

Committee: FINANCE & RESOURCES**Date: 6 December 2022****Report: GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND****Purpose of the report**

1. To determine 4 funding applications made to the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) for the following projects –
 - Hostel at St Michaels, Hudswell Hostel @ St Michael's Ltd
 - Kingsdale Head Hydro, Kingsdale Head Farm LLP
 - Settle Drill Hall 2040, 1st Castleberg Scout Group
 - Heart of the Pennines Forest, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Committee Members determine whether to offer the following grants from the Sustainable Development Fund –
 - £50,000 towards the Hostel at St Michael's project that has been requested by Hudswell Hostel @ St Michael's Ltd (SDF reference SD0281).
 - £26,575.72 towards Kingsdale Head Hydro project that has been requested by Kingsdale Head Farm LLP (SDF reference SD0285).
 - £20,000 towards the Settle Drill Hall 2040 project that has been requested by 1st Castleberg Scout Group (SDF reference SD0280).
 - £20,000 towards the Heart of the Pennines Forest that has been requested by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (SDF reference SD0286).

Strategic Planning Framework

3. The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and its approved strategic planning framework:

National Park Management Plan objectives

F6: Use the Sustainable Development Fund and other funding sources to support at least 20 new projects each year that bring economic, social and environmental benefits to the National Park.

Background to the grant applications

4. The amount of grant requested by each applicant exceeds £10,000. Therefore, the applications need to be determined by the Finance and Resources Committee. The applications should be considered against the current SDF priorities and criteria, shown at **Annex A**.
5. Details of the applications, officer reports and recommendations can be found at **Annex B**.
6. The total amount of grant funding recommended for the four projects would allocate the remaining SDF budget for this financial year.

Conclusion

7. The applications should contribute towards delivering National Park purposes and are eligible for SDF funding. They have also been assessed against the criteria for the Fund, which considers the environmental, economic and social benefits and their contribution to delivering the specific objectives set out in the National Park Management Plan 2019-2024.

Andrea Burden
Sustainable Development Officer
11 November 2022

Background documents:

Completed application forms:

- [Hostel at St Michaels](#)
- [Kingsdale Head Hydro](#)
- [Settle Drill Hall 2040](#)
- [Heart of the Pennines Forest](#)

Sustainable Development Fund GUIDANCE NOTES



We are here to help you put together your application. Please talk to us from the very early stages of your project or idea so that we can help you to develop it and secure the funding. Further information can also be found on our website at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/living-and-working/sdf

What is the Sustainable Development Fund?

The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) aims to support projects that result in positive benefits for the Yorkshire Dales National Park - its environment, its economy, and its communities. It provides a simple and accessible source of money for local projects. It is open to community groups, individuals, businesses and voluntary-sector bodies.

The type of project we can fund

We want to keep the SDF as flexible as possible. A project will be eligible for consideration if it:

- contributes in some way to looking after the National Park's natural beauty, wildlife or cultural heritage or promotes opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy those things and;
- provides some local economic benefit or some benefit to a local community in the National Park.

We'd encourage all applicants to think about how their project can provide:

- **multiple benefits** – although a project may have a particular economic, social or environmental focus, it is always worth thinking about how it can be designed to secure additional benefits across all the three elements of sustainability or, at the very least, to ensure it does not harm any other interests.
- **value for money** – think carefully about how and where the money is being spent and whether it maximises positive outcomes, in particular, making sure direct benefits are felt on the ground.
- **clear outcomes** – so that we know what it will deliver and so that its success can be measured and learnt from/built upon.
- **a legacy** – we want the benefits to be long term, so think about what happens when the SDF money runs out and the project ends.

Applicants should refer to the National Park Management Plan, which sets out shared ambitions to secure a prosperous future for the National Park and its communities.

