

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMITTEE

18 May 2016

Present: Mr AE Sangster (Chair)

Councillor Mrs L Jenkins, Councillor DWM Rees, Mrs M Thomas and Councillor M Williams; Mr P Howe (Pembrokeshire County Council), Ms L Livock (Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services), Mr R Smith (Representing the business sector, formerly of Pembrokeshire Business Initiative).

(NPA Offices, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock: 10.00am – 12.40pm)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor RM Lewis; Mr S Bradley and Mrs H Murray (PLANED), Mr P Stone (Natural Resources Wales) and Ms L Williams (Pembrokeshire Tourism).

2. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th January 2016 were presented for confirmation and signature.

With regard to the appointment of a Deputy Chair (Minute 2) it was agreed that since both a Chair and Deputy Chair would have to be appointed at the next meeting of the Committee (the first following the Authority's AGM) appointment of a Deputy Chair would be held over until that time.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th January 2016 be confirmed and signed.

4. Sustainable Development Fund Update Report

The report of the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Administrator outlined the four applications before the Committee for consideration that day. It was noted that any grant assistance offered to Strumble Tidal Flow, Naturally Connected/Cysylltiadau Naturiol, or Coleg y Mor would be considered to be State Aid and therefore offered as 'de minimus' aid under the Regulation. The report also updated the Committee on all current projects and their progress, and of those projects currently being progressed, the Administrator highlighted three in particular that had

changed or been delayed since funding had been granted. The projects were:

- (i) SDF 0348 Conservation and Interpretation of Newport's Medieval Kiln: match funding for the development phase of this project had been secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and there had been delays in the start of the project due to the need to comply with HLF requirements. The SDF funding contribution to the project was for the 2015/16 financial year towards the interpretation, engagement and education work and this could not take place until later in the development phase and the start of the delivery phase. It had therefore been agreed that the grant would be carried forward and paid in the 2016/17 financial year.
- (ii) SDF 0346 Solva Care Pilot: a change to the number of in-kind hours or volunteer contributions being given to the project had been agreed as a more accurate and realistic estimate of the quantity of voluntary contributions had been made following commencement of the project. The amendment would result in the project intervention rate increasing from 25% to 37% because the revised estimated reduction in voluntary contributions reduced the predicted Total Project Value from £94,038 to £63,686. It was noted that the funded project coordinator had been appointed in June 2015 since when the project work undertaken and the progress being made had been excellent.
- (iii) SDF 0343 A Stitch in Time: Funding had originally been awarded over two financial years viz. 2014-15 and 2015-16 but an extension to the original project timescale had been agreed due to personnel changes; the project would now continue into the 2016-17 financial year. It was reported at the meeting that approximately £10,000 of committed funding would be carried forward into 2016-17.

It was reported that Advisory Members of the SDF Committee were appointed for four years. Three of the current Advisory members were appointed in August 2012 and their term of appointment came to an end in August 2016. However there was a need to review the SDF Policy, and it was therefore proposed that a request be made to the National Park Authority to allow an extension of 12 months while that review was undertaken. The SDF Administrator expressed her thanks to the Advisory members for the time and effort that they gave to the Committee. If any of the Advisory Members concerned were not happy to extend their appointment for a further 12 months they were asked to make this known to the SDF Administrator.

The SDF Administrator went on to report the financial position for the year 2016/17 for which £100,000 had been allocated to support SDF projects. In addition a balance of £924 would be carried forward from 2015/16 resulting in a total of £100,924 of funding available to projects in 2016-17. Updated figures were given for the table found at the bottom of page 5 of the report regarding funds carried over and committed and therefore there would be a deficit of £19,890.50 if all projects considered that day were worthy of support. In that situation, it was advised that a request could be made to the National Park Authority for additional funding.

An update on the Little Green Grant (LGG) scheme was also provided.

It was **RESOLVED** that

- a) a request be made to the National Park Authority to allow an extension for Advisory Members of the Sustainable Development Fund Committee of 12 months while a review of the SDF Policy was undertaken
- b) the report of the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Administrator be noted.

5. Applications for funding under the Sustainable Development Fund

The Committee considered four new applications for funding under the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF). The applications were considered in detail against the fund assessment criteria, following a brief presentation by each of the project applicants. The SDF Administrator reminded Members that a number of the applications included on the agenda that day contained commercially sensitive information.

Ref No	Project Name	Presentation by	Organisation
SDF 0355	Strumble Tidal Flow	Jane O'Brien Tom Latter Ben Ferguson-Walker	Transition Bro Gwaun
SDF 0360	Naturally Connected/ Cysylltiadau Naturiol	Sarah Mellor	Pembrokeshire Coast NPA
SDF 0361	Coastal Curriculum – Marine Energy	Ceri Crichton	Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum
SDF 0362	Coleg y Môr	Cliff Benson Anna Elliott	Sea Trust

[Councillor M Williams tendered his apologies and left the meeting at 12 noon]

The Chairman reminded the Committee that, under its terms of reference, the decisions were to be taken by the Members of the National Park Authority, taking into consideration the views of those Advisory Members present.

Following discussions, it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the full amount of funding requested be granted to the following applications, subject to the usual conditions of grant :
 - (i) SDF 0355 Strumble Tidal Flow
 - (ii) SDF 0361 Coastal Curriculum – Marine Energy

- (b) A recommendation be made to the National Park Authority for more funding to allow the full amount of funding requested to be granted to the following applications, subject to the usual conditions of grant and any additional caveats agreed at the meeting (and detailed below):
 - (i) SDF 0360 Naturally Connected/Cysylltiadau Naturiol - subject to information from the Consultant's reports being made available and there being a good mix of business types and geographical locations for businesses taking part.
 - (ii) SDF 0362 Coleg y Môr – subject to the grant of a lease of the building by Pembrokeshire County Council to Conygar Wales plc.