

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS AND PERFORMANCE MANAGER

SUBJECT:
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Introduction

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority manages the Sustainable Development Fund on behalf of the Welsh Government and can distribute up to a total of £200,000 each year to innovative sustainable projects which help improve the quality of life for current and future generations. The fund supports proposals that focus on environmental, social, cultural and economic aspects of life.

Grant Determination Process

The process is intended to be as non-bureaucratic and flexible as possible with a relatively simple and short application form. The SDF Officer assists applicants to complete the form and each application undergoes an assessment against sustainability criteria. The SDF Committee, which is made up of 6 Members of the National Park Authority and 6 advisors, considers each application, usually with a short presentation from the applicant and the opportunity to question them. The ultimate decision is taken by the Authority Members.

Financial Position

As at the end of January £120,125 had been paid to projects this financial year, out of a commitment for the full year of £247,105. This includes approved projects of a further £15,135, which were considered by the SDF Committee at their meeting in January. As many projects run over two and sometimes 3 years the fund has already committed £113,792 for 2013/14. Unfortunately not all projects progress as planned and an underspend on this year's commitment is expected. A deferred project, if approved, will spend a further £20,000 in 2013/14.

Projects financed during 2012/13

The following table provides a brief description of projects receiving funding this year, full details are available in the SDF Committee report provided at each SDF Committee meeting.

Project	Description	Grant
Stackpole Gardens Centre	Pembrokeshire Mencap are using SDF funding towards the construction of a sustainable new building. The building, which incorporates sustainable technologies including geothermal heating, rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling, will provide a focal point, serving as a new shop, office, community space, tea room and kitchen. It will provide a valuable facility where locally grown produce and plants can be purchased, advice	£104,100

	and training given, and environmentally sensitive forms of building construction, heating and water use be demonstrated to adults, students with learning difficulties and visitors to the gardens.	
<i>Ty Unnos Development of Building Components from Low Grade Timber</i>	SDF support for the development of a homegrown cross laminated timber panel which will form part of the platform of components comprising the Ty Unnos housing system	£60,000
<i>Wise up on Waste</i>	The Darwin Centre secured SDF support to develop and deliver a new educational programme called 'Wise up on Waste', to expand its broad and highly successful portfolio. Using their tried and tested package of field experience and carefully designed engaging workshops they plan to take groups on a journey of understanding and appreciation of one of Pembrokeshire's (and the world's) most important and current sustainability issues, waste and what we do with it.	£5,600
<i>Green Apple Cross</i>	SDF funding was awarded to build an all access compost toilet and recover an existing twin span polytunnel for use by school children and groups visiting the site. The site is being developed into an exemplar of sustainable living by creating a carbon-neutral, self-sufficient, organic smallholding, planned on the principles of sustainability.. In addition the site will provide local schools and communities with a valuable educational resource as an outdoor classroom, which is the part of the project that SDF is contributing towards	£3,115
<i>Guide to Sustainable Tourism in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park</i>	'Greentraveller' received SDF support to feature a dedicated section on 'Sustainable Tourism in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (PCNP)' on their website greentraveller.co.uk. In June 2012 the online guide was published, (www.greentraveller.co.uk/green-holidayspembrokeshire) showing residents and visitors how to make the most of PCNP in a way that has a low impact on the environment and a positive impact on the local economy.	£3,350 Completed
<i>ReFarm</i>	The aim of the Eco Centre Wales' (ECW) ReFarm project is to support a significant increase in annual generation of renewable electricity from the farming sector in Pembrokeshire. With SDF funding, ECW will assist Pembrokeshire farmers to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels, reduce their costs and their impact on the environment.	£46,781
<i>Woodlands and Wetlands Project Manager</i>	Pembroke 21C, Community Interest Company (CIC), began a project called "Training in skills for the management and maintenance of woodland and wetland habitats" in 2011, with the aim of using two sustainable projects to set up a training programme for local people in traditional woodland and wetland management skills. To develop this work further and ensure longer term economic sustainability SDF is	£45,000