Applicants need to show how their project will contribute to the achievement of one or more of the objectives in the Management Plan. The Management Plan can be found at <http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/ydnpa/how-we-work/national-park-management-plan>

What we won't fund

We won't normally fund:

- applications by, or on behalf of, public sector bodies
- applications relating to areas outside the National Park boundary, unless a clear benefit for the National Park itself can be demonstrated
- fixed-term project officers
- the cost of preparing or submitting applications for statutory consents
- repeat applications where a project is substantially the same as one previously funded.

How much grant can you apply for?

There is no set minimum or maximum grant. However, the total fund available this year is £175,000. We normally aim to support at least 15 to 20 projects with this amount. Grants can be for capital or revenue costs.

Registered charities and voluntary/community groups can apply for up to 75% of a project's costs. All other types of applicant can apply for up to 50% of project costs. It will therefore be important to consider match funding, which may be sourced from other grant programmes, private finance or 'in kind' contributions. SDF could itself be used as a form of match funding for a larger project where the principal source of finance comes from elsewhere.

Application reference	Project Name	Project Description		
SD0281	St Michael's Hostel	St Michael's Church is located on the western edge of Hudswell village. It is Grade II Listed Building constructed in 1885. The church closed as a place of worship six years ago.		
Location	Hudswell, Swaledale	The project aims to re-purpose St Michael's and All Angels Church to provide hostel-style visitor accommodation for walkers and cyclists visiting the area. The grant application is seeking funding towards costs associated with the acquisition of the building and works required for conversion to its new use. It is accompanied by a Business Plan and Funding Strategy.		
In/Out YDNP	In	Church Commissioners have agreed to transfer the property to the Hudswell Community Charity (HCC). The HCC has, in turn, established the applicant as a separately incorporated company limited by guarantee that will be responsible for the conversion works and running of the hostel. The proposed hostel would provide low-cost visitor accommodation for up to 16 people and include a kitchen and lounge area. Full planning permission and listed building consent for the conversion works and hostel use were granted in June 2022 (refs R/27/138 and R/27138/LB) and include the provision of parking area including 2 electric vehicle charge points, a timber cycle store and free standing solar panels. The grant requested would be used to part-fund the cost of the conversion works. Although the requested grant equates to less than 5% of the considerable overall project cost, it nonetheless represents the biggest single grant requested from SDF in over a decade and, if successful, will be the joint-third highest grant offered by the Fund.		
Applicant's name	Project Cost:	Score:	SDF Amount Requested:	SDF Amount Recommended:
Hudswell Hostel @ St Michael's Ltd	£1,070,237	13/15	£50,000	£50,000
Sustainable Development Officer's Comments:				
<p>The application is supported by the Authority's specialist officers. The project fits well with both National Park purposes and has obtained a high score against all three strands of sustainable development and has obtained a high score against the SDF's social, environmental and economic criteria.</p> <p>A successful hostel will generate significant and enduring benefits. This includes the conservation and long-term beneficial use of a Listed Building that has featured on Historic England's 'heritage at risk register' and currently faces an uncertain future. Accommodation-users will be immersed in this historic building and its landscape setting whilst staying there.</p> <p>The project will also yield benefits from providing a form of visitor accommodation that is orientated towards visitors engaging in outdoor activities that will expose them to the special qualities of the National Park, whilst diversifying the (relatively limited) range of hostel-type accommodation available in the area. The visitor accommodation can be let flexibly as individual rooms or for larger group bookings, allowing it to be adaptable to visitor needs.</p>				

The socio-economic benefits of the project are also significant. It will provide direct employment for a hostel manager and will offer further support to community initiatives in Hudswell where there is a track record of developing and taking control of village assets that are crucial to community cohesion and resilience, including taking over the local pub and direct provision of community-led housing.

Finally, the project incorporates environmental benefits in the form of free-standing solar panels generating renewable energy and electric vehicle charging points within the car park.

