

NOTICE OF MEETING



Snowdonia National Park Authority

Emyr Williams

Chief Executive

Snowdonia National Park Authority

Penrhyndeudraeth

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Meeting: Snowdonia National Park Authority

Date: Wednesday 27 April 2022

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Members are asked to join the meeting 15 minutes before the designated start time

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillor: Elwyn Edwards, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Judith Mary Humphreys, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Mike Stevens, Gethin Glyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillor: Philip Capper, Wyn Ellis-Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

Members appointed by The Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Owain Wyn.

****This Agenda is also available in Welsh***

A G E N D A

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|---|------------------|
| 1. Apologies for absence and Chairman's Announcements | |
| 2. Corporate Update
To receive an oral update from the Chief Executive. | |
| 3. Public Question Time
The Authority has allocated up to 20 minutes at the start of its meeting to allow members of the public the opportunity to ask specific questions that relate to the work of the Authority (apart from planning applications) that is relevant to the Park's duties and purposes.

Questions must be submitted in writing (by post or e-mail) to the Director of Corporate Services at least 7 days prior to the meeting. | |
| 4. Declaration of Interest
To receive any disclosure of interest by members or officers in respect of any item of business. | |
| 5. Minutes
The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the meeting of this Authority held on the 9 th February 2022 be signed as a true record. (Copy herewith) | 4 - 10 |
| 6. Matters for Information arising from the minutes | |
| 7. Action Log
To submit the Action Log for information and decision. (Copy herewith) | 11 - 14 |
| 8. 2022 Audit Plan
To receive a report by Rachel Freitag and Euros Lake, Audit Wales. (Copy herewith) | 15 - 28 |
| 9. Governance Task and Finish Group
To submit a report by the Director of Corporate Services. (Copy herewith) | 29 - 54 |
| 10. Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales
To submit a report by the Director of Corporate Services. (Copy herewith) | 55 - 58 |
| 11. Yr Ysgwrn Annual Report
To submit a report by the Head of Cultural Heritage. (Copy herewith) | 59 - 64 |
| 12. Welsh National Parks: Landscapes for Everyone: Our Approach to Social Inclusion and Child Poverty (revised for 2021)
To submit a report by the Partnerships Manager. (Copy herewith) | 65 - 94 |
| 13. Members' Working Group Reports
To submit the reports of the Members' Working Group meetings held on 19 th January and 2 nd March 2022. (Copies herewith) | 95 - 100 |
| 14. Calendar of Meetings 2022/23
To submit a Timetable of Meetings for the period 2022/23. (Copy herewith) | 101 |

15. **Meetings of other Organisations**
To receive reports from Members on any recent meetings of organisations which they have attended as representatives of the Authority.

16. **To submit the following minutes for information:-**
Minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 24th November 2021. (Copy herewith)

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**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
WEDNESDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2022**

Councillor Wyn Ellis Jones (Conwy) (Chairman)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Edgar Wyn Owen, Mike Stevens, Gethin Glyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Philip Capper, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Ms Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Owain Wyn;

Officers

Mr. Emyr Williams, Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mr. Jonathan Cawley, Mr. Dafydd Edwards, Ms. Sian Owen, Ms Anwen Gaffey;

In attendance

Mr. Nick Selwyn, Audit Wales.

Apologies

Councillors Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the meeting was subject to Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business, and that:

- a Notice of the Meeting had been published and the Agenda and reports were available on the Authority's website.
- the meeting was not open to the public.
- the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes and would be available online at a later date.

1. Chairman's Announcements

- (1) The Chairman referred to two meetings of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee held on the 14th and 28th January 2022. Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn (Gwynedd Council) was elected to the Chair at the first meeting and agreement on the budget was made at the second meeting. The Chairman confirmed that the levy for the Snowdonia National Park Authority for 2022/23 would be £3,140.
- (2) The Chairman noted that it was now two years since the Authority had met in person at Plas Tan y Bwlch and took the opportunity to thank all the Authority's staff for adjusting so well to new working practices under difficult circumstances.
- (3) Following two recent meetings of the Sustainable Tourism Workshop, the Chairman took the opportunity to thank the organisers, and all those who had taken part for their contribution.

2. Corporate Update

Received – The Chief Executive provided an oral update on the following:-

- the Chief Executive confirmed that interviews for the Welsh Government Member vacancies on the Authority had been held and that the Minister's decision on the appointments was awaited. The current vacancy will be filled immediately, with the other appointment starting at the end of July 2022.

- the Chief Executive advised that arrangements were in place for staff who come in contact with the farming community to receive mental health training from the Tir Dewi charity, set up to support farmers and their families.
- the Chief Executive referred to numerous correspondence received by members and officers with regard to footpath work in the North of the National Park, which had divided opinions. The Chief Executive advised that in future the Management Team would be notified of all proposed footpath work prior to commencement and that a report would be presented to Members in due course to consider issues such as how to prioritise the work, the necessary standards, consulting requirements etc.
- the Chief Executive advised that over 120 delegates from local communities had signed up to take part in the Traffic and Parking Webinar on 16 February 2022.
- an online presentation had been arranged on the 18th February 2022 for Members and officers to receive the results of the Residents and Visitors Survey 2021.

3. **Public Question Time**

Members were informed that no public questions had been received.

4. **Declaration of Interest**

Ms Anwen Gaffey and Ms Catrin Williams (translator) declared an interest in item 13 on the Agenda but remained in the meeting. Ms. Sian Owen and Ms Gwen Aeron (communications officer) declared an interest in Item 13 on the Agenda and left the meeting while the matter was being discussed.

5. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Authority meetings held on 24th November and 8th December 2021 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as true records.

6. **Matters for Information arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising.

7. **Notice of Motion**

Submitted – A Notice of Motion by Mr. Owain Wyn, which states that the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 places a duty on public bodies to consider the wellbeing goal of “achieving a Wales with a vibrant culture where the Welsh language thrives” whilst adopting the five ways of working to realise this ambition.

Mr. Wyn presented the motion and explained that he felt it was timely to consider these matters now as the Authority’s membership was about to change, and the results of the census were imminent and would provide a good evidence base.

In noting the context as set out:-

It was “proposed that Members call on the Authority and its partners to respond positively to the challenges by:-

1. Developing a clear vision of how the Snowdonia National Park Authority can play its part in the national language revival by building upon a better understanding of the local situation to drive policy interventions and create conditions that will increase the number of people able to speak Welsh and boost its everyday use in Eryri;
2. At the appropriate time ensuring that the next versions of the Authority’s key documents (the Local Development Plan, Cynllun Eryri, our Wellbeing Statement and the Welsh Promotion Strategy) are appropriately aligned with and support that vision.”

Members and officers discussed the motion and made the following observations:-

- the Chief Executive felt the answer had already been identified in the Member's opening statement. He advised that the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Service Board work streams already encompass this, although this was not the case in Conwy and Denbighshire PSB.
- the Director of Planning and Land Management welcomed the motion and agreed that more work was needed to support and protect the Welsh language. This work will be incorporated into the review of the Local Development Plan, which commences this year, and sub-groups of Members and officers will be established at that time. The Director of Planning and Land Management also advised that the matter was high on Grwp Cynefin's agenda and highlights the importance of bringing partners into the discussion.
- Members welcomed the motion and fully supported its content.
- in response to a question, the Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that the Authority had submitted a response to all the recent Welsh Government consultations, summaries of which were presented to Members at a recent meeting of the Planning and Access Committee.
- Members agreed that the Senedd's vision for the Welsh language was welcome and that the motion was extremely timely. The Authority now needs to work with its partners and its communities to decide how to make this proposal a reality.
- Members and officers agreed that the motion should initially be considered at a meeting of the Members' Working Group prior to establishing further sub-groups as required.

RESOLVED to welcome the motion and await a further report to a meeting of the Members' Working Group in March or April 2022.

8. **Action Log**

Submitted – A log of strategic actions arising from decisions taken during meetings of the Authority, for information and action.

Authority Meeting 10.04.19

Action Item 12 – Europarc Youth Manifesto

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

Authority Meeting 08.12.21

Action Item 12 – Authority Resilience: Staff Terms and Conditions

This action was now complete and could be removed from the Action Log.

RESOLVED to note the Action Log and remove the actions as outlined.

9. **Annual Audit Summary 2021**

Submitted – The Audit Wales Annual Audit Summary 2021.

Reported – Mr. Nick Selwyn, Audit Wales, presented the report and provided Members with a summary of the key issues.

Members considered the report and made the following observations:-

- in response to a request from the Chairman, Mr. Nick Selwyn agreed that future reports will include a summary statement on the difference between earmarked reserves and useable reserves.

- the Chief Finance Officer confirmed that general balances are held at between 3% and 5%, which varies based on the risks the Authority faces.
- Mr. Nick Selwyn advised that Audit Wales had recently published their 'Data Tool' which compares financial data for each Council, National Park and Fire and Rescue Authority in Wales. He was happy to provide colleagues with a link to forward to Members who may find this useful.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the Annual Report, for information.

10. **The Authority's Budget and Levy on Constituent Authorities 2022/23**
Submitted – A report by the Chief Finance Officer requesting approval of the 2022/23 revenue and capital budgets and to raise levies on constituent authorities on the basis of the Welsh Government's draft grant allocation figure for the Authority.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented the report and advised Members of the amendments made since the report was presented to the Authority on the 8th December 2021, as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report.

Members considered the report and discussed the following:-

- in response to a question, the Chief Finance Officer confirmed that the 1.75% pay increase from April 2021 was included in the 2021/22 budget and remained unchanged from that presented to Members in December 2021. The 4% increase in the 2022/23 budget is an estimate of the April 2022 pay agreement, and in the context of the latest inflation rates, that figure has been increased since the 2022/23 budget was considered in December.
- a Member asked whether the 10% increase in the core revenue budget had allowed the Authority to regain some of its losses. The Chief Executive advised that the Authority had not regained its losses, but Welsh Government were aware that the Authority had not been granted an inflationary rise and that a bid for this will be made, with further discussions likely for the future.

RESOLVED

1. **to note the contents of the report.**
2. **to approve the revenue and capital budgets for 2022/23 as set out in the report and appendices.**
3. **to authorise levies to be raised on the two constituent councils to a total amount of £1,373,262 in accordance with paragraph 6.3 of the Chief Finance Officer's report.**

11. **Capital Strategy 2022/23**
Submitted – The Chief Finance Officer's report to approve the Capital Strategy for 2022/23 and the recommendations relating to the Prudential Code.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented the report and asked Members to note a correction in para. 3.2 of the Welsh version, which should refer to the 2022/23 financial year. The Chief Finance Officer thanked the Head of Finance for preparing the high quality financial reports, for the first time since being appointed. The Chairman also thanked the Head of Finance on behalf of Members.

RESOLVED

1. **to note that there was no intention to borrow monies for capital purposes, however, the limitations below were recommended on a prudent level as a precautionary measure in case of an emergency or need for expenditure at short notice.**

2. to approve the present Authorised Borrowing Limit of £500,000 for 2022/23, and an Operational Boundary of £100,000.
3. that no limit be placed on the proportion of interest payable at a variable rate.
4. to adopt the Capital Borrowing Strategy for 2022/23 as outlined in para. 3.2 of the report and note the content relating to the Prudential Code (see tables under paras. 2.2, 3.3 and para. 7.1 of the report).
5. to adopt the Investment Strategy for 2022/23 as outlined in paras. 3.5 to 3.14 of the report, and note the institutions listed in para 3.7.

12. **Mid-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2022/23 – 2025/26**

Submitted – A joint report by the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer, for information.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report, which has been prepared over the last 4-5 years as an easy-to-understand working document and outlined the main points for Members.

Members and officers discussed the report and made the following observations:-

- the Chief Finance Officer recognised the difficulties faced by the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance in preparing the MTFP and making projections in the light of current uncertainties.
- a Member asked whether a timetable had been set for resolving the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch and noted his concerns that running the Centre as a bed and breakfast business was not a National Park objective. The Chief Executive advised that the Business Plan was yet to be agreed and that once figures were available there would be further meetings to discuss the Centre's position.
- in response to a question with regard to Hillside, Aberdyfi, the Director of Corporate Services advised that Geldards have provided an estimate of the cost, but he was not in a position to report on the matter at this time. He assured Members that the Authority would be able to meet the costs without affecting other services.
- in response to a suggestion that mid-term financial planning should be referred to in the Authority's Risk register, the Chief Finance Officer felt it would be difficult to condense the information for inclusion in the register. The Chief Executive suggested amending the wording of the first risk and advised that in future, the Authority will be notified of its baseline budget for the term of the Government.

RESOLVED to note the report and approve the Mid Term Financial Plan as a working document.

13. **Authority Resilience: Staff Terms and Conditions**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive for Members to consider responses to the Staff and Trade Union Consultation on:

- i. adjustments to salary bands
- ii. acknowledging bilingualism
- iii. an extra day's leave on St. David's Day, and

for Members to formally consider and agree changes to staff terms and conditions for implementation.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report and appendices and provided Members with the background to the report.

Members considered the report and made the following observations:-

- a Member asked whether the Authority should seek an independent review on the Authority's salary levels at some time in the future? The Chief Executive advised that Members had agreed to the review being undertaken by an independent public sector organisation that understood the pay process. In addition, the Chief Executive stated that initially the aim was to assist the Authority in appointing to professional posts, but it was now difficult to recruit at all levels, and the position will need to be reassessed in the next two years.
- with regard to supporting staff who learn the Welsh language, a Member suggested having a system in place to recognise success, such as an award or kite mark etc.
- the Chief Executive referred to para. 6.1 of the report and noted the need to review the effectiveness of the policy at the end of 5 years.
- a Member recommended that the Chief Executive should contact the media to advise of the Authority's decision to adopt a discretionary day's leave for Saint David's Day from 1st March 2022 onwards.
- in response to a question, the Chief Executive stated that an annual report is presented to the Performance & Resources Committee outlining the Authority's Pay Policy which includes information on the national living wage and gender equality issues. Members will, therefore, be able to further discuss this matter at a future meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee.
- with reference to para. 6.2, Members agreed that the Chairman should convene a meeting of nominated Members to assess the capacity/role of the Management Team.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the contents of the report and response to the consultation.**
- 2. to approve adjustment in the Authority's pay bands by two pay points (upwards) on the pay spine as identified in paragraph 6.1.**
- 3. to approve an additional discretionary day's leave on Saint David's Day from 1st March 2022 onwards – the Chief Executive to issue a press release notifying the media.**
- 4. to approve the retention of the last pay point in any pay band subject to attaining an agreed standard in English and Welsh as identified in paragraph 6.1.**
- 5. the Authority Chairman to convene a meeting of Members to consider the capacity/role of the Management Team. The following Members were nominated:-
Councillors Annwen Hughes, Alwyn Gruffydd, Elwyn Edwards;
Mr. Owain Wyn, Mr. Tim Jones and Ms Sarah Hattle.**

14. Working Group Report

Submitted – The report of the Members' Working Group meeting held on 1st December 2021.

Arising thereon,

Item 5 – Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places (SLSP) 2022/23

In response to a question, the Chief Executive stated that confirmation was still awaited due to the grant settlement remaining unconfirmed and that the announcement was due in the second week of March 2022.

RESOLVED to note the report.

15. **Meetings of other Organisations**

Members had not attended any external meetings as representatives of the Authority.

