

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Aim

Through partnership, to develop and test ways of achieving a more sustainable way of living in a countryside of great natural beauty and diversity in which the local characteristics of culture, wildlife, landscape, land use and community are conserved and enhanced.

Objectives

- To explore ways of meeting concurrently the 4 principles of sustainability and of breaking down barriers that can act as obstacles to sustainability
- To develop and support community-based projects promoting sustainable development objectives.
- To generate greater awareness and understanding of sustainability.

4 principles:

Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
Effective protection of the environment
Prudent use of natural resources
Maintenance of high & stable levels of economic growth
& employment.

Eligibility

Projects will have to:

- Be sustainable – link social, environmental, cultural and economic issues through public participation;
- Demonstrate that they have genuine support or involvement of communities within the Park
- Support one or more of the objectives of the scheme
- Be complementary to key local and national strategies, eg Local Agenda 21
- Bring organisations together in partnership to tackle problems.
- Be compliant with the principle of treating the English and Welsh languages on a basis of equality in dealings with the public (e.g. publicity literature and signage) as set out in the Welsh Assembly Government's Welsh Language Scheme.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Overcome institutional arrangements, relationships and cultures that may be creating barriers to sustainability;
- Demonstrate innovation or best practice;
- Involve young people;
- Support community based sustainable transport initiatives designed to reduce the carbon footprint;

- Support sustainable visitor transport initiatives, including access to visitor “hot spots”;
- Support sustainable food marketing and the promotion and consumption of local produce;
- Promote the sustainable use of water resources, through the support of projects designed to promote access to water;
- Assist ventures for which no other resources exist;
- Which lever in contributions from other sources (in cash or kind);
- Promote wider understanding of sustainability;
- Add value or new dimensions to existing sustainability projects;
- Support local disadvantaged and disabled groups;
- Derive support from and provide support to local businesses;
- Encourage social inclusion

Projects outside Park/AONB boundaries

While projects are designed to support communities within Park and AONB boundaries, there is flexibility to support projects in communities immediately adjacent to Park and AONB boundaries to encourage closer links between those communities and Park and AONBs.

Transferability

Where appropriate, SDF Officers should identify and actively encourage the replication of successful projects in other areas.

Grants

The scheme will provide project grants, management grants (to support staff costs) and development grants (to provide a catalyst for new action or partnerships). Grant rates will normally be set at 50%, plus an appropriate element for overheads (10%), but up to 100% funding will be available in exceptional circumstances.