

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMITTEE

25 January 2017

Present: Councillor Mrs L Jenkins, Councillor DWM Rees and Mr AE Sangster; Councillor RM Lewis and Councillor M Williams, Mr G Davies (Natural Resources Wales), Mr P Howe (Pembrokeshire County Council), Ms L Livock (Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services), Mr R Smith (Pembrokeshire Business Initiative) and Ms L Williams (Pembrokeshire Tourism).

(NPA Offices, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock: 10.00am – 12.30pm)

1. Appointment of Chair

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Mr AE Sangster be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. Appointment of Deputy Chair

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Councillor RM Lewis be appointed Deputy Chair for the ensuing year.

3. Apology for absence

An apology for absence was received from Mr S Bradley (PLANED).

4. Disclosures of Interest

Councillor L Jenkins disclosed a personal, but not prejudicial interest in SDF 0364 Solva Care, but remained in the meeting while it was discussed; Mr AE Sangster disclosed a prejudicial interest in SDF 0367 Well-being and withdrew from the meeting while it was considered.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 18th May 2016 were presented for confirmation and signature.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th May 2016 be confirmed and signed.

6. Matters arising

a) Sustainable Development Fund Update Report (Minute 4)

It was noted that following consultation with Welsh Government, it had not been necessary to offer the grant assistance to Strumble Tidal Flow,

Naturally Connected/Cysylltiadau Naturiol, or Coleg y Mor as De Minimus under State Aid Regulations.

7. Sustainable Development Fund Update Report

The report of the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) Administrator outlined the five applications before the Committee for consideration that day. The report also updated the Committee on all current projects and their progress.

The report went on to explain that approval had been given by the National Park Authority in August 2016 for a twelve month extension to the term of appointment for current Advisory Members of the Committee. As they commenced their appointment in August 2012, this took their membership up to August 2017. This extension was requested and approved to permit a comprehensive review of SDF Policy and Guidance to take place before selecting new or reappointing Advisory Members. The review was scheduled to commence in February 2017.

It was noted that a review of the financial support awarded to projects between 2000 and 2016 had been undertaken at the request of the Authority's Audit and Corporate Services Review Committee. Members wished to ascertain whether public money had been wisely spent, which included an evaluation of whether projects that received funding were still operational today. The main findings were summarised in the report, and the SDF Administrator would send out a copy of the full report to all members of the Committee.

The SDF Administrator then went on to report the financial position. It was reported that the Authority had held an earmarked reserve for SDF expenditure for a number of years. This had been called upon to supplement in-year expenditure, but it was now considered expedient to draw on this reserve and, for 2017/18 only, to add £100,000 to the SDF programme, the Sustainable Development Fund had therefore been allocated £200,000 for the coming year. Indications were that there would also be uncommitted funding of £1580 to carry forward from the 2016-17 financial year. This meant that there was sufficient funding available to support all the applications under consideration that day if they were considered worthy of support. Further funding would still be available for other potential projects in 2017-18.

With regard to the Little Green Grant (LGG) scheme, details of the seven projects that had received support in 2016-17 were provided. It was reported that administration of this scheme was undertaken by

Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services (PAVS) who had, to date, received no financial remuneration from the SDF for their work. The number of applications to the fund had increased significantly in the last financial year, and this coupled with a reduction in staff at the organisation, meant that there would be a charge for continuing their services commencing from April 2017. After considering the options for future administration of the LGG, it was concluded that to pay PAVS an hourly rate for work undertaken provided the best value for money and also retained their well-established links and advice networks providing support to the third sector in Pembrokeshire.

NOTED.

[The Chairman, Mr AE Sangster, had disclosed an interest in application SDF 0367 and therefore withdrew for the presentation on and subsequent discussion of that application. The Deputy Chair therefore took the Chair for that item.]

8. Applications for funding under the Sustainable Development Fund

The Committee considered five new applications for funding under the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF). The applications were considered in detail against the fund assessment criteria, following a brief presentation by each of the project applicants. The SDF Administrator reminded Members that a number of the applications included on the agenda that day contained commercially sensitive information.

Ref No	Project Name	Presentation by	Organisation
SDF 0363	Ocean Plastics	Applicant unable to attend the meeting	
SDF 0364	Solva Care Development Phase	Mollie Roach Fran Barker Bruce Payne	Solva Community Council
SDF 0365	Slipper Limpet Hemocyanin Study	Alex Mühlhölzl	Mikota Ltd
SDF 0366	Sustainable Seaweed Management in the Haven Waterway	Joseph Kidd	GreenSeas Resources Ltd
SDF 0367	Well-being	Richard Phipps Mari Williams	Keep Wales Tidy

The Chairman reminded the Committee that, under its terms of reference, the decisions were to be taken by the Members of the National Park Authority, taking into consideration the views of those Advisory Members present.

Following discussions, it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the full amount of funding requested be granted to the following applications, subject to the usual conditions of grant and any additional caveats agreed at the meeting (and detailed below):
 - (i) SDF 0364-Solva Care Development Phase
 - (ii) SDF 0365-Slipper Limpet Hemocyanin Study
 - (iii) SDF 0366-Sustainable Seaweed Management in the Haven Waterway – subject to demonstrating that funding for the project from other sources was also in place.
 - (iv) SDF 0367-Well-being – prioritisation should be given to those sites with good public access.

- (b) the following application be refused :
 - (i) SDF 0363 Ocean Plastics
It was agreed that the application could be re-submitted to the Committee provided that additional information was supplied.