

10. SOUTH WEST PEAK LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP (SWPLP) RESTORATION OF TWO FIELD BARNs.

1. Purpose of the report

The purpose of the report is to seek approval to offer grants for the restoration of two traditional field barns as part of the SWPLP Barns and Buildings Conservation project, where the grant is more than £30,000 for each building restoration.

Key Issues

- **SWPLP grants are largely delivered through the Environmental Improvement through Agriculture, National Parks (England and Wales) Scheme. As the scheme is fully compliant with state aid (European Union) and more recently subsidy regime (World Trade Organisation) regulations this approach has been accepted by the main funder, the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), as an appropriate mechanism.**
- **Financial Regulations Part 7. 2 Delegation of Powers to Officers, Officer Delegation Scheme, Part 7. C 3 – Authority Grants and Award Schemes requires Member approval for any grant over £30,000. Whilst normally this report would go to Performance and Resources Committee the timescale for commencing and completing the restoration work has necessitated bringing this report to the Authority meeting.**

2. Recommendation

- 1. That the offer and payment of the SWPLP grants for the restoration of the two field barns Hobcroft Barn (£74,675) and Cundy Green Barn (£33,660) are approved.**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

National Park Management Plan special quality 2: Internationally important and locally distinctive wildlife and habitats; and special quality 4: Landscapes that tell a story of thousands of years of people, farming and industry. They also contribute to a number of the “Areas of Impact” 1: Preparing for a future climate; 2: Ensuring a future for farming and land management; 3: Managing landscape conservation on a big scale and 5: Encouraging enjoyment with understanding.

Corporate Strategy outcomes “A sustainable landscape that is conserved and enhanced” KPIs 1 and 8; “A National Park loved and supported by diverse audiences” KPI’s 12 and 14 and “Thriving and sustainable communities that are part of this special place” KPI 17.

Other considerations:

This project demonstrates the need for financial support for the restoration of such traditional buildings where continuation in low key agricultural use makes the full cost of restoration uneconomic for the owner alone. It will also secure their continuing presence as cultural heritage features in the landscape.

Background Information

- 3. The Barns and Buildings Conservation project is being delivered by the SWPLP, funded**

by the NLHF. The project has a capital budget allowance for field barn repair and restoration with a target for delivering repairs to 7 field barns. Four barns were initially identified for major repairs, but during 2020, two of the owners pulled out of the project for personal and financial reasons.

The two barns being progressed for major repairs are Hobcroft Barn on the Warslow Moors Estate, and the privately owned Cundy Green Barn, in Onecote. A Conservation Architect has been contracted to manage the tendering and construction phases, working to the SWPLP’s Cultural Heritage Officer.

Hobcroft Barn will feature on a new barns trail around Warslow, which is currently being designed by SWPLP volunteers. The three SWPLP apprentices are scheduled to make some access improvements, and children at the Manifold Academy in Warslow are set to test-run the trail.

At present, minor repairs are also being planned on three further barns in private ownership.

Proposals

4. The proposal is to offer and pay restoration grants of £74,675 for Hobcroft Barn and £33,660 for Cundy Green Barn based on building and project management costs for the restorations.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

Financial:

5. The required funding (80% grant towards costs) is available through the SWPLP and the restoration of these two field barns will form a key part of the required outputs under the programme. The barn owners will contribute the remainder of the costs (20%).

Following the completion of a tender process for each project, details of the required expenditure are set out below:

Hobcroft Barn

Building works net cost	£85,874	Amount of grant (80%)	£68,699
Project Management net cost	£6,870	Amount of grant (80%)	£5,496
Structural Engineer net cost	£600	Amount of grant (80%)	£480
Total cost	£93,344	Total grant	£74,675

Cundy Green Barn

Building works net cost	£38,403	Amount of grant (80%)	£30,722
Project Management net cost	£3,072	Amount of grant (80%)	£2,458
Structural Engineer net cost	£600	Amount of grant (80%)	£480
Total cost	£42,075	Total grant	£33,660

The figures above include provisional sums of £5,500 for each barn.

Risk Management:

6. The Authority has experience of working with an external contractor to project manage building restoration works. The standards required have been achieved to date.

The tender sets out the standards expected of the contractor and the checks that will be undertaken to ensure the standards are met.

Sustainability:

7. The contractor shall demonstrate that all reclaimed materials have been sourced from a reputable supplier who is considered acceptable by the PDNPA. Sourcing from suppliers who hold a valid Salvo Code Certificate (<http://www.salvoweb.com>) will be considered acceptable in this respect.

Equality:

8. The tender and responses for contracting the Conservation Architect have been prepared, run and evaluated within the standard procedure to ensure equality.

The tender and responses for building works have been managed by the appointed Conservation Architect, in line with the Authority's tendering procedures.

9. Climate Change

Whilst there is no one major contribution to the Authority's role in climate change as set out in the UK Government Vision and Circular for National Parks, there are contributions particularly with regard to protecting the National Park, as the restoration of these two field barns will:

- protect them against future impacts of climate change, as once the structure starts to fail more severe weather patterns have greater negative impacts on the structure;
- show leadership and hopefully encourage farmers, land managers and owners to do similar in relation to maintaining structural integrity.

10. Background papers (not previously published)

SWPLP – approval for the programme under ARP minute 58/16 at committee on 4th November 2016.

11. Appendices

None.

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

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