The meeting ended at 11.35



TAFLEN WEITHREDU – ACTION SHEET

AUTHORITY MEETING – 25.09.2019

ITEM NO. AND TITLE	DECISIONS / OBSERVATIONS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE or COMPLETION DATE	REMOVE FROM ACTION LOG
8. Budget Update	<p>- a report on the budgetary pressures faced by the Property Section to be presented to a future Working Group.</p> <p>- a report by Yr Ysgwrn Project Group to be presented to Members in the New Year.</p> <p>- to provide Members with a copy of the Aberdyfi judgement once it becomes available.</p>	<p>To present the reports.</p> <p>To email Members with the judgement.</p>	<p>EJ</p> <p>NJ</p> <p>GIJ</p>	<p>Update - The Assets Sub Group met on 4 March 2020 and considered a report, which outlined budget pressures and recommendations to reinvest income from income generating sites in future maintenance budgets from 2021/22 onwards. A subsequent report to be prepared for Autumn Performance & Resources committee. Covid 19 was identified as a potential risk and has resulted in the report being postponed owing to wider financial pressures arising from the pandemic. The Assets Sub-Group was convened on 15th January 2021. An update report will be presented to Members prior to April 2022 and an appointment has been made to the newly created Property Officer post.</p> <p>Update – at the end of the 2021 season a report will be presented to Yr Ysgwrn Board before being presented to the Authority meeting by the Head of Cultural Heritage in late 2021 / early 2022.</p> <p>Members were provided with a copy of the judgement on 28.11.19</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>	<p>NO</p>



TAFLEN WEITHREDU – ACTION SHEET

AUTHORITY MEETING – 09.12.2020

ITEM NO. AND TITLE	DECISIONS / OBSERVATIONS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE or COMPLETION DATE	REMOVE FROM ACTION LOG
7 Action Log	Authority Meeting 10.04.19 Action Item 12 – Europarc Youth Manifesto	To progress this action as a matter of urgency.	AD	<p>UPDATE: Appointment made, and officer will be in post shortly.</p> <p>UPDATE: Officer started in post on 4th April 2022. The officer has started discussions with the Outdoor Partnership regarding the Young Rangers Scheme and has visited Pembrokeshire NP to learn about their work.</p> <p>After the election and once the Authority members are in post, a meeting of the 'Youth Manifesto task and finish group' will be arranged. A progress report can be presented to the AGM in June if required.</p>	NO



TAFLEN WEITHREDU – ACTION SHEET

AUTHORITY MEETING – 13.10.2021

ITEM NO. AND TITLE	DECISIONS / OBSERVATIONS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE or COMPLETION DATE	REMOVE FROM ACTION LOG
11. Scrutiny Panel Progress Report – Place Names	<p>RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to await further advice on the options available on how to address place names that have more than one name in common use. 2. to await a report by the Panel on the best way for place names in Snowdonia to be used and promoted. 3. that the Scrutiny Panel be replaced by a Steering Group (with the same membership) to address future issues and to invite a representative from Conwy County Borough Council to attend the Steering Group as and when required. 	To present a further report in due course.	JC	<p>The Steering Group considered a report by Dr Dylan Foster-Evans, Head of School of Welsh, University of Cardiff on 8th March. This will form the basis for officers to prepare a further guidance on dealing with places with more than one place name. Based upon this, an initial guidance note will be prepared by officers to Members at the September Authority meeting.</p> <p>This report will also include ways that place names can be celebrated and promoted.</p>	NO



TAFLEN WEITHREDU – ACTION SHEET

AUTHORITY MEETING – 09.02.2022

ITEM NO. AND TITLE	DECISIONS / OBSERVATIONS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE or COMPLETION DATE	REMOVE FROM ACTION LOG
13. Authority Resilience: Staff Terms and Conditions.	RESOLVED: the Authority Chair to convene a meeting of Members to consider the capacity/role of the Management Team. The following Members were nominated:- Councillors Annwen Hughes, Alwyn Gruffydd, Elwyn Edwards; Mr. Owain Wyn, Mr. Tim Jones and Ms Sarah Hattle.	Chair to convene a meeting.	Chair	Initial meeting held on 30 th March 2022 with a further meeting being arranged for the beginning of May 2022.	NO

2022 Audit Plan – Snowdonia National Park Authority

Audit year: 2021-22

Date issued: April 2022

Document reference: 2916A2022

This document has been prepared as part of work performed in accordance with statutory functions.

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Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg. This document is also available in Welsh.

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2022 Audit Plan

About this document

- 1 This document sets out the work I plan to undertake during 2022 to discharge my statutory responsibilities as your external auditor and to fulfil my obligations under the Code of Audit Practice.

My duties

- 2 I complete work each year to meet the following duties.

Audit of financial statements

- 3 Each year I audit the Snowdonia National Park Authority's (the Authority) financial statements to make sure that public money is being properly accounted for.

Value for money

- 4 The Authority has to put in place arrangements to get value for money for the resources it uses, and I have to be satisfied that it has done this.

Sustainable development principle

- 5 The Authority needs to comply with the sustainable development principle when setting and taking steps to meet their well-being objectives. The Auditor General must assess the extent to which they are doing this.

Impact of COVID-19

- 6 The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the United Kingdom and the work of public sector organisations.
- 7 While Wales is currently at Coronavirus Alert Level 0, Audit Wales will continue to monitor the position and will discuss the implications of any changes in the position with your officers.

Audit of financial statements

- 8 It is my responsibility to issue a certificate and report on the financial statements. This includes:
 - an opinion on the 'truth and fairness' of the Authority's financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2022; and
 - an assessment as to whether the Authority's Narrative Report and Annual Governance Statement is prepared in line with the CIPFA Code and relevant guidance and is consistent with the financial statements and with my knowledge of the Authority.
- 9 In addition to my responsibilities for auditing the Authority's financial statements, I also have responsibility for responding to questions and objections about the accounts from the public (additional fees will be charged for this work, if necessary);
- 10 I do not seek to obtain absolute assurance on the truth and fairness of the financial statements and related notes but adopt a concept of materiality. My aim is to identify material misstatements, that is, those that might result in a reader of the accounts being misled. The levels at which I judge such misstatements to be material will be reported to the Authority prior to completion of the audit.
- 11 Any misstatements below a trivial level (set at 5% of materiality) I judge as not requiring consideration by those charged with governance and therefore will not report them.
- 12 I will also report by exception on a number of matters which are set out in more detail in our [Statement of Responsibilities](#), along with further information about my work.

Audit of financial statements risks

- 13 The following table sets out the significant risks I have identified for the audit of the Authority.

Exhibit 1: financial statement audit risks

This table summarises the key financial statement audit risks identified at the planning stage of the audit.

Audit risk	Proposed audit response
Significant risks	
<p>The risk of management override of controls is present in all entities. Due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur, it is viewed as a significant risk [ISA 240.31-33].</p>	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • test the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments made in preparing the financial statements; • review accounting estimates for biases; and • evaluate the rationale for any significant transactions outside the normal course of business.
Other audit risks	
<p>Asset valuations The Authority's non-current assets are scheduled for revaluation in 2021-2022 by the external valuers. This will likely result in material revaluation adjustments in the financial statements.</p>	<p>We will review and test the asset revaluations and related accounting entries completed during 2021-22.</p>
<p>The COVID-19 pandemic will have a significant impact on the risks of material misstatement and the shape and approach to my audit. Welsh Government has made available various funding streams to the authority. Payments have been made available through a number of different schemes over the course of 2021-22 and the amounts involved can be material to the accounts.</p> <p>Examples of audit risks may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fraud/error risks • changes to estimation assumptions including property valuations and accrued annual leave provisions. 	<p>We will review the funding streams received from Welsh Government and confirm the appropriate accounting treatment with the authority.</p>

Performance audit

- 14 In addition to my Audit of Financial Statements I also carry out a programme of performance audit work to discharge my duties as Auditor General as set out on page 4 in relation to value for money and sustainable development.
- 15 In response to the pandemic, I adopted a flexible approach to my performance audit work both in terms of topic coverage and methodology. This enabled me to respond to the fast-moving external environment and provide more real-time feedback in a range of formats.
- 16 For 2022-23, I intend to continue this approach to help enable my work to be responsive and timely, and where possible to share learning more quickly.
- 17 During 2020-21, I consulted public bodies and other stakeholders on how I will approach my duties in respect of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 from 2020-2025.
- 18 In March 2021, I wrote to the public bodies designated under the Act setting out my intentions, which include a). carrying out specific examinations of how public bodies have set their well-being objectives and b). integrating my sustainable development principle examinations of steps to meet well-being objectives with my national and local audit programmes.
- 19 My auditors are liaising with the National Park Authority to agree the most appropriate time to examine the setting of well-being objectives. The examination of steps to meet well-being objectives will be conducted as part of work set out in this audit plan and successive audit plans, leading up to my statutory report under the Act in 2025.
- 20 For 2022-23 my performance audit work at the Authority is set out below.

Exhibit 2: Performance Audit Programme 2022-23

This table summarises the performance audit programme for 2022-23

Performance audit programme	Brief description
To be confirmed following closure of current consultation programme.	

- 21 In March 2022, I published a [consultation](#) inviting views to inform our future audit work programme for 2022-23 and beyond. In particular, it considers topics that may be taken forward through our national value for money examinations and studies and/or through local audit work across multiple NHS, central government and local government bodies. As we develop and deliver our future work programme, we will be putting into practice key themes in our new five-year strategy, namely:
- the delivery of a strategic, dynamic, and high-quality audit programme; supported by
 - a targeted and impactful approach to communicating and influencing.
- 22 The possible areas of focus for future audit work that we set out in the consultation were framed in the context of three key themes from our [Picture of Public Services](#) analysis in autumn 2021, namely: a changing world; the ongoing pandemic; and transforming service delivery. We also invited views on possible areas for follow-up work.
- 23 We will provide updates on the performance audit programme through our regular updates to the Authority.

Statutory audit functions

- 24 In addition to the audit of the accounts, I have statutory responsibilities to receive questions and objections to the accounts from the public. These responsibilities are set out in the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004:
- Section 30 Inspection of documents and questions at audit; and
 - Section 31 Right to make objections at audit.
- 25 As this work is reactive, I have made no allowance in the fee table below. If I do receive questions or objections, I will discuss potential audit fees at the time.

Fee, audit team and timetable

- 26 My fees and planned timescales for completion of the audit are based on the following assumptions:
- the financial statements are provided in accordance with a timescale to be agreed taking into account the impact of COVID-19, to the quality expected and have been subject to a robust quality assurance review;
 - information provided to support the financial statements is in accordance with the agreed audit deliverables document;
 - all appropriate officials will be available during the audit;
 - you have all the necessary controls and checks in place to enable the Responsible Financial Officer to provide all the assurances that I require in the Letter of Representation addressed to me;
 - Internal Audit's planned programme of work is complete and management has responded to issues that may have affected the financial statements;
- 27 If I do receive questions or objections, I will discuss potential audit fees at the time.

Fee

- 28 As set out in our Fee Scheme 2022-23 our fee rates for 2022-23 have increased by 3.7% as a result of the need to continually invest in audit quality and in response to increasing cost pressures.
- 29 The estimated fee for 2022 is set out in **Exhibit 3**. This represents a 3.5% decrease compared to your actual 2020 fee. The decrease is due to additional work required in 2020-21 relating to the Exchequer system upgrade.

Exhibit 3: audit fee

This table sets out the proposed audit fee for 2022, by area of audit work, alongside the actual audit fee for last year.

Audit area	Proposed fee (£) ¹	Actual fee last year (£)
Audit of accounts ²	28,553	30,970
Performance audit work ³	17,815	17,084
Total fee	46,368	48,054

- 30 Planning will be ongoing, and changes to my programme of audit work, and therefore my fee, may be required if any key new risks emerge. I shall make no changes without first discussing them with the Authority.
- 31 Further information can be found in my [Fee Scheme 2022-23](#).

Audit team

- 32 The main members of my team, together with their contact details, are summarised in **Exhibit 4**.

Exhibit 4: my audit team

This table lists the members of the local audit team and their contact details.

Name	Role	Contact number	E-mail address
Derwyn Owen	Engagement Director	02920 320651	derwyn.owen@audit.wales
Rachel Freitag	Audit Manager (Financial Audit)	02920 829359	rachel.freitag@audit.wales
Sabel Wiliam	Audit Lead (Financial Audit)	02920 829358	sabel.wiliam@audit.wales

¹ Notes: The fees shown in this document are exclusive of VAT, which is not charged to you.

² Payable November 2021 to October 2022.

³ Payable April 2022 to March 2023.

Name	Role	Contact number	E-mail address
Nick Selwyn	Audit Manager (Performance Audit)	02920 320612	nick.selwyn@audit.wales
Euros Lake	Senior Auditor (Performance Audit)	02920 320517	euros.lake@audit.wales

33 We can confirm that team members are all independent of you and your officers.

Timetable

34 The key milestones for the work set out in this plan are shown in **Exhibit 5**.

35 The Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 provides electors with the right to ask questions and to make objections to the Authority's accounts to the Auditor General. The rights to ask questions and make objections at audit are linked to electors' rights to inspect the accounts that are also set out in the 2004 Act.

Exhibit 5: Audit timetable

Planned output	Work undertaken	Report finalised
2022 Audit Plan	March - April 2022	April 2022
Audit of Financial statements work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit of Financial Statements Report • Opinion on Financial Statements 	September 2022	October 2021
Performance audit work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be confirmed following closure of current consultation programme 	Timescales for individual projects will be discussed with the Authority and detailed within the specific project briefings produced for each piece of work.	

Planned output	Work undertaken	Report finalised
Annual Audit Summary	N/A	December 2022



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We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English.
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.

ITEM NO. 9

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	27 April 2022
TITLE	Governance Task and Finish Group
REPORT BY	Director of Corporate Services
PURPOSE	To discuss and formally adopt the recommendations made by the Governance Task and Finish Group

1. Background

- 1.1 Members will no doubt recall discussing the work of the Governance Task and Finish Group in considerable detail at the Members' Working Group on 6th April when it was resolved that, subject to amending as discussed, the report was approved for formal adoption by the Authority at its meeting on the 27th of April 2022.
- 1.2 The report as set out below includes the amendments suggested at the Working Group.

2 Summary of all main recommendations of the Governance Task and Finish Group (as amended)

2.1 Code of Corporate Governance

- 2.1.1 An updated draft of the Authority's Code of Corporate Governance has been prepared to reflect the current CIPFA framework and is appended to this report as Appendix 1. It is proposed that this updated Code of Corporate Governance be formally adopted.

2.2 Reviewing Performance

- 2.2.1 That the Authority formally adopts the process for reviewing performance in relation to the Authority's Well-being Statement and Corporate Work Programme as set out in Appendix 2 of this report.

2.3 The Strategic Role of Members

- 2.3.1 Review and update role descriptions in accordance with the matters minuted. Updated roles are appended to this report at Appendix 3.
- 2.3.2 Recommend developing a Member Development Strategy, and to start with:
 - 2.3.2.1 That a collective Skills Assessment is conducted through the form of a questionnaire to all Members in May 2022. For all new Members at this time, completing the assessment would be mandatory.
 - 2.3.2.2 Review and improve the content of the internal induction sessions given to new Members in time for new Members in May 2022.
 - 2.3.2.3 Investigate whether the WLGA could develop a training package for the 3 Parks.
 - 2.3.2.4 To agree a list of mandatory training for members, such as ethical standards, the code of conduct etc. Training programme to be further developed by a future paper to a Members' Working Group.
 - 2.3.2.5 Everyone appointed as Chair/Vice-Chair to be offered training on chairing meetings.
 - 2.3.2.6 There is a formal annual review procedure in place for independent Members. This is to be extended to all Members.
 - 2.3.2.7 In addition to annual reviews, additional opportunities to support new Members is required. Appoint a Member Mentor for each new Member which would enable discussions on what to expect and the dynamics of committees. This would give an opportunity for new Members to raise any concerns regarding bullying and intimidation, as well as to receive advice from experienced Members on a range of issues which would assist an individual to successfully navigate the new role.
 - 2.3.2.8 Appoint a member to take the lead on Member mentoring.

2.4 The Structure and Role of Committees and Strategic Scrutiny

- 2.4.1 Recommend continuing with the current committee structure.
- 2.4.2 That the Authority's Scheme of Delegation be amended to give the Performance and Resources Committee the right to make final decisions on financial and other reports (unless Authority approval is specifically required), rather than arranging an additional special Authority meeting for one item. As all Members sit on the Performance and Resources committee, this would still enable all Member involvement.
- 2.4.3 Future Task and Finish Groups to have Terms of Reference agreed at the outset which identifies a final reporting date, to ensure the groups remain focused.
- 2.4.4 Appointing Members on Task and Finish Groups should be reviewed. People with expertise or interest in the subjects should be appointed.
- 2.4.5 To contact all Members prior to the committee meeting in which establishing a subject specific Task and Finish Group is to be discussed, to ask Members with an interest in sitting on the group to put their names forward beforehand.

- 2.4.6 Agendas to the Task and Finish Group to be sent to all Members, identifying clearly those Members who have been appointed to the group (and therefore are expected to attend) and the other Members who can attend through the discretion of the Chair should they wish. Members not appointed to the Task and Finish Group can take part but will not be able to vote on motions.
- 2.4.7 Recommend delaying until the Final Remit Letter is received from the Minister, and subject to this, support the following areas for future Task and Finish Groups, namely:
 - 2.4.7.1 Actions on Climate Change
 - 2.4.7.2 Actions on the Wildlife and Nature Emergency
 - 2.4.7.3 Contingency Planning and how we deal with future events

2.5 Future Meetings and Public Access

- 2.5.1 Future Authority and Planning and Access Committees to be transmitted live on the website. Recordings of the Performance and Resources Committee to be uploaded after the meeting for public access.
- 2.5.2 Move forward with arrangements without translating English contributions.
- 2.5.3 Introduce a system of pre-registration for the public.
- 2.5.4 Staff to investigate the best location for hybrid committees and make a recommendation to the Authority for approval in due course.

