

Sustainable Development Fund Committee

26 April 2023

Present: Councillor M James (Chair)
Councillor S Hancock, Dr M Havard, Dr R Plummer and Councillor
Mrs S Skyrme-Blackhall.

[Councillor S Alderman joined the meeting during consideration of
report 04/23, the Financial Report]

(Virtual Meeting: 10.00am –11.15am)

1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Disclosures of Interest

Dr R Plummer made a general (personal) declaration in respect of her membership of the Natural Resources Wales Board and as a trustee of Plantlife. Dr R Plummer also disclosed a personal interest in SDF/042023/1 and SDF/042023/6. Dr M Havard disclosed a personal interest in SDF/042023/1. Councillor M James disclosed a personal interest in SDF/042023/1 as a Member appointed by Pembrokeshire County Council, however he noted that County Councillors had dispensation to speak and vote in respect of applications submitted by the County Council.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 25 January 2023 were presented for confirmation and authentication.

On the proposal of Dr R Plummer, Seconded by Councillor S Hancock, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 25 January 2023 be confirmed and authenticated.

4. Action Log

a) Phased Payments

The Officer reported that moving forward, 10% of the grant would be retained by the Authority until the grant recipient submitted an end of project report. It was added that should this impact the cash flow of a project; the Authority would be flexible where possible.



b) SDF Project Site Visit

It was confirmed that the site visits had been arranged for the 5 July 2023 and all National Park Members would be invited. The Officer requested that Members provide suggestions of projects that they would like to visit.

5. Financial Report

The Head of Decarbonisation presented an update on the current financial position of the Sustainable Development fund (SDF). The report featured a breakdown of the current financial commitments, a map of approved projects, a list of projects completed since the last meeting and a summary of the SDF financial position 2023/24. It was confirmed that Officers were in contact with project coordinators whose end of project paperwork was overdue.

One Member referred to the map of SDF projects and highlighted that there was a dominance of projects in certain areas of Pembrokeshire, and questioned whether this should be monitored. It was added that some of the submitted end of project reports were of poor quality and a request was made for Officers to be mindful of this to ensure all reports were up to a certain standard.

A Member noted that there were several projects that were due to be completed in March 2023 and asked whether the final reports had been received for these. It was confirmed that reports had been received for some of the projects however Officers were waiting on responses to queries that had been raised in relation to the submitted documentation. In response to a query raised by a Member, it was confirmed that some projects had chosen to claim their grant in arrears and the Member suggested that this could be noted in the progress update.

Noted.

6. Greening Agriculture Project Update

The report of the Farm Conservation Liaison Officer set out an update of the projects currently running and current financial commitments in respects of applications approved at the previous meeting.

One Member noted that project GA22/PENDDU, Penrallt Ddu, Pontfaen was paused until retrospective planning was granted to the site and requested further explanation. It was confirmed that although the issue was not directly related to this scheme, the decision had been made to



pause the funding until all necessary planning was in place. It was hoped that this would be in place by the end of the Summer.

In response to a query raised by a Member, it was confirmed that there were no restrictions on farms that could apply to the project, for example tenant farmers could apply.

A discussion ensued regarding the number of quotes required for each project and the process applicants were required to follow to obtain these. It was confirmed that a procurement framework would be adhered to with any items between £10,000 and £25,000 requiring multiple quotes. It was added that a single element that cost over £25,000 would need to be advertised on the Sell 2 Wales website for open procurement.

The Officer confirmed that the next application deadline for the scheme had been extended until the end of May to provide more time for higher quality applications to be submitted.

Noted.

7. Exclusion of the public

It was noted that in discussing the applications, information might be shared which was personal or commercially sensitive, and it was therefore requested that the public be excluded from the meeting.

On the proposal of Dr R Plummer, Seconded by Dr M Havard, it was **RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the meeting as exempt information, as defined in Paragraphs 12 and 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, would be disclosed.

8. Applications for Consideration

The report before the Committee outlined six applications made to the fund since the previous meeting, and reminded Members that there were four categories for applications:

- A. Install renewable energy generation facilities to a community building
- B. An initiative to promote reduction in carbon emissions in transport
- C. Install a community facility that minimises waste
- D. Any other community-based carbon reduction initiative

Project Type	Ref	Organisation	Funding Sought £
A	SDF /042023/1	Sea Trust Wales	21,407
A	SDF /042023/2	Theatre Gwaun Community Trust	20,042
C	SDF/042023/3	Acts West Wales - Cilrath Acre	8,920
D	SDF/042023/4	Awel Aman Tawe	17,135
D	SDF/042023/5	Fishguard Sports AFC	5,760



D	SDF/042023/6	Caerhys Organic Community Agriculture	12,028
		Total funding sought	£85,292

Each application was considered in detail against the scoring template and following discussions, it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The full amount of funding requested be granted to the following applications, subject to the usual conditions of the grant:
 - a) SDF /042023/1 - Sea Trust Wales: A Greener Ocean Lab – *as the installation of panels would be over £25k, the applicants would be required to openly procure the work.*
 - b) SDF /042023/2 - Theatre Gwaun Community Trust: Battery Storage/Solar Panel Improvements
 - c) SDF/042023/3 - Acts West Wales: Cilrath Acre – *funding subject to decision on Planning Permission.*
 - d) SDF/042023/4 - Awel Aman Tawe: We are Energy Warriors
 - e) SDF/042023/5 - Fishguard Sports AFC: Tregroes Park Developments
 - f) SDF/042023/6 - Caerhys Organic Community Agriculture: COCA New Roots 2023

- (ii) All successful applicants be sent an SDF certificate to display to the public to further promote the scheme.

