

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND (SDF)

Purpose

To seek members' endorsement of the revised membership of the Assessment Panel for the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF).

Recommendation

That the JAC endorses the new membership of the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Assessment Panel.

Key Issues

- The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) is a delegated grant from Welsh Government administered by the Wye Valley AONB Partnership and confirmed for 2019/20 at £55,000.
- The SDF Assessment Panel is established as a sub-group of the JAC and is made up of public, private and voluntary sector representatives with 2 appointees from each sector to ensure a balance across social, community, economic and environmental interests.
- At the previous JAC meeting it was agreed to refresh the membership and appointees to the Panel. The revised Panel membership is appended.
- The current allocation of SDF grants is also appended (Appendix 2) with £2,671 remaining to be allocated in 2018/19.

Reasons

It was agreed at the last JAC that it was appropriate to refresh the SDF Assessment Panel membership, following some vacancies and a revision of the SDF Guidance by Welsh Government.

Welsh Government have confirmed that the SDF for 2019/20 is £55,000. There may also be the opportunity to bid for underspends from other AONBs later in the year, subject to available funds and prospective applications.

Implications

The SDF Assessment Panel has two representatives each for the public, private and voluntary sectors, along with officers from Natural Resources Wales and Monmouthshire County Council. The revised membership is appended. One place is being retained vacant in the anticipation that a trustee from the Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) will join the SDF Panel. This would follow the establishment of a Wye Valley AONB Fund with HCF,

which is currently being progressed. The SDF Panel would then be able to assess applications and advise HCF on the allocation of the AONB Fund.

Sarah Sawyer, AONB Community Links Officer, works with potential applicants to the SDF to ensure that proposed projects are as good as possible before an application is presented to the Assessment Panel for determination. A Landscape and Biodiversity Enhancement Grant scheme, with a £1000 limit, is also included within the Wye Valley AONB SDF. This is also being promoted to landowners by the Lower Wye Catchments Natural Flood Management (NFM) and Green Infrastructure (GI) Project Officer.

As previously approved, any remaining unallocated SDF at the end of the financial year is transferred to support the Wye Valley River Festival.

Background

The SDF continues to be a popular funding source in the Welsh part of the Wye Valley AONB.

The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) has been available in the Wye Valley AONB for 19 years in Wales and but was a casualty of austerity in England, where it ran for 10 years. The SDF comes direct from Welsh Government (WG) and is administered by the Wye Valley AONB Unit and the SDF Assessment Panel.

The establishment of a Wye Valley AONB Fund with Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) has been previously approved by the JAC as a legacy of the Overlooking the Wye Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND (SDF)

Members of the SDF Assessment Panel

Public Sector representatives:

Cllr Mrs Ann Webb, Monmouthshire County Council (JAC)

Cllr Gethyn Davies, Forest of Dean District Council (JAC)

Private Sector representatives:

David Price, NFU Wales (JAC)

Antony Smith, Wyastone Estates Ltd.

Voluntary Sector representatives:

Ashley Thomas: Monmouthshire voluntary conservation sector representative (JAC)

tbc – Herefordshire Community Foundation

Local Authority officer:

Colette Bosley: Principal Green Infrastructure & Landscape Officer,

Monmouthshire County Council

Statutory Agency officer:

Sarah Coakham, Partnerships Officer, Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Wye Valley AONB officers in attendance:

Andrew Blake, AONB Manager

Sarah Sawyer, AONB Community Links Officer

APPENDIX 3. SDF Approved 2018/19

Code	Applicant	Project Title	years		Total Cost	SDF Grant	%
			This	Total			
WV00 YR18W	Wye Valley AONB	10% Admin	1	1		£5,500	
WV02 YR18W	AONB Partnership	Wye Valley River Festival 2018	2	2	£238,500	£26,000	10%
WV03 YR18W	Cadw & WVAONB	Tintern Abbey Beacon Technology	2	2	£22,800	£5,000	22%
WV04 YR18W	Arborealists	Exhibition	1	1	£4,439	£1,000	22%
WV05 YR18W	Tintern Festivals	Ways to Peace	1	1	£4,483	£999	22%
WV06 YR18W	WVAONB Partnership	Tintern Japanese Knotweed Project	1	2	£2,325	£1,725	74%
WV07 YR18W	Little Wren	Hedge-laying	1	1	£2,000	£1,000	50%
WV08 YR18W	Monmouth Town Council	Monmouth Lantern Parade	1	1	£8,000	£1,000	12.5%
WV09 YR18W	Edward Rodgers	Hedge laying at Trellech Barn	1	1	£2,000	£1,000	50%
WV10 YR18W	Gwent Wildlife Trust	GWT Trainees	1	2	£4,426	£900	20%
WV11 YR18W	Wye Valley AONB	Natural Flood Management Farm Advice	1	1	£9,235	£7,200	78%
WV12 YR18W	Chris Trow	Hedgelaying at Elm Farm	1	1	£1,770	£885	50%
WV13 YR18W	Anne Porter	Llanishen church yard	1	1	£240	£120	50%
		TOTALS			£300,218	£52,329	38.4%
		remaining				£2,671	