2.6 Review of Matters Raised by the Minister

- 2.6.1 Draft Revised Standing Orders relating to Contracts to be presented to the Authority for adoption in due course.
- 2.6.2 Following adoption, develop guidance on appropriate promotion of Authority contracts by staff, with particular emphasis on the use of social media.
- 2.6.3 Following adoption, awareness training to be given to relevant staff on its implementation.
- 2.6.4 One aspect has already been completed namely a report has been presented to the Performance and Resources Committee in March 2022 on developing and clearly defining a more streamlined decision-making process to meet submission deadlines for Welsh Government Funding.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To adopt the updated Code of Corporate Governance as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.**
- 3.2 To adopt the process for reviewing performance in relation to the Authority's Well-being Statement and Corporate Work Programme as set out in Appendix 2 of this report.**
- 3.3 To agree the updated role descriptions of members and chairs as set out in Appendix 3 of this report.**
- 3.4 To develop a Member Development Strategy as set out in paragraphs 2.3.2.1 – 2.3.2.7 of this report.**
- 3.5 To appoint a member to take the lead on Member mentoring.**
- 3.6 That the Authority continues with its current committee structure but that the Authority should in future consider an amendment to the Authority's Scheme of Delegation to give the Performance and Resources committee the right to make final decisions on financial and other reports (unless Authority approval is specifically required).**
- 3.7 Terms of Reference and the work of future Task and Finish Groups to follow paragraphs 2.4.3 – 2.4.6 of this report.**
- 3.8 To proceed with future meetings and public access as set out in paragraphs 2.5.1 – 2.5.4 of this report.**
- 3.9 That Standing Orders relating to contracts be revised and approved by the Authority in due course with appropriate training for staff as set out in paragraphs 2.6.1 – 2.6.3 of this report.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1: Updated Code of Corporate Governance (Draft)

Appendix 2: Mechanism for Performance Review

Appendix 3: Revised Role Descriptions for Chair / Vice Chair and Members (Draft)

Snowdonia National Park Authority



Code of Corporate Governance

Draft December 2021

*Mae'r ddogfen yma ar gael yn y Gymraeg
This document is available in Welsh*

1. Introduction

The 1995 Environment Act specifies that the purposes of a National Park Authority are

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the park area
- To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public.

The Act also states that in pursuing these purposes the Authority has a duty to seek to foster the social and economic well-being of local communities.

The National Park Authority is committed to the principles of good corporate governance in delivering its statutory purposes. Through the development, adoption and continued implementation and monitoring of a Code of Corporate Governance the Authority formally confirms its ongoing commitment and intentions.

The Code of Corporate Governance is consistent with the principles of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) Framework Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (2016).

The Code of Corporate Governance comprehensively describes the Authority's commitment to and understanding of corporate governance and outlines the arrangements that it has put in place to ensure ongoing effective implementation and monitoring.

The Code of Corporate Governance also makes provision for a joint commitment by Members and officers to the principles it contains, as well as a statement of assurance jointly signed by the Chair of the Authority and the Chief Executive. This helps to ensure that the principles of corporate governance are not only fully embedded and cascaded throughout the Authority, but that they have the full backing of all Members as well as the Chief Executive and the Management Team.

The Code of Corporate Governance incorporates the sustainable development principles and the goals set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015. Accordingly, our decision-making processes will ensure that we keep the following principles at the heart of planning and delivering our work in order to contribute to the Wellbeing Goals.

Sustainable Development Principles

- Long term
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement
- Prevention

The Authority's adopted well-being goals, which are developed through thorough consultation and engagement, not only guide all business activities within the Authority,

but directly feed into the National Well-being Goals as set out in the Act.

National Wellbeing Goals

- A Prosperous Wales
- A Resilient Wales
- A Healthier Wales
- A More Equal Wales
- A Wales of Cohesive Communities
- A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
- A Globally Responsible Wales

The Welsh Language

In accordance with the Welsh Language Measure 2011, the Welsh language has equal legal status with English and should not be treated less favourably. As well as protecting it, the Authority must produce a Welsh Language Promotion Strategy which sets out how it will promote the use of the language and increase the number of Welsh speakers in the area. Ensuring Eryri (Snowdonia) is a place where the Welsh language thrives is now seen in the context of the objectives of the Welsh Government's 2050 Welsh language strategy - its ambition to see one million people in Wales enjoying speaking and using the Welsh language by 2050.

Since its inception, the Authority has always been very active in its use and promotion of the Welsh language. As the primary language in many social and professional environments within Eryri (Snowdonia), Welsh has been identified as a very special quality of Snowdonia National Park which has been included in Cynllun Eryri (the National Park Management Plan) to ensure that it continues to be a vibrant part of our everyday life.

On a practical level, the Authority operates on the basis of equality in terms of the Welsh and English language. All aspects of the Authority's business and services is available fully in both languages, which is enabled by the majority of staff being fully bilingual. The Welsh language is ingrained fully into the culture and ethos of the organisation.

2. Why Adopt a Code of Corporate Governance?

Adopting a Code of Corporate Governance is another way in which the National Park Authority shows its recognition of the fact that an effective Authority relies upon establishing and maintaining the confidence of local people in both Members and Authority officials. Good corporate governance underpins credibility and confidence in the leadership and forms the foundation from which all Authority services are provided.

Adopting, monitoring and complying with a Code of Corporate Governance helps enhance the Authority's legitimacy and increases trust placed in the Authority by local people, visitors and stakeholders.

Strong, transparent and responsive governance enables the National Park Authority to put citizens first by pursuing its aims and priorities effectively, and by underpinning them with appropriate mechanisms for managing performance and risk. In order to

maintain citizens' confidence, these mechanisms must be sound and be seen to be sound.

Overall, adopting and committing to this Code of Corporate Governance puts in place a basis for an Authority wide commitment to the way in which it intends fulfilling its role in leading and representing the community, providing opportunities for all, ensuring that there is a strong customer focus in all the Authority does.

3. What is Corporate Governance?

The Authority has a key role in delivering its statutory purposes for the benefit of both its local community and the nation. An effective public authority relies on public confidence in the Members and Authority officers, and effective systems of Corporate Governance provide confidence in public services.

Corporate Governance is a phrase used to describe how organisations direct and control what they do, and good Corporate Governance requires public authorities to carry out their services in a way that demonstrates accountability, openness and honesty. For public authorities this also includes how a National Park Authority relates to the communities that it serves.

The National Park Authority sees Corporate Governance as doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. It comprises the systems and processes, and also the culture and values, by which the Authority is directed and controlled and how it accounts to and engages with its stakeholders.

4. Why do we need a Code of Corporate Governance?

Corporate Governance is important because it is crucial in:

- Providing high quality public services

Nationally governance weaknesses have led to service failure and ineffective use of public resources. High performing organisations, on the other hand, have effective governance arrangements.

- Raising public trust

The public's trust is increased when the quality of services that they and their families experience is high, and when organisations are seen to be open and honest in communicating their performance, and in learning from their mistakes.

The Governance Framework comprises the seven principles of good governance:

Principle 1: Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law

Principle 2: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

Principle 3: Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits

Principle 4: Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes

Principle 5: Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it

Principle 6: Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

Principle 7: Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability

Each of these principles is an important part of the National Park Authority's Corporate Governance arrangements.

This Code describes how the Authority will meet and demonstrate its commitment to good Corporate Governance in relation to these seven Principles, how it will carry this out and who will monitor and review the governance arrangements.

Although this code is based on the 7 Principles of Good Governance as outlined above, there are other ethical principles and frameworks that are relevant to the work of the Authority and to the conduct of its Members' and officers.

The Ethical Standards Framework for Wales

Established by Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000 to promote and maintain high standards of ethical conduct by Members and officers of relevant authorities in Wales. The Framework consists of ten general principles of conduct for Members (which incorporates Lord Nolan's 'Seven Principles of Public Life').

The Review of Designated Landscapes Wales

The final report included a set of agreed good governance principles. They reflect the Welsh dimension of the sustainable management of natural resources principles from the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 goals and ways of working.

Appendix 1 shows how these two sets of principles interweave with the 7 Principles of Good Governance on which this Code is based.

5. The Authority's Corporate Governance Principles

Principle 1:

Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law

High standards of conduct and effective governance can only be achieved if those who hold public office have the highest standards of behaviour and encourage others to do so.

The Authority will strive to adopt a culture of behaviour based on shared values, ethical principles and good conduct.

This will be achieved by adopting and keeping under review:

- A Code of Conduct for Members
- A Code of Conduct for Staff
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy
- Gifts and Hospitality Policy
- Standing Orders
- Scheme of Delegation
- Members' Register of Interests
- Corporate Formal Complaints Process
- Appraisals and Training

Principle 2:

Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

It is not sufficient for the Authority to do things in the right way we must also have to be seen to do things the right way. This requires full engagement with a diverse range of people, through a process which is planned and resourced in a way that is fair.

The Authority will achieve this by:

- Forming and maintaining mutually respectful relationships with other organisations.
- Working with other public sector partners to help customers and stakeholders understand our respective responsibilities and what we aim to achieve by working in partnership.
- Establishing and maintaining Fforwm Eryri partnership forum to bring together all those involved in Eryri's future, which will galvanise our approach to joint working.
- Engaging in consultation in a meaningful way and through mechanisms which seek to capture and embrace the views of all relevant parties.
- Implementing its Strategic Equality Plan.

- Implementing its Communication and Engagement Strategy.
- Implementing the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.
- Conducting its business in an open and transparent manner (including investigating how best to implement hybrid committee meetings which incorporates public access).

Principle 3:

Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits

The Authority's processes and duty are set out by the Environment Act 1995. The Authority will ensure that it defines outcomes as follows:

- Produce a National Park Management Plan (Cynllun Eryri) in partnership with a diverse range of stakeholders and review every five years.
- Producing a Well-being Statement setting out well-being objectives and desired outcomes that incorporate the Sustainable Development Principles.
- Produce a Local Development Plan and review every five years.
- Reporting regularly on progress and outcomes.

Principle 4:

Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes

Informed decision making is a fundamental part of good corporate governance. It requires the Authority to be rigorous in the examination of performance.

The Authority will ensure the decision-making process includes a detailed risk assessment including:

- Financial, legal and human resources implications (authors of reports will be accountable if they are providing advice themselves).
- Equality and sustainability impact assessments.
- Risks and mitigating actions.

Regular and timely reviews are carried out by the Performance and Resources Committee on:

- Budget and project spend.
- Performance against the well-being objectives set out in the Well-being Statement.
- The Authority's Risk Register.

Principle 5:

Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it

Ensuring that Members and officers have the necessary skills to operate the organisation is an important aspect of governance.

The Authority will ensure that those responsible for the governance of the Authority have the skills, knowledge and experience they need to perform well.

The Authority will achieve this by:

- Implementing a Member Development Strategy.
- Developing understanding and leadership skills and capacity across the Authority.
- Implement effective succession planning to prepare for future personnel changes.
- Developing and maintaining the Appraisal process for Staff.
- Ensuring information and training is made available as appropriate to Members and officers, to enable them to carry out their roles.

Principle 6:

Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

The Authority will have a Risk Management Strategy and will operate a risk management system that assists the achievement of its corporate aims and priorities, protects the Authority's reputation and other assets and is compliant with statutory and regulatory obligations.

The Authority will ensure that the risk management system:

- Formally identifies and manages risks.
- Involves Members in the risk management process.
- Links risks to financial and other key internal controls.
- Incorporates service and business continuity planning.
- Reviews and, if necessary, updates its risk management processes at least annually.

The Authority complies with finance law and produces annual accounts in accordance with CIPFA guidelines. The Performance and Resources Committee agrees the Mid Term Financial Plan and monitors budgets on a quarterly basis. It also works closely with Internal and External Audit to ensure robust internal controls.

Principle 7:

Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability

The Authority is committed to an open and transparent decision-making process. All Agendas, Minutes and Meeting Documents are published on the Authority's Website.

Currently, committee meetings are conducted virtually and broadcast on the Authority's YouTube channel after the event. As part of the review of future committee meetings, public access and live broadcasting options will be investigated and implemented.¹

The Authority works closely with Internal and External Audit to ensure that its processes comply with the law and good practice, and commits to implementing recommendations made as a result of audits.

6. Monitoring and Review

Good Corporate Governance requires:

- The active participation of Members and officers across the Authority.
- Development, implementation and continuous improvement of the Authority's Corporate Governance culture.
- Preparation, adoption and maintenance of an up-to-date Code of Corporate Governance, including arrangements for ensuring its implementation and ongoing application.
- Co-ordination and review of the Annual Governance Statement.
- Promotion of best practice in Corporate Governance throughout the Authority.

The Authority is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the Authority's Corporate Governance arrangements.

The Authority will ensure that these arrangements are kept under continual review by:

- The work of Internal and External Audit.
- Working with our stakeholders to ensure effective arrangements are in place for monitoring partnership working and projects.
- Reports prepared by managers with responsibility for aspects of this Code.
- Other review agencies and Inspectorates.

¹ Public access is not currently available to committee meetings, but this will be reviewed.

In addition, a specific and focused review will be undertaken every 4 years prior to local government elections, which lead to Gwynedd and Conwy County Borough Councils appointing Members on to the National Park Authority. This will enable the Authority to take advantage of the learning and experience gained over the local government cycle and implement any changes required prior to new Members being elected for a new term.

7. Annual Governance Statement

Each Year the Authority will publish an Annual Governance Statement, which will provide an overall assessment of the Authority's Corporate Governance arrangements and an appraisal of the key controls in place to manage the Authority's key governance risks.

The Statement will also provide details of where improvements need to be made.

The Annual Governance Statement will be reviewed by Management Team and approved by the Authority, prior to being signed by the Chair of the Authority and the Chief Executive.

The Annual Governance Statement will be published as part of the Authority's Annual Statement of Accounts and will be audited by our External Auditors.

Signed

Wyn Jones
Chair

Emyr Williams
Chief Executive

(Appendix 1)

How the Ethical Standards Framework and Designated Landscapes Governance Principles cross-reference with the Authority's Governance Code Principles.

Principles of Good Governance	Ethical Standards Framework	Designated Landscapes Governance Principles
Principle 1: Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law	Honesty Integrity and Propriety Selflessness Duty to uphold the Law	Fairness and Rights Accountability and transparency
Principle 2: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement	Honesty Openness Accountability Integrity and Propriety	Legitimacy Participation and voice Fairness and Rights Accountability and transparency
Principle 3: Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits	Stewardship Equality and Respect Objectivity in Decision Making Stewardship	Developing and implementing a strategic vision for the area
Principle 4: Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes	Objectivity in Decision Making Accountability Leadership	Effective performance management Accountability and transparency
Principle 5: Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it	Leadership Objectivity in Decision Making Integrity and Propriety	Effective performance management
Principle 6: Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management	Accountability Objectivity in Decision Making Stewardship Duty to uphold the Law	Accountability and transparency Effective performance management
Principle 7: Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability	Accountability Duty to Uphold the Law Integrity and Propriety	Accountability and transparency Legitimacy Effective performance management

Mechanism for reviewing performance in relation to the Authority's Well-being Statement and Corporate Work Programme

1. The Authority's Well-being Statement includes its Well-being Objectives for a five-year period from 2021-26 and will therefore no longer require an annual review.
2. The Corporate Work Programme will continue to be adopted on an annual basis and will feed directly to the Well-being Objectives and the measures of success contained therein.
3. The agreed actions in the Corporate Work Programme will be sufficient to enable the Authority to assess its progress in attaining the Well-being Objectives and there will accordingly be no need for separate Performance Indicators. As this is a new way of measuring performance it would be prudent to review effectiveness initially.
4. The Performance and Resources Committee will scrutinise performance on the actions contained in the Corporate Work Programme which gives an insight into progress on a quarterly basis.
5. An annual report to be prepared and considered by the Authority following the year's end to assess overall performance on attaining the Authority's Well-being Objectives.
6. This annual report gives the Authority an opportunity to assess whether or not any of the Well-being objectives need clarifying, amending or whether due to unforeseen circumstances they require a complete review.

Snowdonia National Park Authority

Chair / Vice-Chair Role Description and Person Specification

Background

National Park Purposes

Snowdonia National Park exists to conserve and enhance the Special Qualities of Snowdonia – its natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage; to promote wide public understanding and enjoyment of them and, with others, to foster the social and economic well-being of communities within the Park.

The Authority has responsibility for planning, conservation, land-management, cultural heritage, access and recreation, but not for elderly care, schools, highways, and other local authority duties.

Role of the Authority and its Members

The role of the Authority Members is to agree long term objectives for the National Park through the National Park's strategic plans (see below) and to set the priorities and monitor and review the work of the National Park Authority.

Members have a key role in ensuring that both the natural environment and the local communities in our Park are cared for and sustained for current and future generations to enjoy.

The main role of an Authority Member is to ensure the efficient, effective and accountable governance of the Authority; to provide leadership and direction for the organisation as a whole; and act as an 'ambassador/advocate' for the National Park and the work of the Authority.

Members are collectively & individually responsible for good governance and use of public money.

Each Member works with the Chairman, Chief Executive (National Park Officer) and other Members to discharge the functions of the Authority and to steer and champion the performance and management of the Authority so that it delivers benefits to the nation and local communities in accordance with National Park purposes.

Strategic Policies

Cynllun Eryri

[Cynllun Eryri](#) is the Authority's statutory National Park Management Plan. The Plan covers the whole of the National Park area and is not just a Plan for the National Park Authority:

- It is a Plan for all those working in the National Park area who have an impact on the National Park purposes.
- The Plan is for all the relevant organisations that have statutory duties in relation to Snowdonia.
- The Plan provides the strategic policy framework for relevant organisations. It will enable them to fully comply with their statutory responsibility to have regard for National Park purposes in carrying out their duties and responsibilities under Section 62 (2) of the Environment Act 1995.

- It is also a Plan for relevant organisations from the voluntary and private sector, as well as land-managers, communities and businesses.

