

REPORT OF THE FINANCE MANAGER

SUBJECT: GRANT APPROVALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 78 OF THE FINANCIAL STANDARDS (REVISED 2012)

Purpose of Report

Authorisation is required in accordance with Section 78 of the Financial Standards (2012) which states that where there is a payment of 'Total value Grant and Sponsorships under any one agreement over £10,000', approval must be obtained from the National Park Authority.

In the current financial year there are two payments which fall into this category: payment of £20k to Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum to help integrate and manage coastal activity and secondly a payment of circa £72k to Pembrokeshire County Council as a contribution towards the Pembrokeshire Greenways Partnership.

Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum

Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum has for more than 14 years brought stakeholders together - including government, statutory agencies, industry, local business and communities in order to identify coastal management issues and broker solutions. It is considered that the Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum is a cost-effective vehicle for delivery of work essential to achieving National Park purposes and the NPA's duty. 2014 is the Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum's first year as an independent Community Interest Company.

The requested expenditure will contribute towards the following ongoing areas of work:

- The Marine Code and Outdoor Charter initiatives
- the Haven Waterway website
- Marine Energy Pembrokeshire

It will also contribute in part towards delivery of new proposed projects, including:

- Caldey and St Margaret's Buoyage
- Outdoor Recreation Audit Plan to identify barriers that potentially discourage disabled people from participating in recreation
- Wildlife Sightings Event
- Marine Energy Capacity study within National Park

Further details are provided in Annex 1 to this report.

Pembrokeshire Greenways Partnership

The payment to the Pembrokeshire Greenways Partnership includes funding 50% of the Greenways Officer Post (the other 50% is funded by Pembrokeshire County Council), this amounts to £16,000. A further £56,000 of the budget is used as the

Authority's contribution to the Coastal bus services. Of this amount £22,000 is used to fund the Coastal Bus Services two-days a week through the winter; £25,000 is used to fund the Celtic Coaster service through the summer. This service has been the most patronised service of all the Coastal Bus Services for the last three years. In total the services carried 83,000 passengers in the period October 2012 to September 2013. The National Park Authority contributes approximately 15% of the overall cost of the Coastal Bus Services. The remainder is funded by Pembrokeshire County Council through its Local Transport Services Grant.

The services operate almost entirely within the National Park and as well as providing access to the majority of the coast for visitors also provide a service for residents which would not otherwise be sustainable. A further £10,000 is used to fund the long-running Tenby Park and Ride service, alongside a second service operated by Pembrokeshire County Council. This service helps to reduce congestion in the town centre of Tenby and provides easy access for those using the car parks furthest away from the town centre.

The remainder of the sustainable transport budget (£6,700) is used for publicity (Coastal Bus Services advertisement in Coast to Coast) and supporting other Greenways Projects with the other Partners such as Bikemobility.

Recommendation.

Both the above payments have been made over a number of years and as a result of the revised financial standards in 2012 members are asked to approve these payments.

Annex 1 – Detailed proposals

Marine Code and Outdoor Charter initiatives

These projects help deliver the sustainable development and management of outdoor recreation in Pembrokeshire using agreed codes of conduct, best practice and conflict resolution. They are viewed as best practice in the UK.

Ongoing Maintenance Cost for:

- Pembrokeshire Marine Code – details, maps
- Personal Water Craft and Fast Craft Code
- Group Coasteering - Best Practice and Codes of Conduct, safety and minimum competencies guide
- Best Practice for Sea Kayaking
- Kite Sports guidelines at Newgale Beach
- Bush Craft Foraging and Wild camping best practice
- Training review and implementation of PCG group
 - 1200 individuals attended 36 events including seal walks, geology boat trips, wildlife crime training, river canoeing, rocky shore coasteering, sea kayaking with wildfire, climbing, woodlands, estuary training.
 - Outputs – 5 x wise courses run, 170 skippers crew and sea kayakers accredited in Pembrokeshire.
- Agreeing and promoting good practice recreation guidelines. Previous examples include the kayaking and coasteering code and DVDs. These stakeholder-agreed guidelines are being used to promote best practice and are used nationally.
- Brokering recreation management solutions and influencing behaviour, recently through developing an access concordat between the National Trust and the Outdoor Charter Group. Previous and on-going examples include paragliding, coasteering, personal watercraft, access, wildlife boat tours and kayaking.

