

REPORT OF THE FINANCE MANAGER

SUBJECT: GRANT APPROVALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 76 OF THE FINANCIAL STANDARDS

Purpose of Report

Authorisation is required in accordance with Section 76 of the Financial Standards (2020) which states that where there is a payment of 'Total value Grant and Sponsorships under any one agreement over £10,000', approval must be obtained from the National Park Authority.

In the 2020/21 financial year we currently have one payment that falls into this category, a payment of £15,000 to Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum to help integrate and manage coastal activity.

Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum

The Authority has supported the Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum since it formed in 2000. The Forum brings stakeholders together to identify coastal management issues and broker solutions and their engagement and partnership approach supports us in achieving Park purposes.

Over recent years the Authority has focused on supporting the Forum to deliver a number of specific projects and for the 2020/21 financial year it is proposed that the Authority supports three projects for a total contribution of £15,000:

1. £5,000 contribution to support engagement with the Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter, through facilitating regular communication with the outdoor activity sector, supporting the development of best practice that protects the special qualities of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and encouraging sustainable use of the Park for recreation and tourism. The work of the Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter project and the support and training offered will be crucial to help the outdoor activity sector in post-Covid 19 recovery.
2. £5,000 contribution to support development and engagement with the Pembrokeshire Marine Code through extending the use of the Marine Code App after its successful launch last year, to engage with local communities to increase their knowledge and understanding of local wildlife and how to watch it responsibly. The project will encourage citizen science via the Marine Code App and will train local people to identify and record local wildlife and invasive species via the Marine Code App when they are out on the coast. PCF staff will deliver this training, partnering with biodiversity experts. The current lockdown restrictions have forced people to take notice of the wildlife in their backyards and it is hoped that this project will support this interest for long term benefits for people and wildlife.

3. £5,000 contribution to the Wales Activity Mapping Project to provide and encourage an evidence-based decision-making process around the management of outdoor recreational activities. It will extend the current spatial map to include community led outdoor activities around Pembrokeshire, allowing for better awareness of the doorstep opportunities to get outside and active. Again, this project is highly relevant at the current time of restricted travel opportunities. The project will produce a distribution map highlighting hot spots and gaps of opportunities for participation and will include training for PCNPA staff on the capabilities and use of the WAM GIS system.

Recommendation.

Members are asked to approve this payment