The National Park Authority has developed this Plan with the help and input of all of our partners through the National Park forum – [Fforwm Eryri](#). All of these organisations have an integral part to play in looking after Snowdonia National Park for our future generations. We will continue to closely work together to successfully deliver on the Plan.

The Local Development Plan

The [Local Development Plan](#) is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. The Eryri Local Development Plan consists of a Written Statement and the Proposals and Inset Maps and together with National Planning Policy will guide decisions on planning applications on all future development and land use planning within the National Park.

Well-being Statement

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of Wales. Public bodies in Wales must work to achieve a shared vision, expressed in the Act as the seven national well-being goals.

Public bodies subject to the Act have a legal duty to adopt the sustainable development principle when setting well-being objectives and in taking steps to achieve those objectives. The National Park Well-being Statement sets out the Authority's well-being objectives, and how we will achieve the seven well-being goals including the rationale and steps we will take.

Underpinning our well-being objectives, are our Sustainable Development principles, Vision, Service Priorities and Corporate Work Program.

Role Description

1. Accountabilities

- To the full National Park Authority.
- To the relevant Minister through half-yearly meetings with the Welsh Government.
- To the public.

2. Role Purpose and Activity

(a) Acting as a symbol of the Authority's democratic role

- To champion the purposes of the National Park and provide dynamic and effective strategic leadership in partnership with members and the Chief Executive in the achievement of the Authority's statutory purposes, aims and vision, and relevant targets.
- To monitor performance and offer guidance and support to members to ensure that the good public standing of the Authority is upheld.

- To represent the Authority in its relations with key stakeholders and communities, and on regional partnerships and groups.
- To represent the Authority's views as necessary to the press and media, and play an ambassadorial role in promoting positive relationships with external parties and organisations.
- To foster the working relationship with all other UK National Parks and promote the interests of National Park Authorities through NPW, UKNP and Europarc.

(b) Chairing Authority meetings

- To chair meetings of the Authority, ensure that standing orders and good practice is complied with at all meetings, and promote and support open and transparent government.
- To provide confident and effective management of meetings to facilitate inclusivity, participation and clear decision making.
- To demonstrate integrity and impartiality in decision making which accord with legal, constitutional and policy requirements.
- To delegate actions to committees and/or sub committees as appropriate.

(c) Participating in the collective decision making of the Authority

- To work closely with other Authority members to ensure the development of effective policies and the budgetary framework for the Authority, and the delivery of high-quality services.
- To accept collective responsibility and support decisions made by the Authority once they have been made.

(d) Upholding and promoting the Authority's Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation

- To work with members and the Chief Executive to ensure that the Authority's actions, decisions and use of resources are consistent with the purposes of designation and the legal responsibilities of the Authority.

(e) Working with officers to lead the organisation

- To liaise with the Chief Executive, and other appropriate officers, on a regular basis.
- To develop and maintain an effective working relationship with the Chief Executive, providing support and guidance as necessary and facilitating communication and joint working between members and officers.
- To work with employees of the National Park Authority in relation to the strategic vision and direction of the Authority, the management roles of officers and the development of policy issues.
- To monitor the welfare and performance of the Chief Executive and ensure that there is an effective appraisal and development process in place.

(f) Internal governance, ethical standards and relationships

- To promote and support good governance of the National Park Authority and its affairs.
- To promote the professional and personal development of members to enable them to carry out their role effectively, working within the Authority's Performance Management Framework to assess members' performance as appropriate and report to the appointing authorities as required.
- To adhere to the Members' Code of Conduct and promote the highest standards of behaviour in public office.
- To support, and adhere to respectful, appropriate and effective relationships with employees of the National Park Authority.
- To act as a link between the Authority, the relevant Minister of the Welsh Government and National Park Authorities; to present reports to the Minister on behalf of the Authority and work with other National Park Authorities to influence national and regional policy.

(g) Work Programming

- To ensure that processes are in place to comply with internal and external governance and audit requirements, and to confirm this by signing the annual Statement for Internal Control.

3. Values and Code of Conduct

- To be committed to the aims and values of the National Park Authority and the following values in public office:
 - Openness and transparency
 - Honesty and integrity
 - Tolerance and respect
 - Equality and fairness
 - Appreciation of cultural difference
 - Sustainability
 - Bilingualism
- To adhere to the code of conduct of public office:
 - Selflessness
 - Honesty
 - Integrity and propriety
 - Duty to uphold the law
 - Stewardship
 - Objectivity in decision-making
 - Equality and respect
 - Openness
 - Accountability
 - Leadership
 - Bilingualism

For more information on the code see the [WLGA Ethical Framework](#)

Role of Vice/Deputy Chair

- To fulfil the duties of the Chair in his or her absence.
- To support the Chair in specific duties as required.

Person Specification

To fulfil the role as laid out in the role description, an effective Chair requires:

Fulfilling National Park Purposes

- The ability to champion and represent the Authority as an effective mechanism for promoting conservation and enhancement of the Park's natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, increasing public understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities and fostering the social and economic wellbeing of local communities.

Providing leadership and direction to the Authority

- An understanding of the Authority's role, and ensuring that stakeholders are aware of that role
- Knowledge of the National Park's strengths, weaknesses and key issues.
- An understanding of the relationship between national and local policies.
- A good strategic awareness of issues facing the Authority.
- A good understanding of the Authority's strategies, policies and operations.
- A good understanding of the Code of Conduct for Members.
- An ability to provide strong leadership to the Authority.
- The ability to appraise, guide and mentor Authority Members.

Representing and acting as ambassador for the Authority

- High level communication skills to communicate to the media, local community and wider audience.

Managing and leading the work of the Authority and Chairing meetings of the Authority

- Skills to Chair meetings, including encouraging participation from all Members.
- Knowledge and understanding of national policy objectives.
- An overview of the work being carried out by Officers.
- The ability to facilitate balanced debate and to promote consensus.

Working with Officers to lead the Authority

- An understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the Chief Executive and other Officers.

Appropriate training will be offered to enable a Member to fulfil their role as Chair of the National Park Authority effectively.

Snowdonia National Park Authority

Member Role Description and Person Specification

Background

National Park Purposes

Snowdonia National Park exists to conserve and enhance the Special Qualities of Snowdonia – it's natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage; to promote wide public understanding and enjoyment of them and, with others, to foster the social and economic well-being of communities within the Park.

The Authority has responsibility for planning, conservation, land-management, cultural heritage, access and recreation, but not for elderly care, schools, highways, and other local authority duties.

Role of the Authority and its Members

The role of the Authority Members is to agree long term objectives for the National Park through the National Parks strategic plans (see below) and to set the priorities and monitor and review the work of the National Park Authority.

Members have a key role in ensuring that both the natural environment and the local communities in our Park are cared for and sustained for current and future generations to enjoy.

The main role of an Authority Member is to ensure the efficient, effective and accountable governance of the Authority; to provide leadership and direction for the organisation as a whole; and act as an 'ambassador/advocate' for the National Park and the work of the Authority.

Members are collectively & individually responsible for good governance and use of public money.

Each Member works with the Chairman, Chief Executive (National Park Officer) and other Members to discharge the functions of the Authority and to steer and champion the performance and management of the Authority so that it delivers benefits to the nation and local communities in accordance with National Park purposes.

Strategic Policies

Cynllun Eryri

[Cynllun Eryri](#) is the Authority's statutory National Park Management Plan. The Plan covers the whole of the National Park area and is not just a Plan for the National Park Authority:

- It is a Plan for all those working in the National Park area who have an impact on the National Park purposes.
- The Plan is for all the relevant organisations that have statutory duties in relation to Snowdonia.
- The Plan provides the strategic policy framework for relevant organisations. It will enable them to fully comply with their statutory responsibility to have regard for National Park purposes in carrying out their duties and responsibilities under Section 62 (2) of the Environment Act 1995.
- It is also a Plan for relevant organisations from the voluntary and private sector, as well as land-managers, communities and businesses.

The National Park Authority has developed this Plan with the help and input of all of our partners through the National Parks forum – [Fforwm Eryri](#). All of these organisations have an integral part to play in looking after Snowdonia National Park for our future generations. We will continue to closely work together to successfully deliver on the Plan.

The Local Development Plan

The [Local Development Plan](#) is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. The Eryri Local Development Plan consists of a Written Statement and the Proposals and Inset Maps and together with National Planning Policy will guide decisions on planning applications on all future development and land use planning within the National Park.

Well-being Statement

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of Wales. Public bodies in Wales must work to achieve a shared vision, expressed in the Act as the seven national well-being goals.

Public bodies subject to the Act have a legal duty to adopt the sustainable development principle when setting well-being objectives and in taking steps to achieve those objectives. The National Parks Well-being Statement sets out the Authorities well-being objectives, and how we will achieve the seven well-being goals including the rationale and steps we will take.

Underpinning our well-being objectives, are our Sustainable Development principles, Vision, Service Priorities and Corporate Work Program.

Role Description

1. Accountabilities

- To the full National Park Authority.
- To the public.

2. Role Purpose and Activity

(a) Representing the national interest

- To apply the principles and purposes of National Parks to all decision making.
- To bring the national context to bear in decision making.
- To be an advocate for the National Park Authority and its purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.

(b) Representing and supporting communities

- To represent the interests of the population and users of the whole area of the National Park Authority, and to serve all interests fairly and equally.
- To be an advocate for the National Park Authority.
- To liaise with other members, principal authorities, officers and partner organisations to ensure that the needs of communities are identified, understood and supported.
- To be a channel of communication to the community on National Park Authority strategies, policies, services and procedures, promoting wide public understanding and enjoyment of the Park and with others to foster the economic and social well being of communities in the Park in the pursuit of its statutory purposes.
- To promote tolerance and cohesion in local communities.

(c) Making decisions and overseeing National Park Authority performance

- To participate in National Park Authority meetings, reaching and making informed and balanced decisions on strategic matters, and overseeing performance.
- To primarily focus on strategic and policy areas*.
- To acknowledge and support the need to allow officers their delegated authority to ensure smooth and effective operational delivery, whilst overseeing and monitoring performance.
- To participate in informed and balanced decision making when appointed to National Park Authority committees and panels.
- To adhere to the principles of democracy and collective responsibility in decision-making.
- To promote and ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of National Park Authority services.

** In general, strategic matters will be those which affect how the Authority fulfils its intended statutory purpose (its functions in regards to the set of powers and duties that it uses to perform its remit) over a significant period of time and will not include routine 'day-to-day' decisions. These strategic decisions is the process of charting a course based on the Authority's adopted vision and well-being objectives.*

(d) Representing the National Park Authority (subject to appointment)

- To represent the National Park Authority on outside bodies.
- To represent the National Park Authority on local partnership bodies, promoting common interest and co-operation for mutual gain.
- To represent and be an advocate for the National Park Authority on national bodies and at national events.

(e) Internal governance, ethical standards and relationships

- To promote and support good governance of the National Park Authority and its affairs.
- To provide community leadership and promote active citizenship.
- To promote and support open and transparent National Park Authority services.

- To support, and adhere to respectful, appropriate and effective relationships with employees, the public and other members of the National Park Authority.
- To adhere to the Members' Code of Conduct and the highest standards of behaviour in representing the National Park Authority.
- To promote equality and diversity.

(f) Personal and role development

- To actively identify needs and participate in opportunities for continuous professional and personal development provided for members by the National Park Authority.

3. Values and Code of Conduct

- To be committed to the aims and values of the National Park Authority and the following values in public office:
 - Openness and transparency
 - Honesty and integrity
 - Tolerance and respect
 - Equality and fairness
 - Appreciation of cultural difference
 - Sustainability
 - Bilingualism

- To adhere to the code of conduct of public office:
 - Selflessness
 - Honesty
 - Integrity and propriety
 - Duty to uphold the law
 - Stewardship
 - Objectivity in decision-making
 - Equality and respect
 - Openness
 - Accountability
 - Leadership
 - Bilingualism

For more information on the code see the [WLGGA Ethical Framework](#)

Person Specification

To fulfil the role as set out in the role description, an effective Member requires:

Fulfilling National Park Purposes

- The ability to champion and represent the Authority as an effective mechanism for promoting conservation and enhancement of the Park's natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, increasing public understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities and fostering the social and economic wellbeing of local communities.

Fulfilling the role

- Involvement for typically three or four days per month.
- Attendance and contribution to meetings of the Authority, its committees and the working groups, and raising issues of concern through the established procedures and mechanisms adopted by the Authority.
- Reading and understanding, and the responsibility to seek clarification where necessary from Lead Officers, of briefing material provided for meetings so that you will be properly prepared for any debate on issues across the full range of the Authority's responsibilities.

Internal governance, ethical standards and relationships

- A commitment to working in the best interests of the National Park and the Authority itself.
- Compliance with Standing Orders and respect for the democratically determined decisions of the Authority.
- Adherence to the Standards of Conduct, Accountability and Openness of the National Park Authority.

Personal and role development

- Attendance at appropriate training courses, briefing sessions and events arranged or sponsored by the Authority and partner organisations.

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	27 th April 2022
TITLE	ANNUAL REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES
REPORT BY	Director of Corporate Services
PURPOSE	To discuss the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Members will no doubt recall that a report was submitted to the Performance and Resources Committee meeting on 24th November 2021 when the draft report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales was discussed in detail. The committee decided that the Authority should accept the draft report and recommendations as submitted with the minor resource implications which will necessitate an increase to existing budgets.

1.2 The Authority has now received the final report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales which can be found at the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales' website, a link for which is set out below for both the Welsh and English versions:

Adroddiad Blynyddol - [Panel Annibynnol Cymru ar Gydabyddiaeth Ariannol: adroddiad blynyddol 2022 i 2023](#)

Annual Report - [Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales: annual report 2022 to 2023](#)

1.3 The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales has not changed any aspect of the draft report insofar as it relates to National Park Authorities.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The increase in allowances set out above will have minor resource implications which will necessitate an increase to existing budgets.

RECOMMENDATION

To note the contents of the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

**Report to Performance and Resources committee dated 24th November 2021
Annual Report**



To:

Leaders and Chief Executives of County and County Borough Councils
Chairs and Chief Executives of National Park Authorities
Chairs and Clerks of Fire and Rescue Authorities
Chair and Chief Executive of One Voice Wales
Leader and Chief Executive of Welsh Local Government Association
Head of Democratic / Members Services of County and County
Borough Councils, National Park Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities
Clerks to Community & Town Councils

24 February 2022

Dear Colleague

Independent Remuneration for Wales – Annual Report 2022/2023

Attached is the finalised Annual Report in respect of 2022/2023 which is effective from 1 April. However, this year is also election for members of principal councils and community and town councils, so some of the determinations will be effective from 9th May. The effective dates are set out in the Report.

My thanks to the individuals and organisations who responded to the draft Report issued in September last year. The Panel has considered the views and comments that were expressed and have been taken into account in reaching the conclusions reflected in the Report.

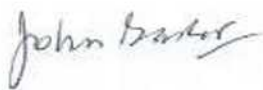
The Panel has confirmed the increases in the salaries for elected members of principal councils, with consequential increases for members of National Park and Fire and Rescue Authorities. The only substantive change to the draft

Report is the inclusion of a new section on Corporate Joint Committees. I also confirm that there are no changes to the remuneration of community and town councils. However, the Panel will be issuing a Supplementary Report on options following discussions between Welsh Government officials and HMRC regarding taxation.

I would also remind all relevant authorities of the obligation to comply with the decisions of the Panel, in particular the publication of the Schedule of Member Remuneration (Annex 3) and the Publication of Remuneration (Annex 4). There has been a significant increase in the number of authorities who have not complied with these statutory requirements.

This is the final Report that I will be involved in after over 16 years as a member of the Panel. I would like to put on record my appreciation and thanks to the many members and officers of councils, NPAs and FRAs that I have been able to engage with on Panel business.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bader", written in a cursive style.

John Bader
Chair

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	27 April 2022
TITLE	YR YSGWRN - ANNUAL REPORT 2022
REPORT BY	Head of Cultural Heritage
PURPOSE	To update Members on activity at Yr Ysgwrn

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 1.1. The focus of the last two years has been to respond to the Covid 19 pandemic and between lock-downs, Yr Ysgwrn was open for 10 weeks in 2020 and 16 weeks in 2021. The site was limited to around 50% of its normal capacity due to restrictions to limit the spread of Covid 19, such as social distancing and this was further compounded by the additional impact of the pandemic on group travel and educational visits.
- 1.2. However, momentum has been maintained, the budget has been achieved and the periods of closure were used for evaluation and forward planning. It has been a challenging time and there is much to be proud of.
- 1.3. The year ahead is uncertain, due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic. Group travel is restarting slowly and we are confident that commercial prospects will improve as society recovers.
- 1.4. The Yr Ysgwrn Board continued to meet throughout the pandemic period. The Board usually meets twice a year, in February and November. Additional meetings can be held as required and this occurred in March this year in order to review the targets for the coming year and the financial position.

