

TECHNICAL OFFICERS'
WORKING PARTY REPORT

WYE VALLEY AONB
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
7th November 2016

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND (SDF)

Purpose

To endorse the allocations of the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) for 2016/17.

Recommendation

That the JAC

- A. Welcomes the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) being awarded direct from Welsh Government and notes the new Purposes and Targets
- B. endorses the recent allocations of the SDF for 2016/17
- C. supports apportioning any unallocated funds to contribute towards Wye Valley AONB partnership initiatives that support the SDF Purposes and Targets.

Key Issues

- The 2016/17 Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) is being administered direct from Welsh Government, with revised purposes (see Schedule 1 below)
- The Wye Valley AONB is awarded £55,000 of SDF of which £ 34,923 has already been allocated (see attached table).
- The SDF Assessment Panel meets on 23rd November to consider a further round of projects.
- The JAC had previously endorsed the principle of allocating any remaining SDF at end of year to specific AONB projects that meet the SDF criteria.
- The SDF Panel will be reviewed in the New Year to will align with the establishment of the AONB Fund with the Herefordshire Community Foundation.

Reasons

The SDF provides a good opportunity for local communities, businesses and organisations within or adjacent to the AONB in Monmouthshire to establish innovative initiatives that benefit the Wye Valley AONB as outlined in The Purposes (see Schedule 1, below).

The award of SDF by Welsh Government is for The Purposes and The Targets (see Schedule 2, below) and must be claimed in full by 1st March 2017, otherwise any unclaimed part of the Fund will cease to be available.

The AONB Manager has been negotiating with Herefordshire Community Foundation over finalising the establishment of an AONB Fund, as previously agreed by the JAC.

Implications

The SDF has been running in Wales for sixteen years, administered by Natural Resources Wales (and previously Countryside Council for Wales) on behalf of Welsh Government. From this year Welsh Government are awarding the SDF direct to each AONB. The Purposes and Targets for the SDF have also been modified in line with recent Welsh Government legislation.

The JAC has previously endorsed the principle of directing unallocated SDF towards significant AONB projects with major community benefits such as Overlooking the Wye and the Wye Valley River Festival. In some years SDF underspends have been offered to other AONBs if they had appropriate projects that could make use of the funds within that year. In order to continue to ensure full spend of the SDF that benefits the Wye Valley AONB it is proposed that the principle is continued of unallocated funds towards the end of the claim period being used to contribute towards Wye Valley AONB partnership initiatives that support the SDF Purposes and Targets.

The AONB Unit and other partners promote the availability of the SDF to as many sectors as possible in Monmouthshire. Members are similarly encouraged to do so. Sarah Sawyer, AONB Community Links Officer, is available to discuss and advise on potential applications (contact community@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk or call 01600 710844).

The review of the SDF Assessment Panel will commence shortly, combining processes with the establishment of the AONB Fund with the Herefordshire Community Foundation.

Background

The SDF has been running successfully in Wales for sixteen years and ran for ten years in England.

SCHEDULE 1

The Purposes

The Purpose of the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) is, through partnership, to develop and test ways of achieving sustainable development in areas of outstanding natural beauty in which the local characteristics of culture, wildlife, landscape, land use and community are conserved and enhanced.

- To explore innovative ways of contributing as far as practicable to the Welsh Government's vision of a sustainable Wales, and of breaking down barriers that can act as obstacles to sustainability.
- To integrate sustainable development with the special qualities of the AONB, and demonstrate the contribution of a strong sense of place and local identity to sustainable living.
- To build capacity in local communities and to develop and support community-based projects promoting sustainable development objectives.
- To generate greater awareness and understanding of sustainability amongst residents and visitors, and facilitate positive behaviour change.

The Well-Being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 puts in place a 'sustainable development principle' which tells organisations how to go about meeting their duty under the Act. There are 5 things that you will need to think about to show that they have applied the sustainable development principle in administering the fund. Following these ways of working will help us work together better, avoid repeating past mistakes and tackle some of the long-term challenges we are facing.

Long Term - The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.

Prevention - How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.

Integration - Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.

Collaboration - Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.

Involvement - The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

Well-being Goals

The seven well-being goals ('the goals') show the kind of Wales we want to see. Together they provide a shared vision for the public bodies listed in the Act to work towards.

They are a set of goals; the Act makes it clear the listed public bodies must work to achieve all of the goals, not just one or two. Therefore the projects supported will need to demonstrate how they contribute to the goals

- **A prosperous Wales**

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

- **A resilient Wales**

A nation which maintains and enhances a bio diverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

- **A healthier Wales**

A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

- **A more equal Wales.**

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).

- **A Wales of cohesive communities.**

Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

- **A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language**

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

- **A globally responsible Wales**

A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

SCHEDULE 2 The Targets

Description of the Target	Date by when it should be achieved?	Evidence required
Create 5 jobs and volunteering opportunities.	31 March 2017	Individual AONB report and project breakdown.
Deliver 3 training or awareness raising sessions on sustainability.	31 March 2017	Individual AONB report and project breakdown.
Ensure that all projects supported support at least two of the sustainable development principles as set out in the Welsh Government, Sustainable Development Charter.	31 March 2017	Individual AONB report and project breakdown.
Look to maintain high level funding levered in from public, private and voluntary sector. Currently at a 6:1 ratio.	31 March 2017	Individual AONB report and project breakdown.
Ensure that at least 40% of projects retain community participation post year 1, 2 and 3.	31 March 2017	Individual AONB report and project breakdown.

SDF Wales Summary 2016/2017

Ref.No	Applicant	Project Name	Project total	SDF Amount	Status	Date of Decision	SDF % of total
WV00 YR16W	Wye Valley AONB unit	Scheme Administration		£5,500.00	~	~	~
WV01 YR16W	Savoy Youth Theatre	Promenade Sensory Theatre	£4,700.00	£1,250.00	Approved	27/5/15	27%
WV02 YR16W	Wye Valley AONB Unit	Youth Rangers (Year 2 of 2)	£37,050.00	£3,000.00	Approved	16/7/15	8%
WV03 YR16W	Wye Valley AONB Unit	Wye Valley River Festival (Year 2 of 2)	£190,000.00	£21,500.00	Approved	16/7/15	11%
WV04 YR16W	Wye Valley AONB Unit	WVRF education strand (Year 2 of 2)	£9,900.00	£1,700.00	Approved	16/7/15	17%
WV05 YR16W	Deer Initiative	Deer Monitoring & Impacts Project (Year 2 of 2)	£11,090.00	£245.00	Approved	16/7/15	2%
WV06 YR16W	Gwent Wildlife Trust	Cattle Project (Year 2 of 2)	£29,772.54	£1,028.08	Approved	16/7/15	3%
WV07 YR16W	Bee Friendly Monmouthshire	Bee Friendly Monmouthshire Hedgerow Manifesto	£1,400.00	£700.00	Approved - delegated	28/9/16	50%
		Sub total	£283,912.54	£34,923.08			average 17%