

Report of the Lead Ecologist

Subject: Grant Approvals in accordance with Section 76 of the Financial Standards

Authorisation is required in accordance with Section 76 of the Financial Standards (2016) which states that where there is a payment of 'Total value Grant and Sponsorships under any one agreement over £20,000', approval must be obtained from the National Park Authority.

Purpose of the report

To request that approvals for grants exceeding £20,000 awarded through our Connecting the Coast Programme are delegated to the Sustainable Development Fund Committee.

Connecting the Coast

The National Park Authority has recently been awarded funding from Welsh Government Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places to deliver a pilot Coastal Land Management Scheme.

The Connecting the Coast Scheme will be working with farmers and landowners within the National Park by incentivising land managers to enhance biodiversity within half a mile of mean high water.

There was an open 6 week window which closed on the 31st July for landowners to express an interest in the scheme. Advisors are visiting all interested landowners and assisting with drawing up a final proposal which will deliver one of more of the following:

- 1. Habitat creation** – More space for nature through the creation of new habitats, including species-rich grasslands, coastal grassland and scrub and woodland.
- 2. Management of existing habitats** – Good condition of existing habitats and species on land through appropriate management.
- 3. Greening of farmland** – Sustainable production through greening measures on the most productive areas of the farm supporting production, wildlife and carbon.

Applications will be received and appraised by project officers. Where grants exceed £20,000 the proposals will be presented to the SDF committee for decision.

RECOMMENDATION:

Members are asked to approve the delegation to Sustainable Development Committee the approval of grants awarded as part of the Connecting the Coast Scheme of over £20,000.

(For further information contact Sarah Mellor on extension 4829)