

Criteria for Assessing Projects

These criteria are provided to the applicant as an indication of how their application will be assessed. **It is expected that successful projects will meet all of the core criteria but will not necessarily have to meet every criteria of the other sections.** However the higher the number of 'yes' answers, the more likely the proposed project will meet the aims and objectives of the scheme. The list of criteria is not exhaustive therefore if other sustainable issues are highlighted in the application then these should also be taken into consideration.

<u>Core criteria</u>	Yes	No	n/a
Conserves or enhances local characteristics of culture, wildlife, landscape, land use and community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supports AONB core purposes and the AONB Management Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is located in the AONB or directly benefits the AONB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Demonstrates good practice or innovation which could be transferred to other parts of Cumbria and Lancashire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Involves or benefits the local community/young people in general	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continues beyond the life of the current SDF scheme	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Environmental criteria</u>	Yes	No	n/a
Conserves or promotes biodiversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promotes a high quality environment or enhances local habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promotes "reduce – reuse - recycle"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contributes to raising awareness of environmental issues, AONB purposes or sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Achieves aesthetic improvement of the built or natural heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fulfils part of a site management plan, Local Agenda 21, Community Strategy or Parish Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Social criteria</u>	Yes	No	n/a
Can demonstrate local support (e.g. evidence of community consultation)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Involves the local community and/or young people generally in developing or working on the project itself	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Breaks down social or cultural barriers / promotes equality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Addresses local social needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has appropriate community structures / networks in place to co-ordinate project	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contributes towards healthier lifestyles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Economic criteria</u>	Yes	No	n/a
Draws in funding from other sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Demonstrates value for money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contributes to the local economy by generating own income	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business plan in place or in preparation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contributes to local employment, training or volunteering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Cultural criteria</u>			
	Yes	No	n/a
Contributes towards maintaining local culture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has cultural or historical links	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uses traditional materials or skills in managing the countryside (including the built environment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High quality design and use of sustainable materials / techniques	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provides interpretation or educational opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Involves using the arts (eg sculpture/theatre/music/photography)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; min-height: 200px;"> <p>Other</p> </div>			

Guidance for completing the Sustainability Checklist

The primary purpose for AONBs - as set out in legislation is to:

- **Conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area**
Natural Beauty includes the natural environment, landscape, cultural and historic features and the flora and fauna of the area

Secondary aims for AONBs - set out in Government Policy Guidance:

- Sustainable development (particular promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment)
- Recreation (where the demands for recreation can be met and be consistent with the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty)
- Socio-economic activity (taking account of the needs of agriculture, forestry other rural industries and the economic and social needs of local communities)

NB. Copies of the AONB Management Plan are available from the AONB Office.

Location within the AONB or otherwise benefiting the AONB:

The project proposed should normally be located within the AONB boundary. It may be that a particular scheme is located outside the boundary of the AONB but has a considerable impact on the qualities of the designated area. Applicants will have to show how their scheme contributes to the character and enhancement of the AONB where the project is located outside the boundary.

Innovation and Best Practice:

Projects that demonstrate the use of new ideas, unique design and have thought beyond the usual “constraints” will be looked on favourably. 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. 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. Emphasis is placed on working with or involvement of younger members of the community.

Continuity and Project lifespan:

A project should have a useful period of existence after the end of SDF grant period. This will usually mean a period of several years.

Environment Criteria:

Biodiversity: the ecological richness and diversity of a place (or places) as reflected in the number of species and range of habitats. The rarity of species and habitats protected or created and their quality would improve the biodiversity score.

Promotes a high quality environment: relates to the concept of the value of the natural environment and its contribution to the social and economic well-being of the local communities.

Reduce, re-use, recycle: principles that can be applied to the use of any materials, energy or resources; **reducing** consumption of resources is usually more sustainable than **re-using** resources, which in turn is generally more sustainable than **recycling**.

Raising Awareness: contributing to the understanding of the special nature and landscape value of the AONB, through interpretation, example and involvement.

Aesthetic Improvement: achieved through removal of an acknowledged eyesore, restoration of a structure or building from a derelict state, the introduction of approved landscape management or the restoration of traditional farm/land management.

Supplementary considerations under the Environmental criteria:

Minimising pollution to air/water/land: projects should aim to use 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 add to climate change.

Using traditional materials: use of traditional materials - in general, materials such as wood, lime-wash, lime mortars, slate and local limestone are likely to enhance the aesthetic appeal and sustainability of a construction project. Some modern building materials are more sustainable than older alternatives and careful consideration must be given to choice of materials.

Providing sustainable transport: encouraging people to walk, cycle, car share and/or use public transport, whilst minimising the impacts of all traffic in the AONB.

Social Criteria:

Participation/support and ownership: this refers to the degree to which local people and/or people who use or work within the AONB or deliver or use a service provided within the AONB, 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.

Involves young people: a key priority for the scheme and projects will score higher if young people are involved: this can be in project formulation, implementation as well as them being the beneficiaries.

Cultural and Social equality: projects should promote equality of opportunity for all social and ethnic groupings while acknowledging diversity within communities.

Local Social Needs: projects score higher if they alleviate gaps or support community needs across the AONB such as; the provision of services or amenities and opportunities for 5-18 year-olds, the elderly, disadvantaged or minority groups.

Community structures: 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.

Healthier lifestyles: this term describes measures which reduce the demand on health care services through the promotion of an active life through initiatives such as “Green Gyms” or “Walking on prescription” and encouraging activity volunteering.

Economic Criteria:

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.

Value for money: projects will be assessed on and will need to demonstrate their cost effectiveness.

Helping the local economy and generating income: 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. A sustainable community is considered to be one in which there is a diverse range of economic activities, which actively trade with each other. Local sustainable developments should help diversify the local economy and use local products and services.

Business Plan: this a written document that 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. This will be a simple statement for smaller schemes, but large projects should be supported by a comprehensive Business Plan.

Jobs, training, volunteering: refers 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.

Cultural Criteria:

Maintaining local culture: an important feature of a scheme, which should reflect the “sense of place” generated by the customs, practices and skills that have shaped the landscape and communities of the AONB.

Cultural and Historical links: this will reflect the importance of the local heritage and land use of a particular location or activity.

Traditional materials: Locally characteristic materials and techniques should be favoured in all construction works. Also, see notes above on environmental criteria: supplementary considerations.

Quality and Sustainability: applicants will be expected to show that in establishing any design work and in selecting materials/techniques to be used during their project, they have undertaken a quality assessment. They must also demonstrate an understanding of how their project fulfils the Sustainability guidelines outlined in the Project Ideas guidance notes.

Interpretation: all schemes and projects should demonstrate how they will contribute to the community’s understanding of the special qualities of the AONB and to issues of sustainability.

Involving Art: opportunities for involving art-based activities within an overall scheme should be addressed within the application if appropriate.

How can we help?

Our role: the AONB Officer is available to help and guide you through the process of preparing your application. We will do all we can to assist you in developing a suitable idea into a project that can receive SDF grant. The SDF administrator will help in filling in the forms needed and keep you informed of your applications progress.

If you would like more information on the
~ **Sustainable Development Fund** ~
or want to talk through a project idea please contact

David Askew, AONB Officer
Arnside/Silverdale
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

at the AONB Office in Arnside **on**
01524 761034 or speak to other staff at the Office.
Email
info@arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk