco's Bags of Help initiative in January 2016.

Key statistics

In the community...

- 33 walkers completed the 17 mile Discovery Trail Challenge, total amount raised for Living Options Devon was £2,200
- This August the Tamar Valley AONB celebrated 20 years since designation. To mark the occasion, a 5-day Tamar Trails Festival was organised, where 350 people enjoyed a range of activities, events and guided walks.
- The festival culminated in a Celebration Day in the grounds of the Tamar Valley Centre when 300 people joined the celebrations.
- The 2-year HLF funded Helping Hands for Heritage engaged 2,280 people through 106 events and training workshops.
- Tamar Community Trust's practical days on the Tamar Trails and at Wacker Quay contributed 51,300 volunteer work hours.

Spreading the word....

- Approximately 60 press releases have been issued to mainly local and regional media throughout the year to generate interest and awareness on a number of topics.
- Monthly e-bulletins continue to keep 1,572 people updated on progress with projects and provide opportunities to become involved.
- Social media – 821 followers on Facebook, 1,162 on Twitter
- 3 Issues of The Valley produced, 10,000 copies of the spring/summer 2015 edition, a bumper edition to promote 20 years of the AONB, 8,000 copies for autumn/winter 2015 and further 10,000 copies for spring/summer 2016 edition.

Sustainable planning for the Valley...

- Over the past year, 105 planning applications of varying complexity have been assessed by the AONB. 52 of these have been fully reviewed and responded to.