2. 2021/22

- 2.1. In June, Mr Gerald Williams, the custodian and former owner of Yr Ysgwrn and Hedd Wyn's nephew, died. For many years prior to the purchase of Yr Ysgwrn, through work such as the Tir Eryri agri-environmental scheme, Gerald and the Authority shared a good relationship and that was the basis of his wish to sell Yr Ysgwrn to the Authority. Gerald was an inspiration and a conscience for the plans and development that took place at Yr Ysgwrn from 2012 onwards and as officers, we were fortunate in his guidance, advice and friendship. He is greatly missed at Yr Ysgwrn but it is a wonderful testament to Gerald's vision and his respect for his grandmother's promise to 'keep the door open' that he set about

- securing his home's future by transferring Yr Ysgwrn to a new generation of custodians.
- 2.2. Yr Ysgwrn closes the year with an overspend of £7,000. The overspend is due to reduced income, the cost of commissioning the Yr Ysgwrn Curriculum and property management costs due to various technical problems with the alarm and biomass boiler.
 - 2.3. With the support of the Welsh Government through the Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places fund, improvements were made to the Beudy Llwyd reception and coffee shop, a backup LPG boiler and car charging point were installed and path improvements were completed. The aim is to improve the visitor experience of the site and the investment has made a huge difference for the better.
 - 2.4. Yr Ysgwrn's visiting capacity was reduced due to Covid 19 restrictions and therefore families and couples became our target audience. Due to the pandemic, visitors were encouraged to pre-book their visit, originally through Eventbrite but due to technical problems with the system, we returned to the traditional practice of telephone or email booking. Setting up an online booking system is part of the marketing plan and launch of the new website in 2022/23. There was good feedback to on site arrangements during this time with visitors expressing that they felt safe from a Covid 19 perspective.
 - 2.5. From September, school started to enquire and by the end of March 2022, 6 schools had visited and 20 schools had received an online session based on the *Hedd Wyn* film aimed at A level students.
 - 2.6. Yr Ysgwrn experienced a drop in the usual sources of income (admission tickets, shop and coffee shop) during the past year, due to the above, but initiatives such as offering the site as a filming location for an EE ad, helped to partly compensate for the drop. It was also possible to target grants for pandemic recovery and the Museums Wales Festival grant to run art activities during the October half term.
 - 2.7. Yr Ysgwrn's volunteering practices were disrupted during 2021/22, again due to the pandemic. Most of our volunteers are in the 65+ age group and over the last two years, many of the volunteers have changed circumstances and some have decided not to continue volunteering. 6 volunteers supported the Ysgwrn services in 2021/22 (in different roles) and plans are afoot to re-engage and build on this foundation next year.
 - 2.8. Haf Llewelyn and Mali Williams were commissioned to produce the Yr Ysgwrn Curriculum, which is based on the Yr Ysgwrn site and collection and responds directly to the areas of learning of the Curriculum for Wales. The Curriculum for Wales will be introduced from September 2022 and introduces a more holistic approach based on experiential learning. The Yr Ysgwrn Curriculum is suitable for children and young people aged 7-14 years and consists of 6 themes - *Patterns, Farm to Fork, Wild, Persuasion, Family and Words* presented through an information mat and an activity sheet that transmits the 6 areas of the Curriculum learning area for Wales, namely: the expressive arts; health and well-being; the humanities; languages, literacy and communication; maths and numeracy; science and technology. The materials will be available online and

marketed directly to target schools (Gwynedd, Ynys Môn, Conwy, Denbigh, north Powys, north Ceredigion) who are within an hour's drive of Yr Ysgwrn. The aim is to attract schools to the site but a visit is not compulsory so schools throughout Wales can benefit from the provision. We will pilot the work with local schools during the summer term and this will form part of the Yr Ysgwrn Curriculum marketing campaign.

3. 2022/23

- 3.1. Yr Ysgwrn re-opened on April 1st, 2022. It is intended that the site will open six days a week, Tuesday-Sunday and close on Mondays, as was customary before the pandemic. Yr Ysgwrn will be open for 30 weeks until the end of the October 2022 half term holiday and the site will close for the winter on October 30th, 2022.
- 3.2. A Volunteering Fair was held in Yr Ysgwrn in April and 12 volunteers are now on the books for this year. It was decided to hold a weekly community coffee morning at Yr Ysgwrn, as a means of engaging with volunteers, engaging new volunteers and continuing to build a good relationship with the Trawsfynydd community. This event will only cost coffee and will take place in the morning and therefore not affect our ability to conduct group visits and tours on Saturdays.
- 3.3. School and group visits are steadily increasing. Certainly, Covid 19 is still casting its shadow as relatively high levels of infection in some schools mean that teachers are ordering closer to the visit date than was usual before the pandemic. This means that it is more difficult to forecast visits and income but the situation is more encouraging than 2021/22, certainly.
- 3.4. The Yr Ysgwrn Curriculum will be launched at the end of May. Schools across Wales will be an audience for the resource but will be specifically targeted at schools within an hour's drive of Yr Ysgwrn. It is planned to expand the resource in 2022 to include a *Chairs* element.
- 3.5. Yr Ysgwrn seasonal staff have returned for another season. The post of Visitor Experience Manager has recently been advertised and the appointment process is ongoing.
- 3.6. The events program will focus primarily on the 'Event of the Month' and take part in existing initiatives. The program is still under development but includes:
 - April - Volunteer Fair (on two different weekends) and Easter Egg Hunt
 - May – *Gwrachod Meirionnydd (Witches)* with Mari Elen, based on the successful podcast, *Gwrachod Heddiw*.
 - June – Welsh learner walks, a guided community walk and archaeology guided walk in conjunction with Dysgu Cymraeg and a Forest School session
 - July – Traditional Washing Day with Rhian Cadwaladr in association with the National Slate Museum, a multimedia art workshop for young people up to the age of 15 led by a qualified volunteer

- September - Welsh History Festival (In Character) and Open Doors (Cadw)
 - October - Welsh Halloween, Museums Wales Festival activities
 - December - Yr Ysgwrn Carol Evening
- 3.7. Completion of the new website is a priority for 2022 and in particular the provision of an online ordering system. This will assist with data collection and marketing planning.
- 3.8. In Autumn / Winter 2022, it is intended to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for financial support over three years to develop new audiences. This application to the fund will be under £ 250,000. A grant was received from the Federation of Museums and Galleries of Wales and the Festival of Welsh Museums to cover the costs of the Meirionnydd Witches event. An application for assistance to cover the October events is planned in due course. With the exception of the volunteering fair and coffee mornings, the events are designed to be commercially viable and incur their own costs. The other two activities aim to engage and strengthen community contact and it is anticipated that the total cost of all activities would not exceed £ 150 as the site will already be staffed.
- 3.9. The Head of Cultural Heritage will address governance issues during the year, including the Yr Ysgwrn Development Trust and the Friends of Yr Ysgwrn from May. These elements are important for developing Yr Ysgwrn's fundraising activity and ensuring long-term support for the site and the Authority's work.
- 3.10. Yr Ysgwrn will complete a museum accreditation return in October 2023 and this work will start this year. As part of that programme of work, officers are working with partners on a feasibility project for establishing a museum store in north Wales. Officials will report to Yr Ysgwrn Board at the next meeting.
- 3.11. The Head of Property is continuing to work on a new tenancy agreement for the bungalow tenant by appointing a company that will act as our agent on our behalf to ensure compliance with the Rent Smart Wales regulations.

4. What will success look like in 2022?

- 4.1. Yr Ysgwrn's budget targets are challenging. The basis of these targets is Yr Ysgwrn's Audience Development Plan commissioned in 2020/21 which focuses primarily on the following target markets:
- Primary and secondary schools within one hour's drive of Yr Ysgwrn (Gwynedd, Conwy, Ynys Môn, north Powys and Denbighshire - first and second visits.
 - Colleges and Universities that use local centers such as Glan-llyn.
 - Cultural and social groups from Wales.
 - Small and medium sized tourist companies for Wales.

The report also considers:

- Families with school age children (4-16).
- Volunteers.

- Couples
- Individuals

- 4.2. Please see below Yr Ysgwrn visitor and income data table since 2017/18. 2018/19 and 2019/20 are the only two interrupted years of activity with Yr Ysgwrn open for a whole season. Yr Ysgwrn opened in June 2017 and the pandemic disrupted site activity in 2020/21 and 2021/22.
- 4.3. As such, 2017/18 and 2018/19 were commercially successful, with plenty of buzz, marketing and activity. 2019/20 was difficult due to staff turnover and despite attempts to re-ignite the buzz in 2020, the pandemic cold-pressed those efforts. Therefore, there are no obvious trends in the data, and trying to predict the 2022/23 situation is challenging.
- 4.4. The targets for 2022/23 are aimed at 2017/18 levels, as that is what is needed to achieve success.
- 4.5. With rising service prices, it follows that this income target will also need to increase in due course, in order to meet the budget.

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23 (Target)
Number of business days	121	185	180	60	84	183
Number of schools	54	46	30	0	6	50 (average of 20 in each group = £5000)
Number of other groups	53	92	40	0	1	35 (average of 10 in each groups £4,375)
Ticket sales income	£39,228.58	£49,419.02	£21,273.15	£232.02	£4919.50	£30,000
Coffee shop income	£11,820.66	£13,420.44	£8,422.76	£58	£2,795.53	£15,000
Shop income	£12,662.03	£15,902.58	£8,595	£540.86	£3,543.61	£15,000

Land rent	£3,800	£3,800	£3,800	£3,800.	£3,800	£3,800
Total income	£67,571.27	£82,542.04	£42,090.91	£4,630.88	£15,058.64	£63,800
Estimate of visitor numbers	8,700	12,000	5,500	50	710	8,000

RECOMMENDATION:

1. For Members to receive the report for information and discuss any issues requiring further attention.
2. Following changes to the site and membership of the Authority, for Members to visit Yr Ysgwrn on a date to be fixed in 2022 to familiarize themselves with the site and discuss specific issues during a tour of the site.

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	27 April 2022
TITLE	WELSH NATIONAL PARKS: LANDSCAPES FOR EVERYONE: OUR APPROACH TO SOCIAL INCLUSION AND CHILD POVERTY [REVISED FOR 2021].
REPORT BY	Partnerships Manager
PURPOSE	To adopt the revised 'National Parks Wales Landscapes for Everyone: Our Approach to Social Inclusion and Child Poverty'.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The following report was presented and accepted at the Members' Working Group in January 2022 and recommended to be presented for formal adoption at the next full Authority meeting.
- 1.2 The revised document can be found in **Annex 1** of this report.
- 1.3 *Landscapes for Everyone* (then called Landscapes for All in English) was first published in the spring of 2020 during the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Socio-Economic Duty came into force in Wales on 31 March 2021. Welsh National Parks recognised that they would need to be responsive and reflective of both the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the commencement of the Socio Economic Duty and it was planned that the paper would be revised in 2021.
- 1.4 The National Parks of Wales are 'Landscapes for Everyone'. They strive to connect people with the natural and cultural heritage of National Parks and through proactive engagement promote social inclusion, tackle social exclusion and reduce the negative impacts of poverty.
- 1.5 *Landscapes for Everyone* is a position statement with principles and priority areas to guide the efforts of the Welsh National Parks in delivering their core purposes and duty whilst meeting the requirements of 'Valued and Resilient' (the Welsh Government's Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks July 2018). The revised *Landscapes for Everyone* now

also covers the policy and programme areas previously covered by the paper *Welsh National Parks: Together for Health and Well-being* (2016).

- 1.6 *Landscapes for Everyone* sets out the challenges and defines the role of the National Park Authorities to help focus our work to have the greatest impact. To deliver *Landscapes for Everyone* it will be essential to continue to enhance and develop collaborative working in and across all National Park Authorities and for ongoing engagement and collaboration with stakeholders and beneficiaries in both statutory and non-statutory services and settings.

2. LANDSCAPES FOR EVERYONE

2.1 Context

- 2.1.1 Social inclusion and tackling the negative impacts of poverty are identified by the Welsh Government as essential factors in improving the health, well-being and overall quality of life for people living in Wales and are all an integral part of the Welsh Government's priorities linked to The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and supporting the well-being goal of an Equal Wales.
- 2.1.2 On 13 October 2021 the Welsh Government published a report to support the implementation of the Socio-economic Duty. This report provides a summary of key evidence relating to how socio-economic disadvantage affects the people of Wales and highlights the intersectionality that is key when examining socio-economic deprivation. It also summarises the key inequalities of outcome that certain groups face. Going forward, Welsh National Parks will also look to this report as a source of evidence for policy development and to support the Authority in implementing the Socio-economic Duty.
- 2.1.3 In April 2021, the Welsh Government published the responses to their consultation on the Draft Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill. On 6 July 2021 the Counsel General announced the Welsh Government's plans to legislate for a Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill as part of the legislative programme. The Bill aims to strengthen social partnership arrangements in Wales and provide a framework to drive greater social equality for Welsh workers across the economy. This position statement demonstrates how National Park Authorities in Wales considers socio-economic impacts in our work, including issues relating to child poverty.

2.2 Financial considerations

- 2.2.1 *Landscapes for Everyone* will not come with any additional budgetary implications for this Authority. However, it should define how we maximize the use of existing resources (including financial resources) to deliver health and

social inclusion work effectively. It can also assist in the preparation of funding bids.

- 2.2.2 At present much of the Authority's social inclusion and health focused work is project funded, for example the Caru Eryri project, social prescribing pilots, sustainable transport options, SLSP projects. Project funding of this type is always time limited and there is a need to consider how this type of work might be continued in the future. Whilst there continues to be a range of external funding opportunities and partnership possibilities available to support this work, the Authority might wish to increase its core funding to ensure the long-term success of our health and social inclusion work.

2.3 Risk considerations

- 2.3.1 The anticipated Welsh Government Report on poverty originally due in Spring 2020 but as yet to be published, may include further recommendations for National Park Authorities to help mitigate the negative impacts of poverty that have not been identified in *Landscapes for Everyone*. If so, then this document may require further review. On 6th July 2021 the Counsel General announced the Welsh Government's plans to legislate for a Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill as part of the legislative programme for year one of this Senedd term - this may have implications for National Park Authorities and impact on their work going forward.

- 2.3.2 As the Authority develops activities to deliver its priorities, it is important that it considers how it continues to deliver positive outcomes in terms of health, well-being, poverty, equality and social inclusion. The effective use of integrated assessments that include consideration of equality and socio-economic impacts can assist with this and ensure compliance with relevant equality and socio-economic duties.

2.4 Welsh Language considerations

- 2.4.1 Any work developed by the Authority in accordance with *Landscapes For Everyone* will be done in accordance with the Authority's commitment to the Welsh language.

2.5 Compliance

- 2.5.1 The document highlights and supports activities carried out by National Park Authorities to comply with their Public Sector Equality Duty, the Socio-Economic Duty and the Well-being of Future Generations Act and delivery of Park Purposes.

2.6 Human Rights/Equality issues

- 2.6.1 The content of this Statement is derived from Plans such as the Management Plan, the Local Development Plan and the Equality Plan which themselves have been subject to rigorous assessment in relation to these issues.

2.7 Biodiversity implications/Sustainability appraisal

- 2.7.1 *Landscapes for Everyone* contains no activity that is likely to result in a negative impact on biodiversity in the National Park. Broadly speaking delivering *Landscapes for Everyone* will result in an increased awareness of biodiversity in Eryri (amongst new audiences) and involve participants in positive actions which support biodiversity.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1.1 *Landscapes for Everyone* builds upon previous commitments from National Parks Wales on health, well-being, social inclusion and poverty. It provides a clear and concise approach and if agreed, will help guide work across National Parks in Wales and provide the context needed to support actions as requested in 'Valued and Resilient'.

RECOMMENDATION

For members to:

1. Adopt 'National Parks Wales: Landscapes for Everyone' as set out in **Annex 1** to this report and as presented to the Members' Working Group in January 2022.

Annex 1: National Parks Wales: Landscapes for Everyone.

Landscapes for Everyone

Position Statement And Priority Actions



PARCIAU NATIONAL
CENEDLAETHOL PARKS

National Parks Wales

For Health, Wellbeing And Social Inclusion



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Letter from the Chair

Responding to Change

When *Landscapes for Everyone* was first published in the spring of 2020 it was clear that the Covid-19 pandemic was going to have a deep and long lasting impact on the people of Wales and beyond. At the time the Welsh National Parks recognised that they would need to be responsive and reflective and made the decision to revise *Landscapes for Everyone* in 2021.

Over the past 18 months National Park Authorities have worked with key partners in many sectors including culture, education and heritage, health and social care, tourism and recreation, as well as with key industries in the local economies such as farming, tourism and recreation to help support their communities. New projects and ways of working have been embraced including digital opportunities to connect and share information. It has been a difficult time but in many ways these difficulties has also brought into sharper focus some of the challenges faced by communities living and working in our National Parks. The pandemic combined with factors such as the climate crisis, ongoing pressures on rural housing, and Wales' emerging economic relationships with the rest of the world since the United Kingdom left the European Union has given rise to new or more pressing challenges.

