

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND AND HEREFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION WYE VALLEY AONB FUND**

Purpose

To update members on the AONB Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) and the Wye Valley AONB Fund with Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF).

Recommendation

That the JAC

- A. welcomes Welsh Government's proposed enhancement to the Sustainable Development Fund
- B. welcomes the establishment of the Wye Valley AONB Fund with Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF).

Key Issues

- The SDF Assessment Panel has fully allocated the £55,000 Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) in Wales in 2019/20 (see attached table).
- The Welsh Government has informally advised that the SDF allocation for 2020/21 will be increased to be in the region of £100,000, subject to confirmation of budget.
- The Wye Valley AONB Fund with Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) has been fully established with £10,000 for immediate funding alongside an Endowment Fund, currently of £50,000.
- Herefordshire Community Foundation have set up the facility for people to donate £5 to the AONB Fund by texting 'WVAONB' to 70085.

Reasons

Welsh Government officers have advised that it is proposed to increase the SDF in 2020/21 up to £100,000 subject to approval of Welsh Government budgets. The SDF will continue to provide an exceptional opportunity for organisations, individuals and community groups to apply for grant aid for innovative, sustainable, environmental projects, which benefit the Welsh part of the AONB.

The Wye Valley AONB Fund with Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) has now been established. There is a £10,000 Immediate Impact fund and a £50,000 Endowment Fund from which the income generated each year will be used to award grants once the Immediate Impact fund is exhausted. The Endowment Fund will be able to receive donations and legacies and it is hoped that the AONB Fund will grow over time.

Implications

The SDF supports living and working more sustainably in association with enhancing natural beauty, wildlife, culture, landscape, land use and community within the context of the sustainable development goals and principles in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

The SDF Assessment Panel had anticipated some further applications were this year but these have not materialised. As previously approved, towards the end of the financial year any remaining SDF is allocated to Wye Valley River Festival. The list of approved grants totalling £55,000 is in the table below.

The Wye Valley AONB Fund with the Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) has a £10,000 Immediate Impact fund for grants for environmental, community and cultural projects. There is also a £50,000 Endowment Fund from which the income generated each year can also be used to award grants. The SDF Assessment Panel will recommend applications to the HCF for funding. The Endowment Fund is able to receive donations and legacies so it is intended that the AONB Fund will grow over time. HCF have set up, through Donr., to enable donations via text messages by texting 'WVAONB' to 70085 to donate £5. This costs £5 plus a standard rate message. Donors can opt to give any whole amount up to £20. This facility will be launched and promoted during the Wye Valley River Festival.

Background

The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) has been available in the Wye Valley AONB for 19 years in Wales. It is administered by the Wye Valley AONB Unit and is a delegated fund from Welsh Government. The Herefordshire Community Foundation (HCF) host and manage the Wye Valley AONB Fund as a legacy of the Overlooking the Wye Landscape Partnership Scheme and on behalf of the Wye Valley AONB Partnership.

2019/20 Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) grants approved

| 2019/20 Code | Applicant | Project Title | years | | Total Cost | SDF Grant | % |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | | | This | Total | | | |
| WV00 YR19W | Wye Valley AONB Unit | 10% Admin | 1 | 1 | | £5,500 | |
| WV01 YR19W | Gwent Wildlife Trust | GWT Trainees | 1 | 2 | £2,192 | £900 | 41% |
| WV02 YR19W | Gwent Wildlife Trust | GWT Machinery & Habitat Management Project | 1 | 1 | £35,360 | £7,500 | 21% |
| WV03 YR19W | Wye Valley AONB Partnership | Wye Valley River Festival 2020 | 1 | 2 | £106,300 | £25,000 | 24% |
| WV04 YR19W | Mike Anstey | Porthcasseg Farm | 1 | 1 | £2,000 | £1,000 | 50% |
| WV05 YR19W | Arborealists | Monmouth Museum Exhibition | 1 | 1 | £14,286 | £3,000 | 21% |
| WV06 YR19W | Wye Valley AONB Partnership | Japanese Knotweed Control Tintern | 2 | 2 | £2,325 | £1,725 | 74% |
| WV07 YR19W | Wye Valley AONB Partnership | Wye Valley River Festival 2020 | 1 | 2 | £106,300 | £10,375 | 10% |
| | | TOTALS (to date) | | | £162,463 | £55,000 | Av34% |
| | | | | | <i>Remaining from £55,000</i> | <i>£0</i> | |