

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMITTEE

29th January 2014

Present: Mr AE Sangster (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs L Jenkins, Councillor RM Lewis, Councillor DWM Rees, Mrs M Thomas and Councillor M Williams; Mmes C Daugherty (Natural Resources Wales), S Hughes (Planed), Mr T Fletcher (Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services), Mr R Smith (PBI) and Ms L Williams (Pembrokeshire Tourism).

(NPA Offices, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock: 10.00am – 12.20pm)

1. Apology

An apology for absence was received from Ms A Robinson (Pembrokeshire County Council).

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th May 2013 were presented for confirmation and signature.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th May 2013 be confirmed and signed.

3. Declarations of Interest

R Smith declared an interest in SDF 0340 Passive Windows and Door Manufacturing Area and SDF 0341 Grub as PBI had worked with both projects although he had not been personally involved.

T Fletcher declared an interest in SDF 0342 Theatr Gwaun / Newport Memorial Hall Collaboration Project: Collaboration Project Manager (CPM) as PAVS had worked with both Theatr Gwaun and Newport Memorial Hall although he had not been personally involved

S Hughes declared an interest in SDF 0342 Theatr Gwaun / Newport Memorial Hall Collaboration Project: Collaboration Project Manager (CPM) as PLANED had worked with both Theatr Gwaun and Newport Memorial Hall although she had not been personally involved

L Williams – declared an interest in SDF 0342 Theatr Gwaun / Newport Memorial Hall Collaboration Project: Collaboration Project Manager (CPM) as Pembrokeshire Tourism had worked with Theatr Gwaun although she had not been personally involved. A letter of support from Pembrokeshire Tourism was also circulated with regard to SDF 0341 Grub, although again Ms Williams had had no involvement with the project.

4. Sustainable Development Fund Update Report

The report of the SDF Administrator outlined the three applications before the Committee that day and also updated the Committee with regard to projects previously granted funding. Two projects had experienced changes and delays – SDF 0320 Woodland and Wetlands Project Manager and SDF 0330 – Options Appraisal for Community Regeneration and the details of these were provided. With regard to the former, it was reported at the meeting that the SDF Grant paid to date was £16,351.07, this figure being omitted from the report.

Figures provided within the report showed that there was a slight (£293.57) over commitment of funds in the current financial year 2013-14. In reality there was likely to be an underspend, and the SDF Administrator reported at the meeting that this could be in the order of £25,000, as a small number of projects were unlikely to spend their committed funding allocation. No guarantees had been given to projects that they could carry-over any committed funding from this financial year to next. It was also reported that there was currently an underspend in the Little Green Grant scheme, which provided grants of up to £1500 and was administered by Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services; a summary of the project applications received and determined under this scheme to date in the 2013-14 financial year was also supplied.

Turning to the financial position, it was reported that in the forthcoming financial year (2014-15) the Welsh Government had allowed the ring fence around SDF money to be lifted to allow the Authority flexibility to manage its 8.9% reduction in overall funding allocation. As a consequence the indicative figure for the SDF grant allocation for 2014-15 was £100,000, although the exact figure would be confirmed after the meeting of the National Park Authority in early February. Current indications were that the ring fence would be reinstated in 2015-16.

It was reported that there was already £69,816.80 of funding committed to projects in 2014/15. Therefore if it was assumed that there would be no carry-over of funds and a reduced allocation to PAVS to fund Little Green Grants, this left only £25,574 of funding available for new projects. As the three applications presented collectively required £74,426 in 2014-15 it would not be possible to fund all the projects to be considered by the Committee that day at the funding level requested. However given the estimated underspend reported, up to £50,000 could be available. It was therefore suggested that in considering the applications, it might be necessary to reach two levels of decision – whether to fund projects in principle and whether funding was possible in practice given the current financial situation.

NOTED.

5. Applications for funding under the Sustainable Development Fund

The Committee considered three new applications for funding under the Sustainable Development Fund. 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 0340	Passive Windows and Door Manufacturing Area	Ms Louise Harris	Thomas Joinery Limited
SDF 0341	Grub	Andrew Holcroft	Grub
SDF 0342	Theatr Gwaun / Newport Memorial Hall Collaboration Project: Collaboration Project Manager (CPM)	Vanessa Davies, Siobhan Ashe and David Stringer	Theatr Gwaun and Newport Memorial Hall

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.

Applicants were advised that no offers of funding would be given until the final decision on the allocation of the Authority's budget was taken at the meeting of the National Park Authority on 5th February.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was **RESOLVED**:

- (a) that Project SDF 0340 – Passive Window and Door Manufacturing Area be approved subject to planning permission being obtained;
- (b) that Project SDF 0341 – Grub – be refused;
- (c) that Project SDF 0342 - Theatr Gwaun / Newport Memorial Hall Collaboration Project: Collaboration Project Manager (CPM) be refused but the applicants be advised that once the project had progressed other funding options, the Committee would be willing to consider a new application which better demonstrated how the project would be self-sustaining in the future.