The 2018 Valued and Resilient statement from the Welsh Government highlighted the importance of Welsh National Parks to engage people in the natural and historic environment. The statement also recognised the contribution Welsh National Parks make to the rural economy and the impact National Parks can have on the health and quality of life of the people who live in and visit. The statement went on to say that *"while it is important for all sectors of society to experience these designated landscapes, particular focus should be given to children and young families from deprived areas. Action must be taken to help to tackle the inequalities that exist in health, education and economic outcomes amongst the poorest in society. This work will include enhanced outdoor education programmes and volunteering opportunities."*

Although it is clear that challenging times will continue I believe that the National Parks of Wales have shown themselves to be responsive to the current circumstance and able to meet the needs highlighted in Valued and Resilient. Going forward Welsh National Parks can be active and significant partners in helping Wales' response to the social and economic landscape the people of Wales currently face. *Landscapes for Everyone* helps to illustrate all the hard work Welsh National Parks have been doing in a number of areas and shows the value of National Parks to the wellbeing of Wales.

Councillor Paul Harris

Chair of Welsh National Parks

October 2021



1. Executive Summary

Welsh National Parks: Landscapes for Everyone was first published in April 2020 just after the Covid-19 pandemic started. In the opening letter from the Chair, it was clear that the pandemic and the associated lockdowns and restrictions were going to have a significant impact upon society. In order to reflect the anticipated change a review of the document was scheduled for 2021.

Landscapes for Everyone not only is a revision of the original document but also includes the policy and programme areas previously covered by Welsh National Parks : Together for Health and Well-being (2016) .

This revised Landscapes for Everyone contains a position statement, principles and priority areas which guide the efforts of Welsh National Parks. Through their statutory responsibilities, activities, projects and collaborative partnerships, National Park Authorities work with other public bodies to respond to some of the challenges Wales faces to help it become a healthier, fairer and more equal nation for current and future generations. Landscapes for Everyone provides the policy context and position statement from which the three Welsh National Parks will be building programmes of work going forward.

With direction from the Valued and Resilient Position Statement, the Welsh National Parks will take action to help to tackle the inequalities that exist in health, education and economic outcomes amongst the poorest in society. Work will enhance outdoor education programmes and volunteering opportunities and also have particular focus on children and young families from deprived areas.

In order to achieve this, Welsh National Parks will reach out beyond traditional audiences and engage a more diverse cross section of Welsh society so that they have a stake in the national landscapes and also have equity in the potential health and well-being benefits to be enjoyed from them. Landscapes for Everyone identifies the role of Welsh National Parks in addressing poverty and the wider determinants of health through the opportunities they provided as health assets and promoting social inclusion. Opportunities like social prescribing and understanding the work of Welsh National Parks through holistic approaches such as Five Ways to Wellbeing will help this work.



A number of cross cutting factors are outlined in Landscapes for Everyone that provide the context in which the work of the Welsh National Parks is to be delivered. The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of nature to human health and wellbeing. The pandemic also shone a light on inequality as the direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic was felt by the most vulnerable in society across the board, including housing, health and disability, age, education and also economically. Public Health Wales has identified the triple challenges of Brexit, climate change and Covid-19, that will impact upon the health and wellbeing of the nation.

Wales has some of the highest levels of child poverty and some of the poorest health in the United Kingdom, and it is anticipated that the ongoing impacts of the pandemic will continue for some years. The pandemic has increased pressure on rural housing stock two fold as people are seeking to move out of the cities into larger properties than can be found in rural areas such as Wales, and as the rise in staycations has meant that previous residential rental property has been turned to the holiday market. Welsh National Parks have a responsibility to advocate the principles of sustainable tourism and to ensure that the language, culture and communities are protected. Welsh National Parks can support community resilience through taking action with planning policy⁴.

As National Parks respond to the challenge of climate change and pursue decarbonisation activities, it is important to ensure that solutions take account of the needs of those on lower incomes or experiencing social disadvantage.



In delivering the vision of Landscapes for Everyone the work is guided by **three principles**:

- i to engage stakeholders,
- ii to demonstrate value
- iii to tailor opportunities.

Efforts will be focused in **three priority areas** and examples of projects and works to illustrate the priority areas are provided:

- i Living in the Park** - Working collaboratively with others to address affordable housing, transport and access to services
- ii Access and Opportunities** - Working collaboratively with partners to build capacity for partnership working and co-production, to help and enhance access to the outdoors, culture and heritage, opportunities for play, sustainable recreation, health and well-being.
- iii Learning and Work** - Promoting employment opportunities, education and skills development.

Welsh National Parks will draw upon the equality impact assessments or other integrated assessment to ensure that relevant decisions and strategic plans support the Equality Act in order to assess the impact of its work. Landscapes for Everyone will direct joint working programmes of Welsh National Parks , and will be key in guiding the work programmes of individual National Park Authorities, the reporting of which will be found in Corporate Plans, Management Plans and Local Development Plans.

2. Policy and Context



National Parks Statutory Purposes

Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage

Promote opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of its special qualities.

In pursuing the above purposes the Authority has a duty to foster economic and social well-being.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015ⁱⁱ

To contribute through our Well-being Objectives to:



A prosperous Wales	A Wales of cohesive communities
A resilient Wales	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
A healthier Wales	A globally responsible Wales
A more equal Wales	

Act in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principles through the Five Ways of Working: Long Term, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration and Involvement.



Public Sector Equality Duty and Socio Economic Dutyⁱⁱⁱ

Public Sector Equality Duties including Welsh Specific Duties under the Equality Act 2010.

The Socio Economic Duty under the Equality Act 2010 came into force in Wales on 31 March 2021. This duty places a legal responsibility on public bodies when they are taking strategic decisions to have due regard to the need to reduce the inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage.



Child Poverty^{iv}

The Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 legislation has been amended to take account of Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Duty to have a Child Poverty strategy is now discharged through relevant Public Services Boards well-being plans.



Wider determinants of health^v

The social, economic and environmental factors that impact upon health and well-being are the wider determinants of health. These factors drive differences, or inequalities, in health and well-being between groups of people. They include:

- money and resources
- our level of education and skills
- availability of good, fair work
- the quality and security of our housing
- our surroundings



Valued and Resilient Position Statement^{vii}

In the Valued and Resilient Position Statement the Welsh Government state that National Parks in Wales need to be “landscapes for everyone”

Reach out beyond traditional audiences

Engage a more diverse cross section of Welsh society so that they have a stake in the national landscapes

The statement notes “While it is important for all sectors of society to experience these designated landscapes, particular focus should be given to children and young families from deprived areas. Action must be taken to **help to tackle the inequalities that exist in health, education and economic outcomes amongst the poorest in society**. This work will include enhanced outdoor education programmes and volunteering opportunities.”

Welsh National Park Authorities (and AONBs):

- should recognise the complex and multidimensional nature of social exclusion,
- seek to promote social inclusion in all AONB and National Park work
- seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities
- seek to reduce social exclusion in all its forms.



Economic factors

- Changes to Universal Credit/Pensions
- Economic uncertainty resulting from leaving the EU
- Workforce pressures



National Parks as Health and Well-being Assets:

- provide settings for activities promoting good health and well-being, including 'active' benefits such as walking and 'passive' benefits such as those derived from 'tranquillity' and inspirational scenery.
- can enable individuals and communities to maintain their health and well-being and mitigate against some of the negative impacts of poverty and inequality.
- support good human health through the pursuit of good quality environments essential for flourishing ecosystems supported by clean air and ground water, carbon storage, and land.



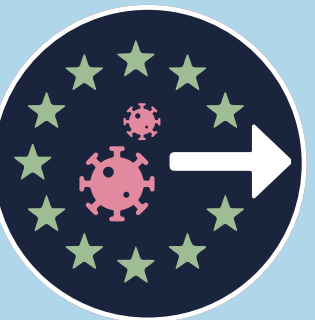
Poverty, Inequality and Intersectionality

Definition of poverty *being 'when a person's material resources are well below their minimum needs and in addition, insufficient to enable social participation'* Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Socio Economic Statutory Guidance (Welsh Government^{Viii}) notes that "Socio-economic disadvantage can be disproportionate in both communities of interest and communities of place, leading to further inequality of outcome, which can be further increased when considering intersectionality."

Inequality of outcome relates to any measurable difference in outcome between those who have experienced socio-economic disadvantage and those who have not. Examples of inequalities of outcome can include, lower levels of good health, lower paid work, and poorer educational attainment .

Intersectionality is a recognition that one single form of discrimination cannot and should not be understood in isolation from one another. This means forms of discrimination can interact and produce often multiple experiences and disadvantage in specific situations .



The Triple Challenge

The Triple Challenge of Brexit, Climate Change and Covid-19 has been identified by Public Health Wales as impacting disproportionately negatively impacting on a number of key groups including:

- those on low incomes,
- those with existing health conditions,
- those living in rural, coastal and tourist areas;
- the elderly, babies, young children and families
- those working in certain sectors including farmers, fishing, agriculture

All of whom are well represented in our National Parks or are identified as being key targets for our engagement ^{xiii xiv} .

3. Position Statement

The three National Parks in Wales deliver health and wellbeing benefits for the nation. We believe everyone should experience our National Parks. We seek to acknowledge, understand and challenge the barriers people face when visiting, enjoying and living in our National Parks. This includes opportunities for easy access to cultural and natural heritage. Guided by our primary purposes, National Parks can help build community cohesion, help reduce the negative impacts of poverty, social exclusion and poor health, and build a landscape for all and future generations. National Park Authorities will develop projects and services that deliver National Park purposes and our wellbeing objectives.



Welsh National Parks:

- Contribute to the intrinsic health benefits to be had from improved air quality, carbon storage and biodiversity
- Support good physical and mental health in our local and national communities by supporting or facilitating encounters with nature, landscapes and heritage
- Seek to acknowledge, understand and challenge the barriers people face when visiting, enjoying and living in our national parks
- Will develop projects and services that deliver National Park Purposes and our wellbeing objectives.

4. Cross Cutting Factors

Covid-19 Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic, lockdowns and containment measures brought to the fore just how important having access to good quality outdoor space is for health and wellbeing^{xv,xvi}. However the pandemic highlighted inequalities in terms of access to outdoor space in relation to housing – those with or without gardens, local infrastructure such as local parks, open access land, waterways, coast and footpaths, but also in terms of social and health inequality^{xvii,xviii,xix}. The ongoing impact of the pandemic is anticipated to last many years and National Parks along with Wales as a nation will need to ensure they plan and respond to this^{xx}. The economic recovery out of the Covid-19 pandemic can be a Green Recovery built on environmentally sound and responsible economics^{xxi}. There are also opportunities to engage with the new trade landscape that now exists after the UK left the EU.

Poverty, Health and Inequality in Wales

Wales has some of the highest levels of child poverty in the United Kingdom^{xxii}. Before Covid-19, almost a quarter of people in Wales were in poverty (700,000), and 3 in 10 children were living in poverty^{xxiii,xxiv}. Rates of poverty, and child poverty in rural and coastal regions, have continued to grow and many of these areas are in or near by our National Parks^{xxv}. In addition, those in most need faced greatest hardship during the pandemic and were disproportionately impacted by job loss, debt and homelessness^{xxvi}.

Affordable housing is a challenge in all our National Parks. House prices rose during the pandemic exacerbating the existing affordable housing issues within National Parks. The availability of residential rental property fell and rental prices rose, impacting on those on lower incomes the most. Many properties were turned to the holiday market in a response to the rise of staycations during the pandemic restrictions^{xxvii}. Housing costs have a knock on effect on the sustainability of the Welsh language and culture within communities. In 2020 Wales became the only country in the UK to give local authorities the power to charge 100% council tax increase on second homes^{xxix}.



Living in poverty impacts on health and life expectancy. In the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas^{xxx}:

- Men spend approximately 19 fewer years in good health and die on average 9 years earlier.
- Women spend approximately 18 fewer years in good health and die on average 7 years earlier.

Those living in low income areas are more likely to be in poor quality housing, gain lower education attainment, eat poorer diets and have limited access to quality outdoor space^{xxxi, xxxii}. People with certain protected characteristics including disability, ethnicity, religion or belief, age and gender also face worse health outcomes and are more likely to be in poverty^{xxxiii}.

Populations in rural Wales are older in profile than that of urban areas and are becoming more elderly. Although the impact of this demographic can put pressure on rural services, older populations play a central role in maintaining and developing community focused institutions and are a valuable source of knowledge, expertise and innovation^{xxxiv}.

Exploring and experiencing the potential and challenges presented by the natural world contributes to wellbeing and resilience^{xxxv}. For a range of complex reasons, increasingly we live in a society where children and young people in particular are not having experiences in nature and the outdoors. Some call this poverty of experience 'nature deficit disorder'^{xxxvi} a non-medical term that highlights the need for children to have experiences in nature for healthy development and wellbeing. Whilst many children and young people are impeded from playing in natural environments - this is particularly the case for some disabled children^{xxxvii}.



Climate Emergency

Climate change affects the social and environmental determinants of health – clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter^{xxxviii xxxix}.

The Welsh Government have committed to the transition towards a Net Zero Wales by 2050, and that this must be “fair and just, a green and clean future which means good quality jobs and leaves no communities behind^{xxxvii}”. The climate emergency has a disproportional impact on those living in poverty and social disadvantage, with the poorest in society most likely to be impacted by it and also having the least power to change or adapt their circumstance. Wales’ extreme weather events such as flooding is recognised as causing a great deal of hardships and impact upon health and well-being^{xxxix}.

As we respond to the challenge of climate change and pursue decarbonisation activities, it is important to ensure that solutions take account of the needs of those on lower- incomes or experiencing social disadvantage.

Heritage, Culture and Inclusion

We have an important part to play in protecting and growing the Welsh language through active policies and engagement with communities. We need to acknowledge their relationship and legacy relating to Wales’ involvement in the British colonial past^{xlii}. It is important that we reflect the diversity of history and heritage held within the built and natural heritage in its engagement with local communities and visitors. Sustainable tourism helps to protect the living culture and heritage within local communities^{xliii xliiv}. We must have policies and projects in place to support communities including those relating to housing or employment that can help ensure our communities are vibrant and resilient in responding to social and economic change^{xliv xlv}.

5. Our Principles



Principles that guide our activities to support social inclusion and help improve health and well-being, and reduce inequality and child poverty:

Engage stakeholders with inclusive opportunities available within National Parks that promote social inclusion, engage opportunities for health and wellbeing and alleviate the negative impacts of poverty. Engagement and action works best in collaborative partnerships that draw upon the skills, knowledge and lived experiences of all our communities and partners.



Demonstrate the value of National Parks for health and well-being and their role to help reduce social exclusion and alleviation of the barriers posed by poverty by contributing towards evidence-based policy and practice.



Tailor opportunities for all people in Wales to benefit from the natural environment and landscape features of National Parks. Engage people with their natural and cultural environments without compromising the Special Qualities and landscape of National Parks for future generations.

6. Priority Areas

We have identified **3 priority areas** on where we will focus our efforts on in order to ensure our National Parks are Landscapes for Everyone and able to deliver our commitments to social inclusion and health and wellbeing.

Priority Area

Living in the Park

Working collaboratively with others to address affordable housing, transport and access to services

Key Points

Housing

- Housing cost are high in National Parks including the cost of purchase and rental impacts on those on lower income.
- Housing costs have a knock on effect on the sustainability of the economy, Welsh language and culture within communities.
- It is vital to build community resilience through taking actions with planning policy and affordable housing.

Transport and Access to Services

- Transport related issues are often highlighted by communities living in our National Parks during engagement activities
- Access to services and affordable and accessible transport options can be a particular challenge for younger people and those on low incomes living within rural areas like National Parks.
- Improving transport links with green and active travel can lower carbon emissions and improve physical activity levels for our populations.
- National Parks need to engage with key partners to help develop an infrastructure that affords a digitally inclusive Wales to support education, jobs and active citizenship



Examples

Decarbonisation Projects

Brecon Beacons

- The Sustainable Development Fund aims to support projects which take into account economic, environmental, community and cultural issues, improving the quality of life for communities in the National Park. It can fund up to 50% of projects, which have the support and involvement of communities within the Park.
- Developing a decarbonisation programme to reduce the carbon footprint of the Authority and support community decarbonisation initiatives. The programme includes carbon literacy events with communities and schools and promotion of green technologies.

<https://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/communities/sustainability-2/subsustainable-development-fund/sustainable-development-fund-annual-report/>



Housing

Pembrokeshire Coast

- Wales and West Housing and Ateb have been working with the authority and two local communities around the Park to provide modern, energy-efficient new homes to meet housing needs for local people in some of the most expensive housing areas within the county. In total 4 new housing sites have been delivered and a further one due by the end of 2021. These homes comprise of a mix of family homes, one-bed bungalows and adapted bungalows for people over 55.

[Coast to Coast \(pagesuite-professional.co.uk\)](https://www.coast-to-coast.co.uk/)



Transport

Eryri

- Partneriaeth Yr Wyddfa / the Snowdon Partnership is leading an ambitious and sustainable approach to parking and transport in northern Snowdonia. A central part of the work is that communities and businesses help design the way in which the strategy is delivered on the ground. This will ensure a reliable, low carbon option for residents to enable employment opportunities and allow better access to services and facilities in and around this rural area.



Priority Area

Access and Opportunities

Working collaboratively with partners to build capacity for partnership working and co-production, to help and enhance access to the outdoors, culture and heritage, opportunities for play, sustainable recreation, health and well-being^{xlv}.



