

Sustainable Development Fund

CRITERIA AND SUSTAINABILITY CHECKLIST

Use the Sustainable Development Fund criteria and the Sustainability Checklist to see if your project is eligible for a grant



Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

What kind of project is eligible?

Successful projects must demonstrate how they meet the following **Core Criteria**

1. Further the purposes of the AONB

- Help to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of Chichester Harbour AONB. See the definition of Natural Beauty.
- Increase the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the AONB amongst those who live in, work, visit and enjoy it.

2. Sustainability

The project must bring environmental, economic and community benefits to Chichester Harbour AONB. Individual projects can place particular emphasis on any of these three elements, but should seek to make progress on all of them and have no negative impact on any of them.

3. Have the demonstrable support or involvement of communities

For example, it is hoped that projects will be submitted from existing local groups or organisations or that proposals have been developed by consulting the people living within the community.

4. Be complementary to key local, regional and national strategies (eg Local Agenda 21, etc)

5. Help deliver the Chichester Harbour AONB Management Plan

The Management Plan details the main Policies and Actions for the AONB over the next 4 years in the following areas:

- The role of the Harbour Authority
- The land and seascape
- Water quality and waste disposal
- Nature conservation
- Coastal defence and sea level rise
- Community involvement
- The historic environment
- Activities & information
- Buildings and development
- Schools and colleges
- Running a business
- The working water
- Enjoying Chichester Harbour on the water
- Farming and the farmed environment
- Enjoying Chichester Harbour from the land (the need for sustainable transport)

The Management Plan is available at www.conservancy.co.uk or from the Harbour Office.

Projects should also meet one or more of the following **Other Criteria**

- Involve young people
- Combat social exclusion
- Promote cultural diversity
- Encourage and offer access to facilities for people of all ages and abilities
- Bring organisations and people together to co-operate in promoting new ideas or tackling problems
- Encourage links between urban groups and those resident in the AONB
- Demonstrate innovation and / or best practice
- Lever in contributions and / or in kind support from other sources
- Have overriding merit in terms of sustainability, but been denied access to alternative public funding
- Generate its own income (the ability to create a resource, service or activity for which there is a demand and willingness to pay, improves the project's long-term sustainability)
- Add value or new dimensions to existing sustainability projects
- Be cost effective and offer good value for money

Definitions

The statutory purpose of the **AONB designation** is: To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area.

A government policy statement on AONBs (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: a Policy Statement. Countryside Commission, 1991CCP 356) also identifies three related purposes:

- i) Recreation ('the demand for recreation should be met insofar as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty')
- ii) Socio-economic ('account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries, and the economic and social needs of local communities')
- iii) Sustainable development ('particular regard

should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment')

Natural Beauty: 'Natural beauty' is not only an aesthetic concept and 'landscape' means more than just 'scenery'. The natural beauty of AONBs partly results from nature, and is partly the product of many centuries of human modification of 'natural' features. Landscape encompasses everything - 'natural' and human - that makes an area distinctive - geology, climate, soil, plants, animals, communities, archaeology, buildings and the people who live in it, past and present, and the perceptions of those who visit it (Countryside Agency CA23 2001). Projects should identify which part of the AONB Management Plan they are helping to achieve, and should ensure that their impact on the area's natural beauty is in accordance with the vision, policies and actions of the Plan.

Sustainable Development: To promote and enhance the environmental, economic, and community well-being of Chichester Harbour AONB, to ensure a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. Achieving sustainable development requires meeting four main goals at the same time:

- Social progress which meets the needs of everyone;
- Effective protection of the environment;
- A diverse and prosperous rural economy;
- Prudent use of natural resources.

Individual projects can place particular emphasis on any one of these four goals, should seek to make progress on all, and must demonstrate no negative impact on any. As part of the AONB SDF grant approval process we will be seeking to ensure that the cumulative impact of SDF in the AONB is balanced achievement of the four main goals of sustainable development.

Innovation: Projects that demonstrate the use of new ideas, unique design and have thought beyond the usual 'constraints' will be looked on favourably. Also, those projects which build upon best practice in the particular field.

Best Practice: Projects where possible should build upon what is considered to be best practice in the particular area of work. Knowledge of what has been

done elsewhere should inform but not constrain the planning and design of the project.