It is considered that the combination of these benefits is commensurate with a grant request of the size made. An ambitious project of this nature is however not without its risks given the scale of fundraising required and two main risks can be identified:

Conversion phase

The costs of converting the church to a hostel amount to nearly £950,000. The applicants have employed a quantity surveyor (Mableson Hall Ltd) to accurately calculate this cost based on recent (fourth quarter 2021) prices, including a contingency for inflation or unforeseen costs. It is therefore considered to be as accurate an estimate of the actual cost of the works as can be made at the present time, without proceeding to full tender stage. In addition to the conversion costs, the cost of the building's acquisition, furniture and fittings bring the total project cost to nearly £1.1m.

The applicant has very little capital available to them as they are a newly established community group. To date the applicant has managed to secure £145,000 of funding towards the project, including a contribution from the Hudswell Community Charity's reserves and a loan from the Charity Bank secured against homes owned by Hudswell Community Charity.

A range of other potential funders have been identified, including a range of charitable trusts/foundations, the Government's Community Ownership Fund, Richmondshire District Council's Community Investment Fund and North Yorkshire County Council's Shared and Rural Prosperity Funds. It is the latter that is likely to be the biggest contributor to the project, with a sum of £400,000 likely to be requested. There are some encouraging signs that this major source of funding may be forthcoming, including positive discussions with the County Council and a letter of support from the local Member of Parliament, but these are newly established funds and it will be some time before funding can be confirmed.

Some funders have declined to support the project, notably the National Lottery Heritage Fund, who required a greater focus on involving people in understanding and celebrating the site's heritage value. Although the sources of funding identified currently amount to almost £1.4m, the vast majority is, as yet, unsecured and the potential funding makeup continues to evolve. The relative lack of match funding has been identified as an issue by some other funders and an award of £50,000 from the SDF might encourage others to contribute.

The applicant has set out an ambitious timescale for delivering the project with a spring 2024 opening of the hostel forecast. Whether this is deliverable will depend on far greater funding security than is currently the case and there remains a risk that the full amount of funding required may not be realised, at least not over the timescales currently forecast. It is not considered that this presents a major risk in terms of the Authority's contribution. SDF grants are paid in arrears and so any grant release will be contingent on a fully-funded project proceeding, in accordance with the Fund's standard terms and conditions. A provision will be made in the Authority's budget that will ring fence the grant until such time as it is ready to be drawn down, but should the project fail to proceed, it will be returned to the Authority's general reserves. The applicants have acknowledged the risk associated with failing to raise sufficient funds in their business plan. In this eventuality the Hudswell Community Charity will simply dispose of the building or, if the funding shortfall is relatively narrow, additional fundraising activity will be undertaken.

Operational phase

The hostel clearly needs to be a viable entity if it is to secure a full legacy of benefits as outlined above. The business plan accompanying the application sets out the genesis of the hostel-use idea, which began in 2018 with a village survey seeking the community's view on potential future uses of the building. Notwithstanding the relative lack of consideration for alternative uses of the building, it is considered that the proposed hostel use has been reasonably well justified and represents a good fit for both building and location. The business plan that accompanies the application sets out the further work undertaken to explore the market for this use. This relies, in part, on more detailed research carried out on behalf of the Richmondshire Building Preservation Trust in its explorations of possible uses for the nearby Old Grammar School in Richmond. A relative lack of equivalent hostel-type accommodation in the surrounding area, coupled with the particular appeal of staying in a former church, have been found to be likely to result in a strong market appeal, which will in turn translate into good occupancy levels.

The business plan projects a narrow operational surplus (4%) in the first full year after opening, which increases steadily to 25% by the fourth year as occupancy rates increase. The projected occupancy rates are relatively conservative. The hostel will operate on a not-for-profit basis with surpluses reinvested in maintaining and improving the facility. The Authority's Head of Visitor Services has supported the application and has noted that, while it is clear that more thought needs to be given to the detail of the operational model, the facility offers the potential to operate flexibly to cater for a range of different users. In overall terms it is considered that the business planning undertaken is as robust as it can be at this stage.