Key/focus Points

- Draw upon the Five Ways to Wellbeing Model, to engage opportunities in social prescribing and self care.
- Enhancing access to the outdoors and nature is important for social inclusion and for overall health and wellbeing .
- Working with communities to help build connection and understanding of the special qualities of National Parks including that relating to culture and heritage, is important for individuals and society.
- Supporting children and young people's access to the outdoors so that they can build lifelong enjoyment of the outdoors is important^{xlvi}.



Examples

West Wales Walking For Wellbeing

Pembrokeshire Coast

West Wales Walking for Wellbeing - a cross sector partnership project active across the Hywel Dda Health board area. Delivering a 'wellbeing walk' programme with community settings including GP practices and with volunteer support. Providing physical activity for less active individuals. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority is the project lead.

www.westwaleswalkingforwellbeing.org.uk/



Beach Wheelchairs

Pembrokeshire Coast

Beach wheelchairs enable people to access beaches in Pembrokeshire many of whom may not have accessed the beach for many years.

www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/things-to-do/access-for-all/beach-wheelchairs/

With English subtitles To see the beach wheelchair segment skip to 9 mins 50 seconds.

<https://www.s4c.cymru/clic/programme/837024463>



Small Steps – Mental Health

Brecon Beacons

Small Steps was a 2 year Welsh Government funded, action research partnership project by BBNPA and Powys Teaching Health Board Psychology Service. National Park residents with long term mental health conditions, were invited to take part in a range of activities in the National Park. The health and wellbeing benefits were measured.

Link to poster presentation. Poster 2

<https://ruralhealthandcare.wales/rural-health-care-wales-conference-2020-poster-competition/>



Examples

Geotrails apps

Brecon Beacons

Funded by Atlantic Geoparks, the new Geotours app features walks in the Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark. They are aimed at families with older children and give an introduction to the Geopark and the landscape on the tour. Each walk takes about 2-3 hours. More are planned for the future.

Download the Geotours app from Google Play or the App store



Social prescribing

Snowdonia

A pilot Social Prescribing scheme has been established in partnership with Public Health Wales. Wellbeing Wednesdays has included sessions of Yoga, Guided Walks, Lake Swimming and Beach Clearance. The Social Prescribing and Green Health strategy will be launched by PHW in October 2021, which will allow all relevant providers to log activities in a shared register for GPs to access across North Wales.



Tramper – mobility

Snowdonia

Working in partnership with local businesses Trampers are offered for hire in different areas of the National Park. The Tramper is a specially designed, all-terrain mobility scooter, which can be used off road and even on rough ground, mud and grass. It is very robust, with light, accurate steering and tailored suspension, making it easy to handle and comfortable to ride on. It enables people who have a mobility impairment to experience the countryside; and to accompany friends and family when out walking.



Priority Area

Learning and Work

Learning and work - Promoting employment opportunities, education and skills development



Key Points

Support **Green Recovery** activities to include jobs in:

- Heritage skills
- Sustainable tourism opportunities,
- Micro businesses and rural entrepreneurs
- Digital inclusion
- Ensure that opportunities through Green Recovery are targeted to engage diverse groups communities and places.
- Provide opportunities for communities and businesses to understand the special qualities of National Parks
- Engage programmes of work that help National Park Authorities to help restore and protect the special qualities of National Parks.



Examples

Welsh National Parks

National Parks are promoting outdoor learning as an important part of the new Curriculum for Wales, through involvement in Wales Council for Outdoor Learning and in their local work with schools and educators. Outdoor learning has a critical role in contributing to the health and wellbeing of pupils in Wales

[Outdoor Learning | Wales Council For Outdoor Learning](#)



Princes Trust

Brecon Beacons

In partnership with The Prince Trust Cymru delivered a 3 year project for NEET (not in education, employment or training) young people. The programme supported 55 young people to develop practical rural skills and to achieve accredited land based qualifications. 26 went on to a 3 month placement with the Park Authority. Funded by Arwain (LDP LEADER) and the BBNPA Sustainable Development Fund.

<https://www.arwain.wales/en.html>



On-line ambassadors

Snowdonia

The *Llysgennad Eryri Ambassador* programme has been developed for the local tourism industry, but offers high quality training to anyone who wishes to learn more about what makes Eryri exceptional through an on-line training programme. The programme includes 12 modules that reflect the Park's special qualities, which vary from original work to factual content, much of which has been contributed by local experts across the region.



Caru Eryri

Snowdonia

This volunteer programme was developed in Partnership with the Snowdonia Society, the National Trust and the Outdoor Partnership to support the work of SNPA Wardens. Every volunteer received a full induction and training, risk assessments, PPE, and Covid-safety protocols which were regularly updated. For those keen to take on more responsibility a free professional Outdoor First Aid course was available. The scheme will be developed to remain a permanent offer by all Partners.



Black Mountains College

Brecon Beacons

The BBNPA's Sustainable Development Fund supported the Black Mountains College to establish further education provision in the National Park and to deliver courses on sustainability and the environment, including traditional skills for use in the landscape. Young people, locals and others will benefit from skills development and potential job opportunities.

<https://blackmountainscollege.uk/>



Kickstarter jobs

Wales National Parks

Under the UK Government's Kickstart scheme in partnership with other UK National Park Authorities, the National Park Authorities in Wales are delivering a number of new 6 month job placements for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment.

Brecon Beacons offered 6 placements including IT support, Youth Ambassador, Communications Support, retail and 2 estate workers.

Pembrokeshire Coast offered 5 placements including Business Support/Admin, Archaeology Assistant, 2 Assistant Warden/Visitor Services, and Development Management Admin Assistant

Snowdonia offered 3 placements including Digital Media Assistant, Estate Worker and Forestry Assistant.



7. Assessing Impact

Equality Act

The Welsh National Parks must consider the impact of strategic decisions on:

- People experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage (socio-economic duty)
- people with protected characteristics (Public sector Equality duty and Welsh specific duties).

All National Park Authorities will undertake equality impact assessments/integrated assessments on relevant decisions and strategic plans to ensure due regard is given to equality and socio-economic impacts during decision making processes.

Landscapes for Everyone will direct joint working programmes of Welsh National Parks, and will be key in guiding the work programmes of individual National Park Authorities, the reporting of which will be found in Corporate Plans, Management Plans and Local Development Plans.



8. References

- i <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-07/building-better-places-the-planning-system-delivering-resilient-and-brighter-futures.pdf>
- ii <https://www.futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/>
- iii <https://gov.wales/socio-economic-duty-overview>
- iv <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2010/1/contents>
- v <https://phw.nhs.wales/about-us/our-priorities/influencing-the-wider-determinants/>
- vi <https://gov.wales/written-statement-valued-and-resilient-welsh-governments-priorities-areas-outstanding-natural>
- vii <https://www.jrf.org.uk/our-work/what-is-poverty>
- viii [WG42004 A More Equal Wales The Socio-economic Duty Equality Act 2010 \(gov.wales\)](#)
- ix [A More Equal Wales: The Socio-economic Duty | GOV.WALES](#)
- x [WG42004 A More Equal Wales The Socio-economic Duty Equality Act 2010 \(gov.wales\) / State-of-the-Nation-2020.pdf \(chwarateg.com\)](#)
- xi <https://phw.nhs.wales/publications/publications1/rising-to-the-triple-challenge-of-brexit-Covid-19-and-climate-change-for-health-well-being-and-equity-in-wales/>
- xii <https://gov.wales/written-statement-valued-and-resilient-welsh-governments-priorities-areas-outstanding-natural>
- xiii https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/documents/8053/Why_Society_Needs_Nature_4FUC2GT.PDF
- xiv [Nature's Role in Supporting Health during the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Geospatial and Socioecological Study - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)
- xv <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Out-of-Bounds-equity-in-access-to-urban-nature.pdf>
- xvi [Poverty, health, and Covid-19 | The BMJ https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366\(20\)30308-4/fulltext\)](#)
- xvii https://www.gla.ac.uk/media/Media_805950_smxx.pdf
- xviii <https://phw.nhs.wales/publications/publications1/rising-to-the-triple-challenge-of-brexit-Covid-19-and-climate-change-for-health-well-being-and-equity-in-wales/>
- xix [NRW, Green Recovery: Priorities for Action Report \(December 2020\), Green Recovery: Priorities for Action Rr \(cyfoethnaturiol.cymru\)](#)

- xx <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/content/dam/global/reports/hunger-and-livelihoods/Child-Poverty-Snapshots-English.pdf>
- xxii JRF, Briefing: Poverty in Wales 2020, [poverty_in_wales_2020_0.pdf](#)
- xxiii End Child Poverty Now, Media Release: New Child Poverty Data (October 2020)
- xxiv [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/Global/CitizensAdvice/Wales/Wales%20Policy%20and%20Campaigns/MH%20and%20CV19%20in%20Wales%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/Global/CitizensAdvice/Wales/Wales%20Policy%20and%20Campaigns/MH%20and%20CV19%20in%20Wales%20(1).pdf)
- xxv [House prices in tourist hotspots increasingly out of reach for young and low paid - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)
- xxvi <https://www.bevanfoundation.org/views/staycation-housing-wales/>
- xxvii See xxviii
- xxviii NRW, SoNaRR2020 SMNR Aim 3 Healthy Places for People, p12: [SoNaRR2020 Aim 3 assessment \(cyfoethnaturiol.cymru\)](#)
- xxix <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/area-statements/south-west-wales-area-statement/reducing-health-inequalities/?lang=en>
- xxx NRW, SoNaRR2020 SMNR Aim 3 Healthy Places for People, p12: [SoNaRR2020 Aim 3 assessment \(cyfoethnaturiol.cymru\)](#)
- xxxi <https://gov.wales/analysis-protected-characteristics-area-deprivation-2017-2019>
- xxxii <https://rural-urban.eu/sites/default/files/Rural%20Vision%20Evidence%20Report%20Final%20Eng.pdf>
- xxxiii https://childmind.org/article/why-kids-need-to-spend-time-in-nature/#full_article
- xxxiv <https://nt.global.ssl.fastly.net/documents/read-our-natural-childhood-report.pdf>
- xxxv <https://www.playwales.org.uk/eng/nature>
- xxxvi <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-i/>
- xxxvii <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>
- xxxviii <https://gov.wales/wales-commits-net-zero-2050-sets-out-ambitions-get-there-sooner>
- xxxix <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-11/the-national-strategy-for-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-in-wales.pdf>
- xl <https://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/english/creativewriting/centre/colonial-countryside-project>
- xli <https://whc.unesco.org/en/tourism/>
- xlii <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/resources/in-focus-articles/safeguarding-communities-living-heritage/>

xliii <https://gov.wales/welsh-government-announces-three-pronged-approach-address-second-homes-crisis>

xliv [House prices in tourist hotspots increasingly out of reach for young and low paid - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

xlv https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/documents/8053/Why_Society_Needs_Nature_4FUC2GT.PDF

xlvi <https://www.futuregenerations.wales/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/At-A-Glance-FG-Report.pdf>



REPORT OF THE MEMBERS' WORKING GROUP HELD ON 19th JANUARY 2022

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes (Chair), Judith Humphreys, Edgar Owen, Elfed Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Mike Stevens;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Philip Capper, Wyn Ellis Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Owain Wyn;

Officers

Emyr Williams, G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Helen Pye, Angela Jones, Nia Roberts, Anwen Gaffey;

Apologies

Councillors Alwyn Gruffydd, Gethin Glyn Williams;
Mr. Dafydd Edwards, Section 151 Officer.

1. The Director of Corporate Services advised that the meeting was subject to Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business:-
 - the meeting was not open to the general public.
 - the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes.
2. **Declaration of Interest**
No declarations of Personal Interests were made in respect of any item.
3. **Minutes**
Item 2 – Declaration of Interest
Subject to recording that Rob Lewis, Information Systems Support Technician and Catrin Williams, Authority Translator were present at the meeting in a supporting role, the minutes of the Members' Working Group meeting held on 1st December 2021 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.
4. **Motorhomes in the National Park**
Submitted – A joint report by the Director of Planning and Land Management and the Head of Engagement to provide short and mid-term proposals for addressing the issues associated with motorhomes in the National Park.

Reported – The Head of Engagement presented the update report and background and provided further details on the measures implemented, the trends in 2021 and a forecast for 2022.

Members considered the report in detail and made the following observations:-
 - Members agreed that the Authority should consider every opportunity to collaborate with its partners alongside working with local communities to find positive outcomes.

- working with the Police Authority, who have the necessary enforcement powers, will provide benefits for the Warden Service both in terms of support, and provide training for the team.
- a Member noted concerns that campervans were referred to as a 'problem' and asked for them to be seen as an 'opportunity.' Tourism was a vital industry for North Wales and there was an urgent need to make better provision for visitors, which the review of the Eryri Local Development Plan should address without delay.
- concerns were raised that some established caravan sites were only providing 'seasonal pitches' resulting in fewer pitches for tourers which adds to the problem. The Member also asked whether the Authority works to educate and engage with organisations such as the Caravan Club and caravan magazines to raise awareness of the problem?
- a Member felt this was no longer a covid related issue and the increasing trend of 'adapted vans' and campervans would continue. The Member welcomed the windscreen leaflet trial proposal, subject to monitoring possible litter problems, and the need to remove 'apps' which promote fly-camping was noted. The Member suggested that campervans could be allowed to make use of hotel and public house car parks overnight, possibly on a seasonal / temporary basis, on condition that they used their facilities and spend a stated amount. Village hall car parks could also be an option.
- in response to questions from Members, officers confirmed that work was carried out in partnership with all the protected landscapes in Wales in relation to communications. The Head of Engagement noted the need to increase the National Trust's involvement in future and confirmed that officers aim to develop a consistent and welcoming approach across the National Park. Officers also agreed that further work was necessary to establish what caravan and camping sites' original planning permissions allow them to provide, whether there were breaches to the planning consents, and the capacity of these sites throughout the season.
- the Head of Engagement confirmed that officers will communicate with target groups as part of the 2022 visitor communications campaign and as a new development, data collected by YouGov, in consultation with the Authority, will allow officers to better assess the demographic of its visitors for the forthcoming season. The Head of Engagement confirmed that officers were still pursuing an all-Wales approach with the Welsh Government in relation to motorhomes, although this arrangement had recently stalled.
- the Director of Planning and Land Management advised that allowing overnight stays in village halls and public house car parks would be contrary to policy. Applications for such use would need to be submitted to the Planning and Access Committee for consideration and each application would be determined on its own merit.
- on a note of caution, the Director of Planning and Land Management stated that some visitors will continue to prefer wild camping. The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park already provides overnight parking facilities for campervans, but the problem remains, with people continuing to park overnight on the beaches.
- a Member welcomed the proposed prevention mechanisms outlined in the report and agreed that enforcement was an essential element. Car parks without barriers can easily become unofficial campervan sites and at times moving groups of people on was not an option, especially if there was alcohol involved. Arising thereon, officers agreed to look at possible additional funding to employ seasonal enforcement officers for the Authority in collaboration with NRW and the police.
- a Member praised the work carried out by the Sustainable Tourism Workshops which help to maintain a balanced overview of tourism and our local communities.

- a Member stated that the campervan market had increased significantly over the past three years with 50,000 additional new campervans being purchased, excluding second hand and adapted vehicles, with no evidence that the problem would disappear. There were opportunities for communities to benefit and the Authority should be more pro-active and open the dialogue, whilst accepting that adverse effects will need to be mitigated.
- a Member thanked officers for their work and noted that although the Authority needs to be at the forefront, it still needs to be cautious, and should take time to address the issue as there could be unintended consequences. The proposals as set out were welcomed.
- Members discussed permitted development rights, temporary permissions, and use of Article 4 directions. Officers were directed to the Lake District National Park Authority website which provides a Q & A section on what landowners can provide under permitted development rights in England, which may be helpful.
- work on reviewing the Local Development Plan was underway and evidence was currently being gathered. Lessons learnt from the Gwynedd Aires pilot will also be fed in.

RESOLVED

1. to note the report.

2. to support the short and mid-term proposals as set out in section 2 and section 3 of the report.

5. Welsh National Parks: Landscapes for Everyone: Our Approach to Social Inclusion and Child Poverty (revised for 2021)

Submitted – A report by the Partnerships Manager for Members to note the revised ‘National Parks Wales Landscapes for Everyone: Our Approach to Social Inclusion and Child Poverty’.

Reported – The Partnerships Manager presented the report and the revised Landscapes for Everyone document (Appendix 1) and advised that Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority had already approved the revised document and that Brecon Beacons National Park Authority was being asked to consider the report at the end of the month.

Members welcomed the report and made the following observations:-

- a Member agreed that the Authority should increase its core funding to ensure the long-term success of its health and social inclusion work, as outlined in para. 2.2.2 of the report.
- Members noted that the document was aimed at Members but was also useful for officers.
- in response to a question, the Partnerships Manager confirmed that the Authority has an officer in place to ensure compliance with the Public Sector Equality duty and Socio-Economic duty, which is reflected in Cynllun Eryri, and will be part of all the Authority’s strategic documents from now on.