Supports PCNPA corporate objectives:

IC1 / IC2 / IC3

IC1 / IC2 / IC3

Caldey and St. Margaret's Buoyage - Caldey Island (SSSI) has a grey seal population of approximately 100. St Margaret's Island is a nesting ground for many Atlantic sea birds and is a designated Nature Reserve. There is concern surrounding the behaviour of some leisure users around this SSSI. There have been reports of kayakers consistently getting too close to the seals once 'hailed out', whilst PWC have also been recorded disturbing protected species due to high speed manoeuvres.

The Marine Code partnership, working with local tour boat operators educates users in the area to the long term impact of their behaviour on wildlife. The project would involve the placement of 8 information/best practice buoys at sea to mark the boundaries for four key wildlife areas around the island. This would allow visual impact to inform users when they enter sensitive areas. The project

<p>would also develop promotional, and workshop materials to educate users through collaborative promotion of the project at marinas, yacht clubs, wildlife tour boat operators and paddling clubs. This approach could be replicated in other areas assisting in marine ecosystem protection.</p> <p>The request for this approach has come directly from wildlife tour boat operators who as members of the Marine Code also act to police the voluntary approach. This is a positive move where socio-economic and community benefit is also being protected alongside marine ecosystems. The operators have indicated that they may be able to assist with funding and will provide in-kind time to monitor buoyage.</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation Audit Plan to identify barriers that potentially discourage disabled people from participating in recreation activity. This would involve surveying Marine Code and Outdoor Charter members to uncover potential barriers in participation by disabled people. This would allow the NPA to undertake a full circle assessment in order to achieve the aims as set out in the Corporate Objective.</p>	<p>IC2</p>
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<p><u>PCF Wildlife Sightings Event</u> An annual, fully-booked event raising awareness and celebrating the diversity of wildlife and habitats found in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.</p>	
<p>On the 20th November 2014, PCF CIC will host the very popular 'Pembrokeshire Wildlife Sightings Event' at the Merlin Theatre, Haverfordwest. The event inspires local naturalists and photographers to share stories and images celebrating the diverse and special wildlife of Pembrokeshire.</p> <p>The event supports the work of the Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter www.pembrokeshireoutdoors.org.uk and Marine Code groups www.pembrokeshiremarinecode.org.uk whose aim is to raise awareness of what we can all do to ensure that its wildlife is cherished and protected for future generations. The groups have developed codes of conduct and best practice for adventurous activities and organize regular environmental training events to raise awareness of the flora, fauna, and natural heritage of Pembrokeshire. Six local speakers will share stories and images of their wildlife sightings in Pembrokeshire from the past year.</p>	<p><u>Corporate Objectives</u></p> <p>IC1 / IC2</p>

Haven Waterway Project

A collaborative approach to promoting recreation and enjoyment on the Haven Waterway.

Ongoing Maintenance Cost for:

The website www.enjoymilfordhavenwaterway.co.uk/

The PCNPA Recreation Plan highlights the Haven as an underused resource. The website represents a collaborative approach for promoting recreation on the Milford Haven Waterway, providing top tips to enjoy the environment in a sustainable manner and promote the Haven offering by local businesses. It actively promotes the Haven Waterway to local companies through encouraging adding a 'pin on the map', and links with key messages on PCNPA's 'Enjoy' website.

Corporate Objectives

IC2
IC3

Marine Energy Pembrokeshire

This is a unique public/private sector partnership was formed to promote the sustainable development of marine energy in Pembrokeshire. This work stream includes the annual Marine Renewable Energy seminar, a fully-booked event which has attracted hundreds of delegates from across the world to Pembrokeshire.

Ongoing maintenance cost for:

- Provide support and guidance for ME sector.
- Raise awareness of Pembrokeshire's key development opportunities in the marine energy industry, attracting investment into the area.
- Provide conduit between industry, academia, public sector and Government.
- Promote wider public understanding of the benefits of marine energy.
- Third Party Management of Wave Hub Wales – working with stakeholders to connect the local Demonstration Zone to grid.

New Cost to:

Undertake a Marine Energy Capacity Study for Pembrokeshire to understand the total per capita potential contribution of marine renewable energy in the National Park.

Corporate Objectives

IC3