Conclusion

Although there are clearly risks to a project as ambitious as this, particularly in the current economic climate, it is considered that the business planning undertaken is reasonably robust. The project benefits from an experienced team of local people that bring a range of skills and experience from managing and delivering related professional and community projects. The hostel would bring significant and long-lasting social, economic and environmental benefits.

Management Plan Objectives: The project could contribute to achieving elements of objective A6 which seeks to help local people restore, repair and where possible bring back into use nationally important historical buildings so that less than 4% of listed buildings are considered at risk by 2024. It will also contribute to some of the overarching elements of the Management Plan's vision, including self-reliant communities, a flourishing local economy, outstanding opportunities to enjoy special qualities and responsiveness to climate change.

Recommendation: that the grant is approved subject to the standard SDF terms and conditions.

Officer: Andrea Burden, Sustainable Development Officer

Date: 4 November 2022

Final Decision – This application is scheduled to be determined by the Authority's Finance and Resources Committee on 6 December 2022.

Application reference	Project Name	Project Description		
SD0285	Kingsdale Head Hydro	Kingsdale Head Farm is located approximately 5 miles north of Ingleton. It is a large remote upland farm consisting of 608 ha of moorland, native woodland, a farmhouse and holiday let, plus farm buildings. The farm is owned by the applicants who are implementing a regenerative farming model that seeks to promote nature recovery and carbon capture, including through large scale habitat creation/enhancement and peatland restoration. This activity is being supported by a grant from the Authority's Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme (FiPL).		
Location	Thornton in Lonsdale			
In/Out YDNP	In	<p>Alongside this the applicants plan to diversify the farm by creating additional holiday accommodation and a farm office/education room to help develop the site as a visitor destination focusing on nature and learning opportunities.</p> <p>The current electrical supply to the farm is single phase which means the amount of power is only suitable for domestic applications and is not sufficient for the additional visitor accommodation and education developments that are planned. The applicant is also keen to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels and reduce carbon emissions on the farm.</p> <p>A natural watercourse - Backstone Gill - has been identified as being suitable for a small scale hydro-electric scheme with an output of 4 kW/hr with a battery storage system. This would contribute to the to meeting the energy needs of the business in a more cost efficient and environmentally friendly way without compromising the special qualities of the National Park.</p>		
Applicant's name	Project Cost:	Score:	SDF Amount Requested:	SDF Amount Recommended:
Kingsdale Head Farm LLP	£66,184.65	11/15	£26,473.86	£26,473.86
Sustainable Development Officer's Comments:				
<p>The installation will produce around 20MWh units of renewable electricity per year, equivalent to the consumption of around 5 average homes, and saving 8.62 tonnes/year of CO2 emissions. It will also have a low environmental impact and has the benefit of planning consent being for the hydro scheme and the additional visitor accommodation/education facilities. It will reduce carbon emissions for the farm enterprise by using a natural resource and will also enable the full development of Kingsdale Head as a visitor destination focusing on nature conservation and education.</p> <p>The applicant has provided two quotations for the hydro installation where a minimum of three are normally expected for items over £10k to demonstrate best value for money. To justify this the applicant has said that the equipment needs to be installed by a specialist hydro company. They have chosen Ellergreen as their preferred contractor as they have specialist knowledge and have successfully delivered a number of small scale hydro schemes in the National Park. Ellergreen also carried out the feasibility study for the scheme and so are fully aware of the specific issues relating to delivering the works at this site. The second quote produced did identify some aspects of the scheme that could be delivered at lower cost, resulting in a project that will be jointly contracted to Ellergreen and Crozier Site Services. It is considered that the particular expertise of Ellergreen mean that there are clear benefits in engaging them in delivery of the capital works. The involvement of Crozier site services has demonstrated some improvements in value for money and the very technical and bespoke nature of these projects makes obtaining</p>				

comparable quotations difficult, often at an additional cost to the applicant. On balance, it has not been deemed necessary to require further quotations. The applicant has provided prices for a range of battery types and has selected the cheapest one available.

