

TECHNICAL OFFICERS'
WORKING PARTY REPORT

WYE VALLEY AONB
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
7th March 2016

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND (SDF)

Purpose

To endorse the allocations of the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) for 2015/16.

Recommendation

That the JAC endorse the allocations of the SDF for 2015/16, including allocation of the remaining funds to the Wye Valley River Festival.

Key Issues

- The allocation of the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) of £60,000 in Wales in 2015/16 has been fully identified (see attached table).
- The JAC had previously endorsed the principle of allocating remaining SDF at end of year to specific projects such as the Wye Valley River Festival.
- The Welsh Government has not yet advised what the SDF allocation for 2016/17 will be but a reduction is expected, probably between 5 - 10%, amounting to an SDF allocation in the region of £55,000
- The SDF Assessment Panel has provisionally approved £26,445 of SDF grants towards projects in 2016/17.

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.

The JAC had 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.

Implications

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, and Sarah Sawyer, AONB Community Links Officer, is available to discuss and advise on potential applications (contact community@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk).

Background

The SDF has been running successfully in Wales for sixteen years and ran for ten years in England. However budgets are no longer sufficient to run an SDF on the English side.

The delegated process allows the AONB Officer to determine an SDF application of up to £1,000 with the endorsement of the SDF Assessment Panel chairman.

SDF Wales Summary 2015/2016

| Ref.No | Applicant | Project Name | Project total | SDF Amount | Status | Date of Decision | SDF % of total |
|------------|---|---|---------------|------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| WV00 YR15W | Wye Valley AONB Unit | Scheme Administration | | £6,000.00 | ~ | ~ | ~ |
| WV01 YR15W | Wye and Usk foundation | River Clean up | £1,000.00 | £500.00 | Approved - delegated | 13/4/15 | 50% |
| WV02 YR15W | Savoy Youth Theatre | Promenade Sensory Theatre | £4,700.00 | £2,500.00 | Approved | 27/5/15 | 53% |
| WV03 YR15W | Monmouthshire Environment Board Partnership | Monmouth Bioblitz - We count for Wildlife | £3,682.80 | £1,082.80 | Approved - delegated | 27/5/15 | 29% |
| WV04 YR15W | Dixton Church PCC | Dixton Interpretation boards | £4,513.60 | £2,263.60 | Approved | 16/7/15 | 50% |
| WV05 YR15W | Wye Valley AONB Unit | Youth Rangers (Year 1 of 2) | £37,050.00 | £3,000.00 | Approved | 16/7/15 | 8% |
| WV06 YR15W | Wye Valley AONB Unit | Wye Valley River Festival (Year 1 of 2) | £190,000.00 | £30,000.00 | Approved | 16/7/15 | 16% |
| WV07 YR15W | Wye Valley AONB Unit | WVRF education strand (Year 1 of 2) | £9,900.00 | £2,600.00 | Approved | 16/7/15 | 26% |
| WV08 YR15W | Deer Initiative | Deer Monitoring & Impacts Project (Year 1 of 2) | 11,090.00 | £3,045.00 | Approved | 16/7/15 | 27% |
| WV09 YR15W | Gwent Wildlife Trust | Cattle Project (Year 1 of 2) | £29,772.54 | £2,971.92 | Approved | 25/11/15 | 10% |
| WV10 YR15W | Wye Valley AONB Unit | Wye Valley River Festival (+) | £12,000.00 | £6,036.68 | | | 50% |
| | | Sub total | £303,708.94 | £60,000.00 | | | average 32% |