

The Grants Committee

08 May 2024

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

Also in attendance: Arwel Evans (Farming Conservation Officer), Georgia Jones (Democratic Services Officer) Jamie Leatham (Decarbonisation Officer), and Jessica Morgan (Head of Decarbonisation).

(Virtual Meeting: 14:00pm –15:40pm)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Alderman and Councillor M James.

2. Disclosures of Interest

Dr R Plummer made a general declaration as a Board Member of Natural Resources Wales and a Trustee of Plantlife. Dr M Havard declared a personal interest in application SDF/202405/2. Councillor S Hancock declared and personal interest in application SDF/202405/2 and a prejudicial interest in application SDF/202405/9 and left the meeting during consideration of the latter application.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 24 January 2024 were presented for confirmation and authentication.

On the proposal of Dr R Plummer, seconded by Dr M Havard, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 24 January 2024 be confirmed and authenticated.

4. Action Log

Members noted the action log.

Noted.

5. Greening Agriculture Project Update

The Chair welcomed the Farm Conservation Officer who presented a Greening Agriculture project update. The report outlined background information of the scheme, a financial breakdown of the funding allocated to the fund and details of the status of each project.



A Member noted that a Grants Study Tour was scheduled for July 2024, and it was asked whether a Greening Agriculture project could be included on the tour. It was agreed that Officers would explore whether there were any appropriate Greening Agriculture projects to be included.

A Member commented that projects under the Sustainable Development Fund were required to display signs that recognised the support of the Authority, and it was asked whether the same applied to Greening Agriculture projects. The Farm Conservation Officer confirmed that Greening Agriculture projects were required to display a sign that recognised the Authority's support, and this was stipulated in their contracts. The Officer agreed to liaise with applicants to ensure the signs were in place. The Officer added that he intended to promote the scheme in the next edition of Coast to Coast to further promote the fund.

Noted.

6. Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Report

The Chair welcomed the Decarbonisation Officer who presented an update on the Sustainable Development Fund. The report outlined background information, the current financial commitments of the scheme, a map of approved projects, details of projects completed since the last meeting and the scheme's financial position for 2024/25.

As requested in the last meeting, further details were featured in the report regarding the progress of each project. It was noted that the Sea Trust Wales' project was in need of retendering and Members requested further information. The Officer confirmed that the applicant had faced difficulty in securing a contractor to complete the work in an appropriate time however it was hoped that progress would be made shortly.

It was noted by a Member that on occasion, the final reports lacked consistency and it was queried whether final reports should be more standardised. The Officer responded that the team were looking to streamline the claims process for applicants and so could also look at the final reporting template.

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 Councillor S Hancock, 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. Sustainable Development Fund Applications for consideration

The Decarbonisation Officer presented a list of applications for consideration under the Sustainable Development Fund and Members were requested to review these and come to a decision in respect of the requests for grant funding.

It was reported that a total of 10 eligible projects met the criteria of the scheme however application SDF/202405/6 was disqualified after the time of publishing the report due to the organization being unable to supply a constitution. It was added that as the amount of funding requested exceeded the funding available, it was recommended that equal funding be allocated to each eligible project – except where the total requested was lower than the equal share of the pot. The Officers recommendation was as follows:

Ref	Organisation	Funding Sought £	Recommended funding £
SDF/202405/1	Southern Roots Organics	12,400	9,184.63
SDF/202405/2	Narbeth Museum	13,063	9,184.63
SDF/202405/3	CPD Crymych Cyf	20,662	9,184.63
SDF/202405/4	Narbeth & District Community & Sports Association	13,303	9,184.63
SDF/202405/5	Cosheston Community Council	3,396	3,396.00
SDF/202405/6	Little Haven & Talbenny Amenities	6,760	2,555.20
SDF/202405/7	Marloes & St Brides Community Council	1,218	1,218.00
SDF/202405/8	Theatr Gwaun Community Trust	8071	8,071.00
SDF/202405/9	The VC Gallery	23,421	9,184.63
SDF/202405/10	Cwm Arian Renewable Energy Ltd	22,044	9,184.63
Total Funding sought		£130,282	£70,347.98

A discussion ensued regarding the Officers proposal and Members were in agreement that rather than awarding equal funding to all applicants, applications should instead be prioritised and awarded full amounts where possible. The Members went on to discuss each project in turn and subsequently **RESOLVED** that:



a) funding be awarded to the following applications, subject to the usual conditions of the grant:

Ref	Organisation	Funding Awarded
SDF/202405/1	Southern Roots Organics	£12,400
SDF/202405/5	Cosheston Community Council	£3,396
SDF/202405/7	Marloes & St Brides Community Council	£1,218
SDF/202405/2	Narbeth Museum	£13,063
SDF/202405/3	CPD Crymych Cyf	£20,662
SDF/202405/9	The VC Gallery	£6,306
SDF/202405/4	Narberth & District Community & Sports Association	£13,303
Total		£70,348

b) the following applications were unsuccessful:

Ref	Organisation
SDF/202405/8	Theatr Gwaun
SDF/202405/10	Cwm Arian Renewable Energy Ltd