	contributing towards the employment of a dedicated project manager.	
Mobile Application and Integrated Web Interface for Recording Dragonflies	The West Wales biodiversity Information Centre (WWBIC) aim to increase the amount and involvement in biological recording in Pembrokeshire. SDF is helping them to do this by creating an integrated mobile recording application for dragonflies and website interface and making this available to volunteer recorders.	£3,968
Cemaes Himalayan Balsam Eradication	Cymdeithas Llandudoch/St Dogmaels Community Association are using SDF funds to help them to eradicate the invasive plant 'Himalayan Balsam' from a 30 acre site on Cemaes head and in so doing prevent any further spread.	£9,719
Economic Valuation of Marine Recreation Activity	Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum (PCF), utilising specialist Consultant expertise will provide an economic value to mapped areas of marine recreation in two pilot areas of Pembrokeshire. This will provide clear evidence and methods to state how much individual activities are worth to the local economy and provide a repeatable process to expand the project geographically.	£20,650
Walking with Wheels	This project provides electric mobility scooters at National Park centres in Tenby, Newport and at Oriol y Parc and develops a suitable circular walk around St.Davids Airfield.	£21,860
Martletwy Sustainable Community Project	LMN 2000, a community Group representing the communities of Landshipping, Minwear and Newton, are developing and investigating the feasibility of a project to deliver affordable sustainable housing, a community facility, a market garden run by a social enterprise and an energy centre comprised of a combined heat and electricity biomass boiler.	£14,941
Newport Community Energy Project	Newport Community Energy Project's (NCEP) used SDF money towards renovation of the much used but energy out-dated Newport Memorial Hall, so that it is a model of reduced energy consumption with users taking part in conscious energy management.	£54,727
Marine Wildlife Awareness Schools Road Show	This project proposes to bring a marine life 'road show' by 'Silent World to You' to 20-25 primary schools in Pembrokeshire. Targeted at the Foundation Phase (3-7 year olds) the outside world will be brought into the classroom, along with simple supplementary resources to make the most of the experience, and with the potential for follow-up by local marine biologists.	£2,400
Little Green Grant	Administered by PAVS for grants of less than £1,500	£6,000
	New projects approved in January	
Wyndrush Wild Meadow Seed	This project seeks funding to purchase specialist seed harvesting equipment that will assist other land owners to restore flower-rich hay meadows and adopt more traditional ecological management of their land.	£7,135

Affordable Solar Home	This project seeks funding to research, develop and build a working prototype of a solar powered two storey 100sqm home to level 4/5 of the sustainability code at under £50,000. It is using the Ty Unos timber method	£47,000
Cemaes Himalayan Balsam Eradication	This project seeks funding in the 2013/14 financial year to undertake additional and follow on work, to realise even greater success in their attempts to eradicate the invasive species Himalayan Balsam from a 30 acre area on Cemaes Head.	£13,670
Cardigan Community Regeneration Options Appraisal Study	This project seeks funding for a feasibility study and fully business planned options appraisal exercise to determine how they can best deliver commercially viable sustainable development.	£10,000
	Project application deferred in January	
eduCAT (TYF Connect)	This project seeks funding to deliver an education project, based on sustainability challenges, into the County's secondary schools. It is a three year project but funding is sought over four financial years. The application was deferred for the applicant to provide evidence of feedback from an ongoing pilot project and evidence of support from schools, Head teachers and local businesses/organisations.	£59,270

Publicity & Promotion

The SDF fund is publicised through press releases about projects, articles in local media, radio interviews, attending funding fairs and other events. Recently the SDF Officer held a funding surgery, hosted by PAVS, where a number of potential applicants had an opportunity to discuss their proposal.

Future Applications

Following the surgery it is likely that there will be two good applications with two more possible later. In addition there are a further three or four projects being developed which would be appropriate for SDF funding.

Difficulties with SDF Applications

SDF projects do not always run smoothly. There are often problems finding match funding, managing cashflow can be difficult, costs can over run and in kind contributions not meet expectation. Often the project groups have little or no project management experience or struggle with the paper work and just occasionally the people involved have a major disagreement!

Recommendation: Members are requested to RECEIVE this Report.

(For further information contact Alan Hare –Business & Performance Manager on ext 4810)