RESOLVED to recommend that the Authority adopts the revised report ‘National Parks Wales: Landscapes for Everyone’ as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

6. **Cyber Presentation**

To receive a presentation by the Head of Information Systems and Communication on Cyber Security. The presentation raised Member awareness of:-

- the different types of Malware.
- provided a summary of a report by Audit Wales on Cyber resilience in the public sector.
- the organisations in Wales who have recently been subject to major cyber-attacks, such as the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and the Welsh Language Commissioner website.
- a detailed example of a cyber-attack and the key learning points.
- what the Authority has in place to address cyber security and the way forward.

The Chair thanked the Head of Information Systems and Communication for the presentation.

RESOLVED to welcome the presentation.

The meeting ended at 13.05

REPORT OF THE MEMBERS' WORKING GROUP HELD ON 2nd MARCH 2022

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes (Chair), Edgar Owen, Elfed Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Wyn Ellis Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Owain Wyn;

Officers

Emyr Williams, G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Edward Jones, Sian Owen, Anwen Gaffey;

Apologies

Councillors Philip Capper, Judith Humphreys, Mike Stevens; Ms. Tracey Evans.
Mr. Dafydd Edwards, Section 151 Officer.

1. The Director of Corporate Services advised that the meeting was subject to Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business:-
 - the meeting was not open to the general public.
 - the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes.
2. **Declaration of Interest**
No declarations of Personal Interests were made in respect of any item.
3. **Minutes**
The minutes of the Members' Working Group meeting held on 19th January 2022 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.
4. **Establishing the Authority's Carbon Baseline**
Submitted – A report by the Head of Property Services to provide an update on progress to date.

Reported – The Head of Property Services presented the report and background and provided further details on establishing the Authority's carbon baseline. Members were provided with the initial findings from the Aquaterra study and were advised upon the proposed actions to improve data quality. In addition, the Head of Property Services raised the possibility that authorities such as the National Parks, in rural settings, may need to become more than just carbon neutral and aim to become carbon positive, to offset public body failures in more urban areas.

Members considered the report in detail and made the following observations:-

- a Member stated that purchasing an electric fleet will be challenging at present due to supply problems and the slow roll-out of charging points.
- a Member felt that procurement emissions should be a priority for the Authority, and whilst purchasing locally would be more expensive, it would benefit local communities. He also highlighted the need to optimise peat management as well as organic soil, and that the Authority should push forward with renewable energy generation such as hydro schemes and biomass options. It was important for the Authority to be gross rather than net positive, which needs to be avoided.

- in response to a question (table 4 of the report), asking what details were included under headings such as 'Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities', the Head of Property Services confirmed that all consultant and specialist services that the Authority purchases were included. The table includes gross expenditure across a specific budget line for all departments, and although Welsh Government guidance does not include corporate services and corporate spending as part of the remit, the National Parks have argued that they should be included as part of the day-to-day business.
- the Head of Property Services confirmed that travel to and from the workplace has never been included and the figure quoted was for business travel only.
- in response to a question, Members were advised that the figures in table 4 were gross revenue figures. The Welsh Government were yet to decide how to assess capital spending and this guidance was awaited. Also, the increase in the Information and Communication footprint could be due to the escalation in remote working and the resulting need for additional technology caused by the pandemic.
- the Head of Property Services stated that a report will be presented to Members once the outcome of the second commission, led by 'Small world Consulting', was known. Members will receive copies of the Aquaterra and Small World Consulting reports in full, once they become available.
- the Head of Property Services stated that whilst the Authority aims to procure, through its brokers, 100% electricity from renewable energy sources, as do all other public bodies in Wales, there are no companies in the current market which can provide this.
- the Head of Property Services confirmed that the hydro scheme at Plas Tan y Bwlch was included in the figures, although its impact was minimal, as the scheme depends on the weather and is unable to generate electricity all year round. He advised that officers were considering options for establishing energy efficiency at Llyn Tegid and Betws y Coed Information Centre. Members noted that the solar panels on the main office building in Penrhyndeudraeth provide electricity for the building itself and any excess is stored in batteries for use by fleet vehicles re-charging overnight.
- the Chief Executive confirmed that the eight Designated Landscapes in Wales had commissioned the two reports, and each will pay approximately £10k - £12k for the work.
- a Member felt that planning policies should always consider the implications of decisions on the area's carbon footprint.
- in response to a recommendation by a Member, the Head of Property Services agreed to raise the need to record the depth when sampling woodland soils. He would discuss this further with the Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture Section who were leading on this work.
- following receipt of the Aquaterra report, the Head of Property Services advised that the next steps will be to create an action plan that provides best value for money in terms of decarbonisation for the Authority.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note progress as outlined in the report.**
- 2. following receipt of the final report on the Authority's Carbon footprint a Carbon Strategy and action plan will be drawn up with the input of the Scrutiny Group prior to submission to the Authority for adoption.**

The meeting ended at 14.05

AWDURDOD PARC CENEDLAETHOL ERYRI / SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Amserlen / Timetable 2022/2023

CYFARFOD	DYDD	AMSER	2022							2023							TIME	MEETING	
			MEH	GOR	AWST	MEDI	HYD	TACH	RHAG	ION	CHWE	MAW	EBR	MAI	MEH	DAY			
AWDURDOD	MER	10.00	CCB 15 AGM				14		16			8		26		CCB 14 AGM	WED	10.00	AUTHORITY
PWYLLGOR PERFFORMIAD AC ADNODDAU	MER	10.00		13					30				22				WED	10.00	PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
PWYLLGOR CYNLLUNIO A MYNEDIAD	MER	10.00	29				7	19		7	25		8	19	17	28	WED	10.00	PLANNING & ACCESS COMMITTEE
PWYLLGOR SAFONAU	GWE	pm					2										FRI	pm	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
PANELI YMWELD Y GOGLEDD A'R DE	MER	am		6			21	26		14		1	15		3 & 24		WED	am	NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN INSPECTION PANELS
BWRDD PLAS TAN Y BWLCH	MER	am/pm	15				14		16			8				14	WED	am/pm	PLAS TAN Y BWLCH BOARD
BWRDD YR YSGWRN	MER	pm							9			15					WED	pm	YR YSGWRN BOARD
GWEITHGOR AELODAU	MER	am/pm	29				7	19		7	25		8	19	17	28	WED	am/pm	MEMBERS' WORKING GROUP
CYD WEITHGOR LLEOL	GWE	am	17						18							30	FRI	am	LOCAL JOINT WORKING GROUP
DIWRNOD DATBLYGU AELODAU	GWE	am/pm		8									24			23	FRI	am/pm	MEMBER DEVELOPMENT DAY
SEMINAR AELODAU TIRWEDDAU DYNODEDIG CYMRU (Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog / Arfordir Penfro)																			DESIGNATED LANDSCAPES WALES MEMBERS' SEMINAR (Brecon Beacons / Pembrokeshire Coast National Park)
CYNHADLEDD PARCIAU CENEDLAETHOL Y DG (Parc Cenedlaethol Exmoor)							27-29												NATIONAL PARKS UK CONFERENCE (Exmoor National Park)
EUROPARC Argelès-sur-Mer, Ffrainc								4-7											EUROPARC Argelès-sur-Mer, France
CYFARFOD	DYDD	AMSER	JUNE	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	DAY	TIME	MEETING	

**PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2021**

Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd (Gwynedd) (Chairman)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Mike Stevens;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Philip Capper, Wyn Ellis Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Owain Wyn;

Officers

Mr. Emyr Williams, Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. J. Cawley, Mr. D. Edwards, Ms. B. Hughes, Ms. Sian Owen, Mrs. Helen Pye, Mrs. Awel Gruffydd, Mrs. A. Gaffey;

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the meeting was subject to the Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business, and that:-

- a Notice of the Meeting had been published and the Agenda and reports were available on the Authority's website.
- the meeting was not open to the public.
- the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes but may be made available online at a later date.

1. **Apologies**

Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Gethin Glyn Williams;

2. **Declaration of Interest**

No declarations of Personal Interests were made in respect of any item.

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Performance and Resources meeting held on 14th July 2021 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

4. **Action Log**

Submitted – A Log of strategic actions arising from decisions taken during meetings of the Performance and Resources Committee, for information and action.

RESOLVED to note the Action Log, for information.

5. **Corporate Work Programme 2021-22**

Submitted – A progress report by the Director of Corporate Services for the first and second quarters (April – September) of the financial year.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and advised that the Corporate Work Programme’s new layout negates the need for Members to receive two separate reports. The report outlines the Authority’s Well-being Objectives, the corresponding projects/initiatives and the specific actions, with the outcomes presented separately at the end of each objective.

Members and Officers discussed the report and made the following observations:-

- **Resilient Communities**

Maintaining and increasing the quality of life of residents

In view of the recent agreement between the Labour Party and Plaid Cymru to work together, and the Authority’s target to ensure that planning plays a pro-active role in encouraging affordable housing, Members discussed the recent Welsh Government pilot scheme in Dwyfor, which aims to provide more control over second homes and holiday homes and the possible joint working opportunities which may arise. The Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that a report will be presented to a future meeting of the Planning and Access Committee when more details become available.

Supporting Young People

The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the Youth Officer post had now been advertised.

- Members welcomed the report and the new layout, which was more concise and easier to understand.

RESOLVED to note the report.

6. **Draft Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to discuss the Independent Remuneration Panel’s draft Annual Report and to determine whether a response was required.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and the accompanying letter from the Independent Remuneration Panel and outlined the proposed changes.

RESOLVED to accept the report, as submitted.

7. **The Authority’s Risk Profile**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to update Members on the Authority’s Risk Profile and to consider the effects of COVID-19.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and the risk register. He advised that the Income Generation Target (Car Parks) risk had now been reduced to low and that updates were provided in the register.

Members discussed the following matters:-

- Risk Ref 2 – Income Generation Target (Plas Tan y Bwlch)

The Director of Corporate Services considered the risk should remain unchanged and noted that, whilst the income target had been achieved, various other costs had become apparent.

- Risk Ref 9 – Aspects of financial risk associated with LIFE Celtic rainforest project including non-compliance with procurement rules or spending on ineligible costs resulting in the grant not being awarded, or fluctuation in the Euro/pound exchange rate.
The Chief Executive advised that Members receive a separate six-monthly report on Projects. He confirmed that the Authority was currently ahead on its achievement targets but behind schedule on its spending target. This was due to an over-estimate on costs, although local contractors were now becoming busier and more expensive, and there was some slippage as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic which will need to be funded.
- Risk Ref 14 – Yr Ysgwrn fails to generate sufficient income to meet the budget
The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that the risk had been assessed and it was agreed that it should remain unchanged as there were still some uncertainties.

RESOLVED to note the report.

8. Strategic Equality Plan – Annual Report

Submitted – A joint report by the Head of Personnel and the Head of Administration and Customer Care to present the Annual Report for 2020/21.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report and the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report for 2020/21. Members were advised that the Authority works in partnership with other Authorities to address and raise awareness of hate crime. The Head of Administration and Customer Care reported that, in addition to what was noted in the report, a representative of the North Wales Police Authority had recently advised her of a 21% increase in hate crime this year. A large number of the hate crimes were race related and Members were asked to bear this in mind when dealing with issues which may arise as a result of the increase in holiday home and second home ownership, visitor pressures and associated behaviour etc.

In response to a question, the Head of Administration and Customer Care confirmed that the assessment will include the Authority's socio-economic impact, and the duty will be incorporated and reported upon.

RESOLVED to note the report and approve the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2020/21 for publication on the Authority's website.

9. Strategy for Promoting the Welsh Language 2016-21: Assessing the Outcome

Submitted – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care to assess the outcome of the Authority's Strategy.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report, advised upon the background, and outlined main points.

Members and officers discussed the report as follows:-

- a Member felt the survey was small in comparison to population and visitor number figures and asked officers to increase the size of the samples, although it was not suggested that the Authority should go to the expense of a large postal survey. The Head of Administration and Customer Care advised that an online survey, which was advertised on social media, was deemed to be the most cost-effective

approach with the resources available. The Head of Administration and Customer Care agreed to consider other more creative ways the Authority can utilise to collect its data in future.

- Members and officers discussed the 2021 census, the outcome of which was due in March 2022, with more detailed local information expected in October 2022. The census will provide accurate data, highlight priority areas for the Authority for the next 5 years and also allow the Authority to work closely with its partners.
- with regard to data collection and the Welsh Government's aim to increase the number of Welsh speakers to a million by 2050, a Member felt that this would need a local data collection structure which could then be used to assess the impact of the Authority's strategy on Welsh speakers.
- in response to a request by a Member, the Head of Administration and Customer Care agreed to further discuss how the use of 'Planning and the Welsh Language' policies can maximise the benefits and make a positive contribution to the Welsh language.
- Members and officers further discussed the Welsh Government pilot scheme being launched in January which aims to tackle the impact of second home ownership on Welsh communities. The Authority Chairman confirmed that the National Park Authorities have been included in discussions with the Welsh Government, who were mindful of possible legal challenges and consequent displacement effects. A meeting was being arranged with the Chairs of the three National Park Authorities in Wales and a joint statement will be prepared to welcome the announcement. Members were advised that a link to the Minister's statement had been made available for Members on "chat".
- the Chief Executive confirmed that the vacant post 'Secondary Education Officer' had been incorporated into the Youth Officer post currently being advertised.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the report and await the outcome of the census, prior to identifying priority areas for the Authority for the next 5 years.**
- 2. to approve the Snowdonia National Park Authority's Strategy for Promoting the Welsh Language 2016-2021: Assessing the Outcome, for publication on the Authority's website.**

10. Information Centres Annual Report

Submitted – A report by the Sustainable Tourism Manager to update members on the progress of the Centres against the financial target.

Reported – The Sustainable Tourism Manager presented the report and provided an overview of the 2021/22 year to date. Members were asked to note that paragraph 2.5 of the Welsh report should state that one of the new posts was contracted and trained to cover all three centres.

Members discussed the following matters:-

- Members thanked the Sustainable Tourism Manager for her report and for the work carried out by the Information Centres, under very challenging circumstances.
- Members discussed local concerns that the area surrounding the Betws y Coed Information Centre was untidy and also discussed the desire, locally, to develop a community hub in the Information Centre which could also be used by small businesses. The Sustainable Tourism Manager confirmed that a planning application was being presented to the next meeting of the Planning and Access

Committee which would improve access to the Centre and tidy up the surrounding area. The Sustainable Tourism Manager was aware of the desire to create a community hub at Betws y Coed but was not convinced that the Information Centre was the best location for this resource, although ultimately this was a decision for the Authority.

- a Member noted his concern that sickness cover was not available to ensure that the Aberdyfi Information Centre could remain open. The Sustainable Tourism Manager confirmed there was now a system in place which would ensure cover for staff absences which, hopefully, will solve this problem for the future.
- Members and officers discussed reasons for the reduction in visitor numbers at the Centres and the effect of the pandemic on coach and cruise operators.

RESOLVED to note the report and approve the actions for 2022/23, as outlined.

11. Health and Safety Annual Monitoring Report 2020/21

Submitted – An information report by the Head of Personnel to advise Members on Health and Safety issues within the Authority.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and advised that he would forward any questions he may be unable to answer to the Head of Personnel for response.

Members discussed the report and raised the following matters:-

- a Member was concerned that comparison data was not included and that the report should provide more information on issues such as staff mental health and also, near misses. The Chief Executive confirmed there was a procedure in place to record near misses, although it was not included as part of the report. He also confirmed that all staff have been invited to attend a mental health first aid course and that the 'all staff' meeting had focussed on coping methods for working from home. He was aware, nevertheless, that workload pressures were the biggest problem for staff at this time. It was agreed that the Head of Personnel would circulate the data to Members as requested.
- in response to a question, the Chief Executive stated that staff appraisals would identify the need for further training and ensure that frontline staff have the necessary skills to deal with awkward customers and tense situations.
- as the Covid-19 pandemic had meant more staff were required to work from home, a Member asked whether this had impacted on staff's physical wellbeing? The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that staff were encouraged to follow instructions on how to set up their equipment and to request further equipment or furniture to address their home-working needs as necessary. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that some staff had requested further equipment and the future introduction of hybrid working would also serve to address such problems.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the report, for information.**
- 2. to await further information from the Head of Personnel, as outlined.**

12. **Minutes of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board**

Submitted - Minutes of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board meeting held on the 13th October 2021, for information. The Chairman of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board presented the minutes, and the Director of Corporate Services provided a summary of the current position.

Members and officers discussed the following:-

- the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the surveyor was currently at Plas Tan y Bwlch undertaking a full condition survey. The survey would be presented to the Authority prior to any decision being taken.
- as Plas Tan y Bwlch was a Grade II* listed building, a Member asked officers to investigate the availability of grant funding for the future.
- in response to a question, the Chief Executive advised that Members will be asked to consider the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch at the end of the Summer 2022 season. He noted his concerns that there was too much focus on income and that further work was needed by the Board to fully realise the profit margins etc.
- a Member noted that the Authority needs to decide how Plas Tan y Bwlch, as an asset, fits into the Authority's role, before any significant monies are spent. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the matter will be fully discussed by Members before any formal decisions are made on the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch.

RESOLVED to note the minutes.

The meeting ended at 11.40