

Applicant – by email only

ciara.toner@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Our Ref: EFSS 20

Direct Tel: 02890 569610

04/07/2023

Dear Ciara

Letter of Offer: The Sperrins - From Future Search to AONB Delivery

Following your application to the Environment Fund I am pleased to inform you that the Department is offering the level of grant outlined below for 2023/24, subject to the Terms and Conditions that are attached to this letter of offer in Appendix 4 and the Additional Terms and Conditions below.

This is to deliver Option 1 within your application and, where appropriate with the amendments outlined below. The Outcomes and Targets to be delivered, monitored and reported on are listed in Appendix 2, alongside the Risk Register that must be maintained and reported on with each grant claim.

Offer:

1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024: Up to £103,660 at up to 62% of eligible costs.

Future years

1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025: Up to £108,487 at up to 62% of eligible costs.

1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026: Up to £122,927 at up to 62% of eligible costs.

1 April 2026 – 31 March 2027: Up to £123,477 at up to 62% of eligible costs.

1 April 2027 – 31 March 2028: Up to £129,884 at up to 62% of eligible costs.

The following elements are excluded from this offer:

- School Engagement
- Funding for Built Heritage Features
- Updates/revision to Driving Routes and Cycle Routes

Client Officer:

The DAERA Client Officer allocated for this project is Michael Gillespie; Tel 02890 569576; e-mail Michael.gillespie2@daera-ni.gov.uk.

Additional Project Specific Terms and Conditions:

1. Final draft Sperrins AONB management plan to be submitted to the NIEA by 30th November 2024.
2. Draft AONB Action plan to be submitted to NIEA by 30th November 2024 and action plan to be finalised by 31st January 2025.
3. NIEA to fully engaged in consultation and development of the management plan and action plan
4. Draft proposals for the establishment of a Sperrins AONB wildfire group including draft terms of reference and proposed membership to be submitted to NIEA within 12mths of project commencement.
5. Sperrins AONB to be represented at the NI Wildfire Stakeholder Forum
6. Wildfire awareness messages to be agreed in advance with NIEA and NIFRS before being released to the public and landowners
7. Only the actions within the “Environment and Heritage” section of the Future Search Conference Report” are eligible for support, the precise actions much be agreed with the cline officer as part of the agreed work plan for the project.
8. Funding for years three, four and five to be dependent on the production of a satisfactory AONB management plan and action plan.
9. HRA on AONB management plan and Action plan must be undertaken by the Council carried out once both documents are complete, this to be shared with the Department in advance of adopting the AONB Management Plan.
10. NIEAs outdoor recreation officer to be invited onto the recreation forum (if not already represented) and to be engaged on all proposed outdoor recreation projects and proposals.
11. Update to the Sperrins Outdoor Recreation Action Plan.
12. Geospatial mapping of working areas and locations of projects delivered will be required as a condition of any offer.
13. once the HRA is developed by the Council for the AONB management plan and any projects to be delivered through EF funding, this must be submitted to the EF Grant Client Officer must agree that they are content with it prior to implementation of any elements that might affect designated sites.
14. The Applicant is responsible for obtaining and complying with statutory approvals in advance of the conduct of any activities that may affect designated sites. In awarding this grant DAERA is not inferring that “as an owner/occupier¹ of the protected site(s) named in the EF Application Form, or as a public body, you may carry out, cause or permit to be carried out, the operation(s) specified in the manner prescribed” and outlined in your grant application and supplementary information. This Letter of Offer is not therefore a Consent/Assent, under the Environment Order (Northern Ireland) 2002 as amended, for any of the operations proposed in your project.

Where you do not have current Consent/Assent in place for the proposed project, and intend to carry out operations within or near ASSIs, you must gain this via your Environment Fund (EF) Client Officer in writing prior to carrying out any operations. You must fill in the appropriate form in Appendix 4.

Competent Authorities (Government, Councils and Statutory Undertakers) intending to carry out projects within or near ASSIs must have the Assent of



DAERA in order to proceed, and for European sites are required to carry out their own Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) prior to applying for Assent from their EF Client Officer.

If you propose to amend, or carry out additional operations, or where the period identified in the proposal for the operation to take place has expired, you must provide sufficient information to enable the environmental assessment to be carried out to consider whether the operation(s) can be granted Consent/Assent.

