

Report of the External Funding Manager

Subject: Sustainable Development Fund Committee Terms of Reference

Purpose of Report

To agree the Sustainable Development Fund Committee's updated terms of reference.

Introduction/Background

The National Park Authority has recently been awarded funding from Welsh Government Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places to deliver a pilot Greening Agriculture project.

The Greening Agriculture project will be working with farms within the National Park to trial different approaches to how they can decarbonise through offsetting and reduction measures.

There will be an open window for farm occupiers to apply to the scheme for projects that will deliver one of the following:

- Installing renewable energy equipment to power operations on the farm
- Rainwater harvesting
- Enhancing carbon storage features on farms e.g. hedge banks and better woodland management
- Making permanent grasslands/hay meadow - enriched soil (carbon storage)
- Establishing healthy soils to increase carbon cycling

Applications will be received and appraised by project officers.

In order to ensure good governance and transparency of decision making it is recommended that the SDF Committee ratify the decision-making process and that this be added to the SDF Committee's terms of reference.

Risk considerations

These changes will ensure that the good practice implemented when awarding SDF grants is applied to the Greening Agriculture pilot. A key element of this is that the award process is open and transparent.

Biodiversity implications/Sustainability appraisal

The Greening Agriculture pilot will work with farmers to improve biodiversity and / or reduce the carbon produced as part of their work.

Welsh Language considerations

The Greening Agriculture pilot and the decision making process will operate in accordance with the Authority's Welsh Language Standards.

Conclusion

The paper recommends a change to the Sustainable Development Fund Committee's Terms of Reference to enable it to consider applications for funding under the Greening Agriculture pilot scheme.

RECOMMENDATION:

Members endorse the changes to the Sustainable Development Fund Committee's Terms of Reference to include making decisions in relation to the Greening Agriculture pilot scheme with immediate effect.

Background Documents

Report [51/20 Update the Sustainable Development Fund Committee Terms of Reference](#)

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PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

TERMS OF REFERENCE

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMITTEE

The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Committee is responsible for considering all applications for financial assistance/support in connection with the SDF and Greening Agriculture and for monitoring and reviewing both schemes.

The Sustainable Development Fund and Greening Agriculture pilot aims:

To help reduce local carbon emissions in our environment and to respond to the climate emergency.

Committee Composition

Committee membership will be comprised of six Members (4 PCC and 2 WG), and may appoint up to 2 Advisory Members if they so wish. Advisory Members will be individuals with expertise or experience in areas of importance to the Committee, and will be appointed by the Committee. The Committee may also co-opt individuals with specialist knowledge for additional advice on an *ad hoc* basis.

Quorum

The quorum of the SDF Committee shall be not less than two Authority Members, with at least one County Council-appointed and one Welsh Government-appointed Member being present.

Application Assessment

The Committee will consider all applications against criteria based on the scheme's objectives as set out in the Authority's SDF Grant Application Guidelines document and Greening Agriculture guidelines.

In considering applications, the Authority Members on the Committee shall have regard to any recommendation made to it by the Advisory Members/*ad hoc* Advisors, drawing on their specific areas of knowledge and expertise.

Decision Process

Advisory Members will contribute to the decision making process however it is solely the Authority Members of the Committee who are empowered to decide in each case:

- (a) whether an application should be awarded grant
- (b) the level of grant to be awarded
- (c) any conditions to which a grant is to be subject

In relation to applications not awarded a grant the Committee will indicate why an application is not deemed suitable for support under the Fund, or they may suggest amendments to the proposal and invite re-submission of an amended application.

Meetings

Meetings will be held on a quarterly basis as and when required.

Appeals procedure

An aggrieved applicant may lodge an appeal by writing to the National Park Authority's Monitoring Officer. The appeal must be on the grounds of incorrect procedure only.