Support and involvement of community: Ideally community projects must have achieved some kind of consensus from people living within the local community. An integral aim of the SDF is to encourage individuals, communities, and businesses to develop and test new ways of living more sustainably in the countryside.

Linking community, environmental, economic, and culture: Projects linking these aspects will be considered favourably.

Imagination and creativity: These are associated with sustainability in the sense that a sustainable community is thought to be one that liberates, harnesses and celebrates these qualities in its inhabitants. Sustainable development requires an imaginative and creative approach that encourages lateral thinking and innovation.

Sustainability Checklist

Please use the following checklist to see how your project scores in terms of sustainability.

Environment Criteria

- Biodiversity** means the ecological richness and diversity of a place (or places) as reflected in the number of species and range of habitats. The rarity of the species and habitats protected or created and their quality, would improve the biodiversity score.
- Reduce, reuse, recycle** can be applied to any resource consumption e.g. from water to wood. An approach that reduces consumption of something is usually more sustainable than one that reuses, which in turn is more sustainable than one that recycles.
- Minimise pollution** to air/water/land using products and processes that have a minimal impact on the environment be it peat free products, low water extraction or minimising the release of gases that contribute to climate change.
- Traditional materials** may not always be appropriate but in general the use of materials such as wood, slate or local stone is likely to enhance its aesthetic appeal and aid sustainability.

- ❑ **Sustainable transport** means having as small an impact on fossil fuel based transport as possible and limiting the impact of traffic in the AONB.

Social Criteria

- ❑ **Participation/support and ownership** refers to the degree to which local people and/or people who use or work in a place or service have been involved in planning and implementing the project being put forward for funding. As with the local appraisal, a high degree of participation and ownership will only come if it has been consciously sought and encouraged.
- ❑ **Involving young people** is a key priority for the scheme. Projects will score higher if young people are involved: this can be in project formulation, implementation as well as them being the beneficiaries.
- ❑ **Local Social Needs** projects score higher if they alleviate gaps or support community needs across the National Park such as; the provision of services or amenities, opportunities for 5-18 yr olds, health issues, elderly, and disadvantaged or minority groups.
- ❑ **Community structures** is a term used to describe the degree to which locally run organisations are in place to manage and develop the project over the long term. Something imposed from outside, paternalistically or by a well-meaning individual is less likely to be sustainable than one owned and controlled by a local organisation or partnership.
- ❑ **Local appraisal/feasibility** is a term that describes a consultative process designed to draw out the views of people living in a local community. There are numerous ways of undertaking an appraisal, from a public meeting to a sophisticated questionnaire. The more rigorous and involving the appraisal, the more weight can be placed on its results.

Economic Criteria

- ❑ **Generates own income** is the ability to create a resource, service or activity for which there is a demand and a willingness to pay, improves its long-term sustainability.

- ❑ **Helps local economy** - a sustainable community is considered to be one in which there is a diverse range of economic activities, which actively trade with each other. This enables it to be more stable and less vulnerable to destabilizing external influences. Local sustainable developments should help diversify the local economy and use local products and services.
- ❑ **Business plan** is a written document that is 'owned' by those who have responsibility for long-term management. It should clearly state the business objectives of those involved in the management of a resource, service or activity, and the way in which financial and human resources will be found and applied to achieve those objectives.
- ❑ **Jobs, training, volunteering** refer to the degree to which a resource, service or activity creates or supports paid or voluntary jobs, and training opportunities. If voluntary tasks are of a good quality and linked to training they can enable people to move into paid work.
- ❑ **Cost effective** - projects will be assessed on their value for money.
- ❑ **Levering in other funds/support in kind from other sources** - Projects that have explored other complementary grant/funding sources to give added value to the SDF will score highly.

How to apply

If you think that your project fits the Fund criteria and ideally you have talked it through with the AONB Officer, then please complete the application form (including any other relevant and supporting information) and send to:

Chichester Harbour AONB Officer
Chichester Harbour Conservancy
The Harbour Office
Itchenor, Chichester
West Sussex, PO20 7AW

Telephone : 01243 512301

Email: harbourmaster@conservancy.co.uk