

REPORT OF THE FINANCE MANAGER

SUBJECT: AWARD OF ADDITIONAL GRANT IN AID FOR PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Purpose of Report

To approve the revised 2019/20 Revenue and Capital budget, and to create appropriate earmarked reserves and variations to financial procedures, which have resulted from award of additional grant aid for the Authority from Welsh Government.

Introduction

In March 2019 the Welsh Government awarded the Authority additional grant funding of £638,250, split £490,000 for revenue activities and £148,250 for capital. At the same time Welsh Government gave the Authority a further £510,500, split £200,000 in revenue funding and £310,500 in capital, for the Authority to act as custodial of funds to support the Wales Coast Path in partnership with Natural Resources Wales who manage the path.

Since some of the funding allocated to the Authority will be spent in 2019/20 approval is therefore requested to revise the 2019/20 Revenue and Capital Budgets appropriately and in accordance with the Welsh Government grant letter. The necessary earmarked reserves will be created in the 2018/19 financial year.

The letter from Welsh Government also outlines how the money allocated to the Wales Coast Path is to be spent and approval is therefore also sort to vary the Authority's Standing Orders in regard to the funding element identified for the Wales Coast Path. Section 77 of the Authority's Financial Standards regulates the payment of grants and it stipulates that payment of grant in excess of £20k requires National Park Authority approval. In order to allow for the prompt and effective distribution of the Wales Coast Path funds it is therefore proposed, and expressly only in relation to the allocation of the Wales Coast Path reserves, that the Authority suspends the Financial Standards regarding grants in excess of £20k.

Risk considerations

The Authority will obtain the consent of Natural Resources Wales before awarding their funds and therefore there is limited risk in managing this money.

Financial considerations

The Authority has already received £638,250 for its own funded activities and £510,500 for the Wales Coast Path activities. There is therefore considered to be 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 creation of the appropriate earmarked reserves, the amendment of the 2019/20 Revenue and Capital budget and the variation to Financial Standards in relation to the funds allocated to the Wales Coast Path.

Background document:

Letter from Welsh Government to Authority “Award of Additional Grant-in-Aid for Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority” dated 22 March 2019.

(For further information, please contact Richard Griffiths, Finance Manager, on 01646 624800)

*Author: Richard Griffiths, Finance Manager
Consultee: Tegryn Jones, Chief Executive*