The project has obtained a good score against the Authority's SDF economic and environmental criteria and so contributes strongly to sustainable development outcomes. The project contributes towards National Park purposes as it delivers a renewable energy scheme that will achieve public benefits through sustainable land management of the area and visitor enjoyment and understanding.

Consultation responses:

Planning Policy Officer

Supports the application. The hydro will assist delivery of the conservation-orientated land management which is beneficial. The fact they are developing a quite outward looking farm enterprise, including staying visitors and educational provision, means that the hydro is providing wider public benefits in terms of spreading good practice and environmental awareness. Although there is a commercial benefit in terms of offsetting the running costs of the enterprise, electricity generated is stored for use on the holding rather than exported for profit. It is hard to question the choice of Ellergreen as the contractor given their track record and the fact they did all the feasibility work for the proposed installation.

Planning Officer

The applicant has obtained full planning permission for the construction of a domestic hydro-electric power plant (Ref C/68/648A dated 19/5/22). Further planning permission is also in place for additional holiday accommodation, a farm office/education room, the installation of 4 ground source heat bore holes and 56 solar panels to the roof of an existing modern agricultural building (Ref C/68/648 dated 5/4/22).

What the grant will be used for:

The grant will be used as a contribution towards the total cost of the purchase and installation of a 4 kW hydro and battery system to serve the farm enterprise.

Match funding:

The following is a summary of match funding for the project – £39,710.79 (private finance) – 60% contribution.

Management Plan Objectives:

The hydro scheme will contribute to the element of the Management Plan's vision relating to responsiveness to climate change. The wider role of the hydro in supporting the farm enterprise will see multiple objectives supported, including peatland restoration, educational and skills-based activities, enhancing priority habitats, sustainable farm businesses and high nature value farming.

Recommendation:

That the grant be approved subject to the standard SDF conditions.

Officer: Andrea Burden, Sustainable Development Officer

Date: 11 November 2022

Final Decision – This application is scheduled to be determined by the Authority's Finance & Resources Committee on 6 December 2022.

Application reference	Project Name	Project Description		
SD0280	Settle Drill Hall 2040	Settle Drill Hall is a Grade II Listed building located in the Settle Conservation Area. It was originally constructed in 1864 for the local Rifle Volunteer Corps and for general community use. In recent times it has predominantly been used by the local Scout group, but is also available for hire by the public and so is also used for exhibitions, talks and meetings.		
Location	Settle	The Hall has been built into the slope of Castleberg meaning that the hall room itself is located at first floor level and accessed via external stone steps in a narrow ginnel against the northern gable of the building.		
In/Out YDNP	In	<p>This project aims to improve the Hall's access and facilities by adding an extension to the southern gable of the hall. A pedestrian gateway within the roadside wall will be relocated to facilitate the extension, which will provide a new level entrance and will incorporate a platform lift to improve accessibility. Internally new facilities will be installed including a new kitchen, accessible toilet at hall level. Two additional toilets will also be installed at the gallery level.</p> <p>It is hoped that the improvements will result in the Hall becoming usable by a wider range of people, leading to an increase in footfall and room bookings. This should safeguard this important Listed building and ensure it is retained as a community/visitor meeting place.</p>		
Applicant's name	Project Cost:	Score:	SDF Amount Requested:	SDF Amount Recommended:
1ST Castleberg Scout Group	£242,360	12/15	£20,000	£20,000
Sustainable Development Officer's Comments:				
<p>The application is supported by the Authority's specialist officers. The project fits well with both National Park purposes and has obtained a good score against the SDF's social, environmental and economic criteria. Improving the accessibility to the Hall through the construction of a new entrance hall structure and installing accessible facilities should make a real difference and enable the facility to become more useable and attractive as a meeting space for local events. In addition, by supporting the activities of the local Scout group, the project will facilitate opportunities for volunteering and for young people to engage in outdoor activities and learning related to the National Park.</p> <p>The cost of carrying out the necessary alterations to improve the Hall's access and facilities is estimated as £242,360, based on two quotations obtained in 2020 that have subsequently been adjusted for inflation. The applicant will conduct a formal tender process in due course which will provide an authoritative project cost. It is considered that the project cost is as accurate an estimate of the actual cost of the works as can be made at the present time, without proceeding to full tender stage and is sufficient to inform the fundraising activity the applicant is currently undertaking.</p> <p>To date the applicant has managed to secure £125,000 of funding towards the cost of the works, including £100,000 from existing project reserves. This equates to over half of the funding necessary to make the project happen and while there remains a sizeable shortfall, local fundraising activity continues while other larger potential funders are being approached, including the National Lottery, with Community First Yorkshire assisting in identifying other funders.</p> <p>The applicants have assembled an experienced project team to deliver the improvements and has already secured all necessary consents, including planning permission and listed building consent for all of the works (Ref C/62/630C and C/62/630D/LB dated 4 May 2021).</p>				