Where any operations also require permission from a local planning or other regulatory authority, separate to a permission under the Environment Order (Northern Ireland) 2002 as amended, you must ensure these permissions are also obtained before any operations take place.

¹ You must have written permission of the owner.

Acceptance of Offer:

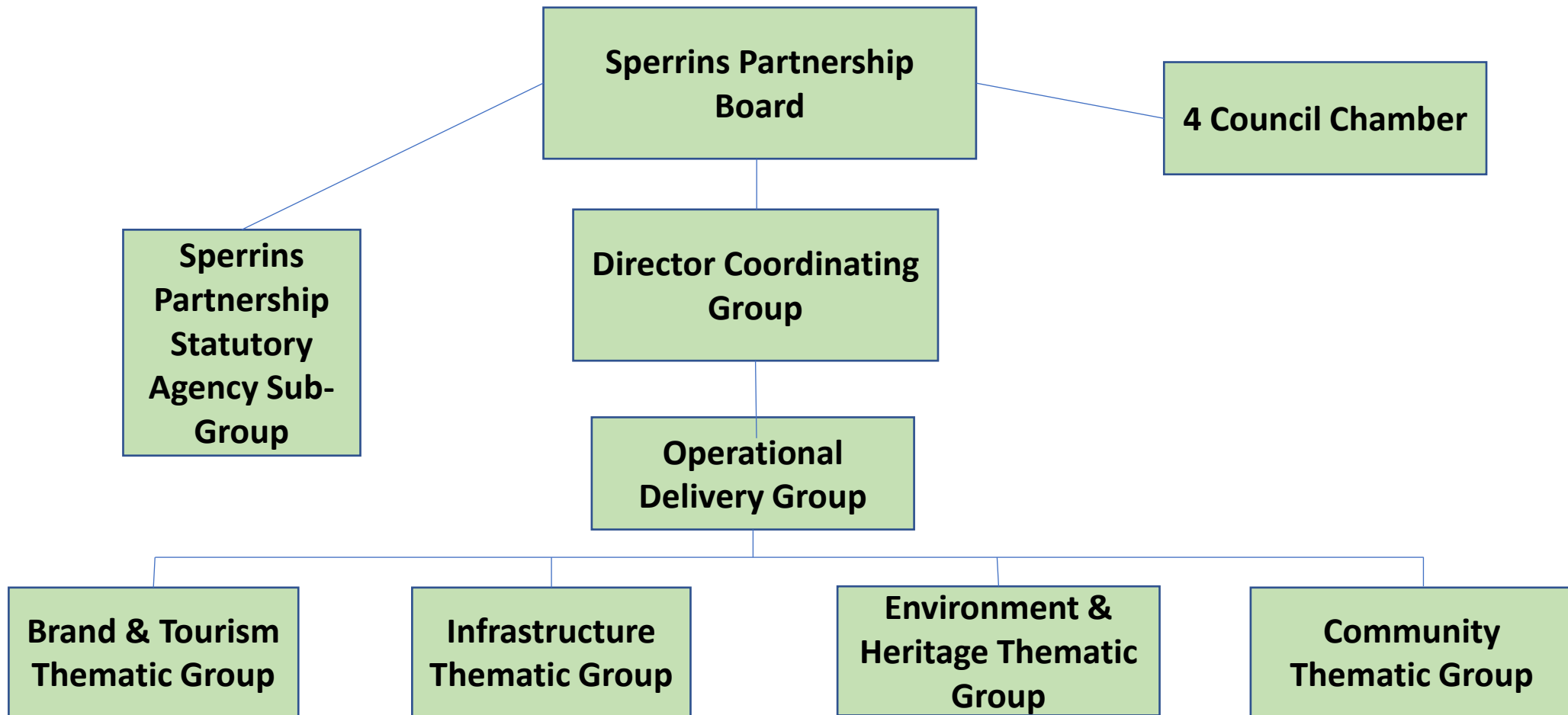
If you are accepting this offer you must confirm this using the attached Grant Acceptance Form by **03/08/2023**. This must be signed by 2 authorised representatives.

Yours sincerely

Mark Hammond
Director, Natural Environment Division
DAERA

Copy: Michael Gillespie, DAERA Client Officer
efgrants@daera-ni.gov.uk
Katie Birbeck, DAERA

Current Sperrins Partnership Structure



Proposed Sperrins Partnership Structure

