

REPORT OF THE FINANCE MANAGER

SUBJECT: FUTURE LANDSCAPES FUND

Purpose of Report

Approve procedures financial regarding treatment of Future Landscapes Fund.

Introduction

During 2017 the Welsh Government provided £275,000 to support the work of the Future Landscapes Wales programme. This money was allocated to the Authority to manage on behalf of the partners in the Future Landscapes Wales programme. The Authority currently holds this in its reserves.

In December 2017 the then Chair of National Parks Wales received a letter from the Welsh Government identifying the following priority areas for the allocating this money.

- **UKs Departure from the European Union** – The activity plan you submitted to the Future Landscapes Wales Working Group highlighted a need for the designated landscapes to build a consensus to inform the direction and measures emerging from EU Transition. The purpose is to secure appropriate measures and delivery mechanisms for sustainable land management in designated landscapes. The recent Brexit workshop attended by the National Park Authorities highlighted some of the potential changes from the UKs departure from the European Union.
- **Understanding your local economies** – Again drawing on the activity plan, further work is required by designated landscape management organisations and partnerships to further develop their understanding of local economic resilience and economic opportunities. Building on conversations around your socio-economic remit, this is not the opportunity to argue the case for a third purpose or to reproduce ‘the value of National Park’ impact studies, but to gain knowledge on what the economy in your areas does and could look like.
- **Development of large-scale landscape and biodiversity work** - The work of the Future Landscapes Wales programme and subsequent media and political interest demonstrate the concerns stakeholders have about the pressure on biodiversity. A meeting to discuss how the designated landscapes will respond to the ongoing challenge of biodiversity decline is scheduled for January.

The letter also outlined that this money needed to be allocated on activities that had the agreement of the designated landscapes, in liaison with Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh Government. In addition, there is an expectation that we

involve any relevant partners from the Future Landscapes Wales Working Group as well as those you see with links outside of your boundaries.

PCNPA Financial Standards

Section 77 of the Authority financial standards regulates the payment of grants and it stipulates that payment of grant in excess of £20k require National Park Authority Approval.

While the Authority holds the Future Landscapes reserve the allocation of the reserve is dependent upon the approval from both Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales, along with the other Designated Landscapes. In order to allow for the prompt and effective distribution of the Future Landscapes Reserve it is therefore proposed ,and expressly only in relation to the allocation of this reserve, that the Authority suspends the standing orders regarding grants in excess of £20k.

Risk considerations

There is a requirement that we seek the consent of the Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales and the other Designated Landscapes prior to allocating this funding, therefore there is limited risk in managing this money.

Financial considerations

The Authority has already received £275k therefore there is no financial risk.

Welsh Language considerations

There would be an expectation that any activities funded via this money would be required to meet relevant Welsh language Standards.

Recommendation.

Members are asked to approve the variation to financial standards in relation to the Future Landscapes Fund