Consultation responses:

Planning Policy Officer

Supports the application. The applicants have made a good case in relation to National Park purposes, including facilitating scouting activity (for all) in the National Park, wider recreational uses that relate to National Park purposes, and keeping a really important listed building in a Conservation Area in a beneficial community use, ensuring it can be appreciated by everyone at the same time. It is an expensive project but the building is complicated by levels and having to relocate the footpath archway entrance off Castleberg Lane. The benefits are pretty enduring and transformational for the long term prospects of community use of the building.

What the grant will be used for:

The SDF grant will contribute towards the following – building costs include new entrance incorporating a lift and improved access, kitchen, accessible WC and additional toilets at gallery level.

Match funding:

A summary of the match funding –

1st Castleberg Scouts - Reserves - £100,000 (secured)

Bernard Sunley Foundation - £10,000 (secured)

Private pledge - £10,000 (secured)

Settle Town Council - Gift in kind for land transfer and legal fees - £5,000 (secured)

Management Plan Objectives:

The project will contribute towards elements of the Management Plan's vision and objectives that include reducing the risk to listed buildings, encouraging opportunities to enjoy special qualities and self-reliant communities.

Recommendation:

Approve subject to standard Sustainable Development Fund conditions.

Officer: Andrea Burden, Sustainable Development Officer

Date: 11 November 2022

Final Decision – This application is scheduled to be determined by the Authority's Finance & Resources Committee on 6 December 2022.

Application reference	Project Name	Project Description			
SD0286	Heart of the Pennines Forest	The Heart of the Pennines Forest is a woodland creation project led by a partnership between the North Pennines Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT) and YDNPA. It covers most of the AONB and a significant part of the Cumbrian part of YDNP. It has secured almost £500,000 from the Trees Call to Action Fund, which is run by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. The overall project aims to encourage the creation of 650 ha of new woodland by 2025.			
Location	Clapham, Swaledale & Crosby Ravensworth	A distinct element of the project is the establishment of a network of community tree nurseries over the next 3 years to provide stock for future planting programmes. The application focuses on this particular aspect. The new tree nurseries are proposed to be in Clapham, Swaledale and Crosby Ravensworth and negotiations with established community led conservation groups and landowners are well advanced. The nurseries will focus on upland species that are less commercially available. To do this trained volunteers will collect suitable seed from disease free native veteran trees. The seed will then be grown into saplings within the identified nurseries. Once established the nurseries should become self-sustaining as the income from the trees should cover the running costs. The main objectives of the SDF funded part of the project are to establish the nurseries, train a number of community volunteers to collect the seed and develop 20,000 saplings by year 3 ready for planting. The project also expects to engage up to 300 volunteers from disadvantaged backgrounds and urban areas.			
In/Out YDNP	In				
Applicant's name The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust (YDMT)		Project Cost: £85,247 (wider project - £592,100)	Score: 11/15	SDF Amount Requested: £20,000	SDF Amount Recommended: £20,000
Sustainable Development Officer's Comments:					
<p>New woodland brings multiple benefits in terms of habitat creation/connectivity, landscape character, carbon sequestration and visitor enjoyment/wellbeing. This is particularly important given the very low level of native tree cover in the project area and the significant threat presented by Ash dieback. The project will ensure stock is locally-sourced and disease-free.</p> <p>The volunteer aspect of the project will foster relationships and embed a sense of responsibility and enthusiasm for tree planting in communities that will help secure a longer term legacy for the project. As well as community volunteers, the project will include an element of outreach, which will see people from disadvantaged backgrounds and urban areas to engage in practical tasks and expand opportunities for understanding and enjoying the National Park.</p> <p>Officers are fully supportive of the project. Given the early stage of the project's planning precise details of nursery locations are not yet available but the work is well underway and relationships have already been established with a number of experienced community groups actively interested in establishing nurseries and providing volunteers to help operate them. Should planning or any other consents be required for the new tree nurseries/associated infrastructure then the SDF's standard grant terms and conditions would require these to be obtained.</p> <p>The £20k contribution requested would be part of a total £30k contribution from the YDNPA, that was earmarked as match funding in the Lottery bid. The other £10k is coming from the Authority's Opportunities Fund towards the core project costs. The Woodland Trust and YDMT are also providing match funding to the wider project.</p>					

The project contributes to National Park purposes as it will help to enhance native broadleaf woodland across the National Park as well as providing opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy the special qualities of the area through volunteering. The project obtained a very good score against the SDF's social and environmental criteria with a more modest score for economic benefits. It therefore contributes towards all 3 categories of sustainable development.

Consultation responses:

- **Principal Planning Officer** - The project is a very positive one. We will be able to advise the applicant on the need or otherwise for planning consent, or provide advice on siting scale, design etc. via our planning advice service.
- **Trees and Woodlands Conservation Support Officer** - Fully supports the application.
- **Planning Policy Officer** - Supports the application. The benefits of tree planting are well understood and this project ensures a supply chain of stock grown from local seed that will ensure appropriate disease-free species can continue to be planted for many years. The project is obviously still in the early stages of planning and so we don't have details of the exact number of nurseries, their location and landowner agreements etc. Nonetheless, this is part of a larger project that builds upon existing expertise/relationships from the partner bodies and has received significant funding towards dedicated staff resource, so we can be reasonably confident that it will be possible to identify viable locations. Further detail has been provided on how the nurseries will be sustained beyond the 3-year project timescale, which is important given that the landowner agreements for the nurseries are projected to run for 10 years. Further detail has also been provided for the volunteer aspect, which wasn't originally costed in, but represents a significant element of the project's strength.

What the grant will be used for:

The SDF grant will be used as a contribution towards construction materials, running costs and equipment for establishing the tree nursery sites.

Match funding:

The applicant has provided the following breakdown –

Trees Call to Action Fund - YDMT Woodland Officer - £32,247 (secure)
YDMT Reserves - volunteer travel and expenses – £6,000 (secure)
Volunteer gift in kind contributions - £27,000 (not secure)

Management Plan Objectives:

The project will contribute towards delivering and supporting the following objectives in the current Management – D2 which aims to create at least a further 450 hectares of native broadleaved and mixed woodland that enhances the National Park's landscape by 2024; B4 which seeks to provide 6,000 people from under-represented groups with activity days that enable them to access the special qualities of the National Park, and so increase their understanding, enjoyment, health and well-being and B7 which aims to give people from all backgrounds an opportunity to enjoy and contribute to the National Park by providing at least 7,000 volunteer days per year, with 15% coming from under-represented groups.

Recommendation:

Approve subject to the standard SDF conditions. Specific conditions requiring the applicant to confirm the locations of the nurseries once agreed.

Officer: Andrea Burden, Sustainable Development Officer

Date: 10 November 2022

Final Decision – This application is to be determined by the Authority's Finance & Resources Committee on 6 December 2022.

Approved by:

Date: