

NOTICE OF MEETING



Snowdonia National Park Authority

Emyr Williams

Chief Executive

Snowdonia National Park Authority

Penrhyndeudraeth

Gwynedd LL48 6LF

Phone: (01766) 770274

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Meeting: Snowdonia National Park Authority
Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday 15 June 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, Annwen Hughes, Louise Hughes, June Jones,
Kim Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts,
John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts;*

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillor: Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by The Welsh Government

*Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones,
Ms. Naomi Ludhe – Thompson, Mr. Owain Wyn.*

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

A G E N D A

- | | Page No's |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Chairman
To elect a Chairman of the Authority until the next annual meeting. | |
| 2. Vice-Chairman
To elect a Vice-Chairman of the Authority until the next annual meeting. | |
| 3. Apologies for absence and Chairman's Announcements | |
| 4. Corporate Update
To receive an oral update from the Chief Executive. | |
| 5. 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. | |
| 6. Declaration of Interest
To receive any disclosure of interest by members or officers in respect of any item of business. | |
| 7. Membership of the Authority
To record formally the membership of the Authority. (Copy herewith) | 4 - 5 |
| 8. Minutes of the Authority
The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the meeting of this Authority held on the 27 th April 2022, be signed as a true record (copy herewith) and to receive matters arising, for information. | 6 - 11 |
| 9. Action Log
To submit the Action Log for information and decision. (Copy herewith) | 12 -16 |
| 10. Sustainable Tourism Snowdonia National Park Authority
To receive a report by Audit Wales. (Copy herewith) | 17 - 38 |
| 11. Term of Government Remit Letter for Snowdonia National Park Authority
To receive the Welsh Government Remit Letter from the Minister for Climate Change. (Copy herewith) | 39 - 48 |
| 12. Appointment of Members to serve on Committees, Panels, Working Groups and External Representation
To submit a report by the Chief Executive. (Copy herewith) | 49 - 52 |
| 13. Annual Report to the Authority
To submit a report by the Chair of the Standards Committee. (Copy herewith) | 53 - 55 |

14. **Annual Governance Statement 2021/22** **56 - 88**
To submit a report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care.
(Copy herewith)
15. **Corporate Work Programme 2022/23** **89- 123**
To submit a report by the Director of Corporate Services. (Copy herewith)
16. **Treasury Management - Annual Report 2021/22** **124 - 127**
To submit a report by the Chief Finance Officer. (Copy herewith)
17. **Members' Attendance** **128 - 130**
To submit a report by the Director of Corporate Services. (Copy herewith)
18. **Welsh Language Standards** **131 - 146**
To submit a report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care.
(Copy herewith)
19. **Cynllun Eryri Annual Monitoring Report 2020/21** **147 - 218**
To submit a report by the Partnerships Manager. (Copy herewith)
20. **Working Group Report** **219 - 222**
To submit the report of the Members Working Group held on
6th April 2022. (Copy herewith)
21. **Conferences 2022**
- i) **National Parks UK Conference 2022 – Exmoor National Park
27th to 29th September 2022 – DIARY MARKER**
It is customary to send 4 delegates (including the Chairman) to the
Conference.
- ii) **WLGA Conference 2022 – DIARY MARKER**
Thursday 22nd September, Venue Cymru (Llandudno).
- iii) **Europarc Conference October 2022** **223 - 224**
To submit a report by the Chief Executive. (Copy herewith)
22. **Meetings of other Organisations**
To receive oral and written reports from Members on any recent meetings which
they have attended as representatives of the Authority.
23. **To submit the following minutes for information**
- (1) Minutes of National Parks Wales Executive Meeting held on **225 - 233**
19th November 2021. (Copy herewith)
- (2) Minutes of the Performance & Resources Committee held on the **234 - 238**
23rd March 2022. (Copy herewith)
- (3) Minutes of the Standards Committee held on the 1st April 2022. **239 - 240**
(Copy herewith)

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	15 th June 2022
TITLE	MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY
REPORT BY	Chief Executive
PURPOSE	For information

The Authority consists of 18 Members, 9 of whom are appointed by Gwynedd Council, 3 by Conwy County Borough Council and 6 by the Welsh Government.

The Membership is as follows:-

9 Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

1. Councillor Elwyn Edwards Cynghorydd.ElwynEdwards@eryri.llyw.cymru
2. Councillor Annwen Hughes Cynghorydd.AnnwenHughes@eryri.llyw.cymru
3. Councillor Louise Hughes Cynghorydd.LouiseHughes@eryri.llyw.cymru
4. Councillor June Jones Cynghorydd.JuneJones@eryri.llyw.cymru
5. Councillor Kim Jones Cynghorydd.KimJones@eryri.llyw.cymru
6. Councillor Edgar Wyn Owen Cynghorydd.EdgarOwen@eryri.llyw.cymru
7. Councillor Elfed Powell Roberts Cynghorydd.ElfedRoberts@eryri.llyw.cymru
8. Councillor John Pughe Roberts Cynghorydd.JohnPugheRoberts@eryri.llyw.cymru
9. Councillor Meryl Roberts Cynghorydd.MerylRoberts@eryri.llyw.cymru

3 Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

10. Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd Cynghorydd.IforGlynLloyd@eryri.llyw.cymru
11. Councillor Jo Nuttall Cynghorydd.JoNuttall@eryri.llyw.cymru
12. Councillor Dilwyn Owain Roberts Cynghorydd.DilwynOwainRoberts@eryri.llyw.cymru

6 Members appointed by The Welsh Government

13. Mr. Brian Angell, Lake House Brian.Angell@eryri.llyw.cymru
14. Ms. Tracey Evans Tracey.Evans@eryri.llyw.cymru
15. Mrs. Sarah Hattle Sarah.Hattle@eryri.llyw.cymru
16. Mr. Tim Jones Tim.Jones@eryri.llyw.cymru
17. Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson Naomi.Ludhe-Thompson@eryri.llyw.cymru
18. Mr. Owain Wyn Owain.Wyn@eryri.llyw.cymru

Website Contact Details

Officers would be grateful if you could consent to your name, address, preferred contact telephone number and email address being published on the Authority's website.

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
WEDNESDAY 27th APRIL 2022**

Cynghorydd Wyn Ellis Jones (Chairman) (Conwy)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, 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, Mr. Tim Jones, Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Owain Wyn;

Officers

Emyr Williams, G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Dafydd Edwards, Sian Owen, Bethan Hughes, Angela Jones, Naomi Jones, Anwen Gaffey.

In attendance

Rachel Freitag, Audit Wales.

Apologies

Councillors Mike Stevens, Judith Humphreys; Ms. Tracey Evans.

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 reported upon a recent liaison meeting with the Snowdonia Society which had been very useful.
- (2) the Chairman advised upon a number of meetings arranged with Julie James, Minister for Climate Change, which had unfortunately been cancelled by the Minister for various reasons. It was hoped that a meeting would be re-scheduled in due course.
- (3) the Chairman reported that the Minister had now confirmed the appointment of the two new Welsh Government Members. Naomi Luhde-Thompson would be joining the Authority on the 1st May and Delyth Lloyd will commence on the 1st August 2022.
- (4) as this was the Chairman's final Authority meeting, he took the opportunity to thank all the Members for their friendship over the years and for their work in looking after such a special place as Snowdonia. He also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Owain Wyn, former Chair of the Authority, who had supported him since his appointment to the Chair. The Chairman stated that he was proud to have been able to represent the people of Conwy and had enjoyed being a Member of the Authority over a number of terms since 2003.
- (5) the Chairman also conveyed best wishes to all the Local Authority Members with contested seats at the upcoming Local Government election.

Arising thereon, Mr. Owain Wyn, on behalf of Members, thanked the Chairman for his kind words, his work, and his leadership during these challenging times.

2. **Corporate Update**

The Chief Executive provided an oral update on operational issues:-

- (1) the pre-booking facility at Pen y Pass car park had been re-established and was now easier to use as well as being available in both the Welsh and English languages on the Authority's website.
- (2) as the Welsh Government's Written Statement – Valued and Resilient: Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks was not being reviewed, the Authority will instead receive a strategic remit letter with priorities from the Minister for Climate Change, which will be presented to the Authority meeting on the 15th June 2022.
- (3) the upward adjustment in the Authority's pay bands by two salary points had been applied and included in the salaries from April onwards. The Chief Executive took the opportunity to thank all the Authority Members for their unfailing support for the Authority's staff over the past 5 years and for the stability and sound advice they had provided.
- (4) the Director of Corporate Services provided Members with details of the provision in the Environment Act 1995 which states that a person who retires from being a member of a council by virtue of an election does not terminate his office as a member of a National Park Authority until three months after he retires from being a member of the council, or if earlier, the day on which the National Park Authority receives notice of a proposed replacement appointment. If Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council have not made their appointments by the 18th May 2022, current Members will be required to attend the Planning and Access Committee on that day.
- (5) in response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the Authority's Standing Orders requires that:- *"A newly appointed member of the Authority may sit and listen at meetings of the Planning and Access Committee but may otherwise take no part in the decision making process of the Planning and Access Committee until such time as the Member has attended a Planning training course as may be approved from time to time by the Director of Planning and Land Management"*.

RESOLVED to note the reports.

3. **Public Question Time**

Members were informed that no public questions had been received.

4. **Declaration of Interest**

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

5. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Authority meeting held on 9th February 2022 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

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

Item 9 – Annual Audit Summary 2021

The Chief Executive agreed to ask Mr. Nic Selwyn of Audit Wales for the link to the recently published 'Data Tool' comparing financial data for each Council, National Park and Fire and Rescue Authority in Wales, which could then be forwarded to Members.

7. **Action Log**

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

Authority Meeting 25.09.19

Action Item 8 – Budget Update

The Director of Corporate Services reported that the Property Manager was currently preparing an update report for Members of the Assets Sub-Group which will be sent out shortly.

Authority Meeting 29.12.20

Action Item 7 – Action Log

Officers confirmed that this action item referred to a decision taken as a consequence of the action item referred to in para. 8 of the minutes.

RESOLVED to note the Action Log as outlined.

8. **2022 Audit Plan**

Submitted –The Audit Wales 2022 Audit Plan.

Reported – Rachel Freitag of Audit Wales presented the report, outlined the audit risks and the work to be undertaken by Audit Wales over the coming year, including the audit of financial statements and performance audit work to be agreed with officers. The report also sets out the proposed timetable for the work and the estimated fees.

The Chief Finance Officer took the opportunity to thank the Authority's current membership for their work and support over the past five years. He welcomed Rachel to her first Authority meeting to present her report and reported upon discussions and revisions agreed with Audit Wales prior to its presentation.

Arising thereon, Members were advised that the Chief Executives of the three National Parks in Wales would shortly be meeting with Audit Wales to discuss their performance audit programme for 2022-23. The Chief Executive also reported that he believed there could be two audits undertaken next year, one on a national level and one on a local level. He also confirmed that Audit Wales would be attending the Authority's meeting in June to present their audit report on Sustainable Tourism.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the 2022 Audit Plan.

9. **Governance Task and Finish Group**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to discuss and formally adopt the recommendations made by the Governance Task and Finish Group.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and advised that the amendments, as recommended by the Members' Working Group, were now included.

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

- Members and officers agreed that opportunities for new Members to meet face to face was crucial to foster good working relationships.
- the Director of Corporate Services, in response to a question, advised that the technology for live broadcasting was advancing very quickly, and once the

- decision to proceed had been agreed, would not take long to establish.
- some Members raised doubts as to the effectiveness of hybrid meetings and officers should seek best practice advice from organisations who were already using this method.
 - a Member felt that a proportion of the Authority's meetings should be held face to face to help build a team spirit for both staff and Members. He asked whether 'in person' meetings should be the default to safeguard against experienced Members not attending which would then be of no benefit to the new Members.
 - it was agreed that Members should have the option to attend meetings remotely or face to face in future to ensure fairness for all.
 - a Member suggested that the Member Development Day, scheduled for the beginning of July, could be used to introduce new members, and provide an opportunity to meet face to face if the weather permits.

RESOLVED

1. to adopt the updated Code of Corporate Governance as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.
 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 the report.
 3. to agree the updated role descriptions of members and chairs as set out in Appendix 3 of the report.
 4. to develop a Member Development Strategy as set out in paragraphs 2.3.2.1 – 2.3.2.7 of the report.
 5. to appoint Ms. Sarah Hattle to take the lead on Member mentoring.
 6. that the Authority continues with its current committee structure but 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).
 7. Terms of Reference and the work of future Task and Finish Groups to be as set out in paragraphs 2.4.3 – 2.4.6 of the report.
 8. to proceed with future meetings and public access as set out in paragraphs 2.5.1 – 2.5.4 of the report.
 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 the report.
10. **Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales**
Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to discuss the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

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

RESOLVED to note the report.

11. **Yr Ysgwrn Annual Report**
Submitted – The Annual Report to update Members on activity at Yr Ysgwrn.
- Reported – The Head of Cultural Heritage presented the Annual Report in detail and also took the opportunity to thank Mr. Owain Wyn for his immeasurable support for Yr Ysgwrn and its staff during his term of office.

Members welcomed the report and made the following observations:-

- Members thanked the Head of Cultural Heritage for the annual report and thanked all the staff and volunteers at Yr Ysgwrn for their work.
- a Member recommended promoting Yr Ysgwrn to literary circles outside of Wales and also internationally, as part of the aim to reach a wider market.
- another suggestion was to develop the audience by contacting the Federation of Young Farmers in Scotland, Wales, and England and also to market Yr Ysgwrn in Ireland in future.
- in response to a question, the Head of Cultural Heritage confirmed that Yr Ysgwrn and Plas Tan y Bwlch will be working together to attract schools from further afield. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that a Business Plan was being prepared for Plas Tan y Bwlch which will shortly be presented to the Plas Tan y Bwlch Board.
- the Head of Cultural Heritage noted that opportunities to save on running costs were limited. Yr Ysgwrn has to be kept at a consistent temperature in order to protect the furniture and artefacts and staff costs have to be met even when there is less business. Yr Ysgwrn's Audience Development Plan aims to develop other target markets and whilst there was no data to support this currently, evidence will be available by the next annual report.
- Members discussed the technical problems with the biomass boiler which had been very disappointing, but hopefully the situation had now been remedied.

RESOLVED

1. **to note the contents of the Annual Report, for information.**
2. **following changes to the site and to the membership of the Authority, Members should visit Yr Ysgwrn on a date to be arranged in 2022 to familiarise themselves with the site and to discuss specific issues.**

12. **Welsh National Parks: Landscapes for Everyone: Our approach to Social Inclusion and Child Poverty (Revised for 2021)**

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

Reported – The Partnerships Manager presented the report and background. Members were advised that both the Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authorities have approved the document.

RESOLVED to note the report and adopt the ‘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.

13. **Members’ Working Group Reports**

Submitted – Reports of the Members’ Working Group meetings held on 19th January and 2nd March 2022.

RESOLVED to note the reports.

14. **Calendar of Meetings**

Submitted – A timetable of meetings for the period 2022/2023.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the Calendar of Meetings and Members were asked to note that an additional meeting of the Standards Committee was being arranged on the 28th April 2023, to assist the Standards Committee in its new duty to provide the Authority with an Annual Report.

Arising thereon, the Chief Executive advised that the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority were eager to host the Designated Landscape Wales Members' Seminar in 2022, the date of which will be reported in due course.

RESOLVED subject to noting the above additional meeting of the Standards Committee, to approve the timetable for 2022/23 as submitted.

15. **Meetings of other Organisations**

Submitted - Oral reports on recent meetings of organisations that Members had attended as representatives of the Authority.

Mr. Owain Wyn – Campaign for National Parks

- the meeting focused on the UK Government's response to the Glover review which resulted in a series of presentations on Nature Recovery and Public Rights of Way. The UK Government have recently decided not to proceed with extending public rights to roam which is in direct contrast to the Welsh Government, who support extending the rights.
- CNP's Annual Conference will be held on 12-14 October 2022 in Plas y Brenin and if Members were interested in attending, they should contact the Snowdonia Society.

Councillor John Pughe Roberts – Southern Area Access Forum

Attended a recent meeting where discussions focussed on:-

- Public Rights of Way
- Access to Water
- 4 x 4 vehicles in Penal
- Bridleways
- update on £250k spent on footpath work

RESOLVED to thank the Members and note the reports.

16. **Minutes**

Submitted - The minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 24th November 2021, for information.

RESOLVED to note the minutes.

The Chairman conveyed his best wishes and thanks to all the Authority's staff for their work and support over his term of office.

The meeting ended at 11.30



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. Update – the report is currently being prepared by the Property Manager.</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 style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p> <p>Members were provided with a copy of the judgement on 28.11.19</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>	NO



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	<p>Authority Meeting 10.04.19 Action Item 12 – Europarc Youth Manifesto</p>	<p>To progress this action as a matter of urgency.</p>	<p>AD</p>	<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>	<p>NO</p>



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. Unfortunately, the meeting scheduled in May was not held. A further meeting of the group will be arranged as soon as (new) Members have been briefed.	NO



TAFLEN WEITHREDU – ACTION SHEET

AUTHORITY MEETING – 27.04.2022

ITEM NO. AND TITLE	DECISIONS / OBSERVATIONS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE or COMPLETION DATE	REMOVE FROM ACTION LOG
9. Governance Task and Finish Group	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Authority to 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). - the Authority to revise Standing Orders relating to contracts with appropriate training for staff as set out in the report. 	To present a further report in due course.	GIJ	To be progressed once new Authority established, and new members have familiarised themselves with the working of the Authority.	NO
11. Yr Ysgwrn Annual Report	<p>RESOLVED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - following the change to the Authority's membership, to arrange a visit to Yr Ysgwrn on a date to be arranged in 2022. 	To arrange a future meeting for all Members.	NJ	To be progressed once new Authority established, and new members have been briefed.	NO

Sustainable Tourism – Eryri National Park Authority

Audit year: 2021-22

Date issued: April 2022

Document reference: 2902A2022

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

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Detailed report

The Authority has well established partnerships to address sustainable tourism, but its vision is not yet clearly defined which makes it difficult to demonstrate impact 7

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Summary report

Summary

What we reviewed and why

- 1 Wales' three National Parks are well known tourism destinations, and their status provides a strong brand image which extends beyond their boundaries. With visitor numbers growing, each of the National Park Authorities has seen an increase in the demands to conserve the special qualities of their Parks.
- 2 The Welsh Government's priorities for National Parks have long included a focus on growing tourism and outdoor recreation in a sustainable manner, and proactive engagement with tourism providers to identify how they can contribute to achieving the sustainability of the area¹.
- 3 In a wider policy context also lies the Welsh Government's ambition for the visitor economy to 'grow tourism for the good of Wales'². The strategic remit letter issued by the Welsh Government's Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs in March 2021 reaffirms the National Park Authorities' important role in developing sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation.

Exhibit 1: the United Nations World Tourism Organisation definition of Sustainable Tourism



Source: unwto.org/sustainable-development

- 4 Managing access, tourism and its impact can be a challenge for National Park Authorities. Proportionally, they own very little land within the National Parks, and they do not directly control national or regional tourism and destination management strategies. The delicate balance between the two statutory purposes

¹ [Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government's Priorities for Areas of outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks, July 2018.](#)

² [Welcome to Wales: Priorities for the Visitor Economy 2020-2025.](#)

and duty of National Park Authorities³ was highlighted when visitors flocked to the Parks in unprecedented numbers during their re-opening in 2020.

- 5 Consequently, COVID-19 has highlighted the important role of National Park Authorities in promoting the concept of sustainability in managing tourism. The local economy of each Park depends heavily on tourism, but it needs to be managed sustainably to ensure the natural landscape, biodiversity and local communities are not overwhelmed and left, on balance, worse off as a result.
- 6 Our review sought to answer the question: **Is the Authority doing all it can to effectively manage sustainable tourism in the National Park?**

What we found

- 7 We undertook the review during the period October 2021 to February 2022. Overall, we found that: **the Authority has well established partnerships to address sustainable tourism, but its vision is not yet clearly defined which makes it difficult to demonstrate impact.**
- 8 We reached this conclusion because:
 - Cynllun Eryri sets out a broad ambition to address sustainable tourism, but this is yet to be translated into a clear vision with tangible outcomes that partners are fully signed up to deliver;
 - the Authority uses strategic partnerships to drive its work on sustainable tourism but needs to better demonstrate the impact of its work; and
 - the Authority is focused on developing a shared understanding of a sustainable visitor economy but cannot yet demonstrate its ability to influence and manage the impact of tourism.

³ [Environment Act 1995](#)

Recommendations

Exhibit 2: recommendations

The table below sets out the recommendations that we have identified following this review.

Recommendations	
	<p>Given the limited clarity of key outcomes defined around sustainable tourism, and the consequent weaknesses in its ability to demonstrate impact, we recommend that the Authority:</p>
R1	Build on the positive collaboration with Gwynedd Council to establish clear outcomes and specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) objectives to shape its work on sustainable tourism.
R2	Review its current suite of performance indicators across key partnership activity related to sustainable tourism and establishes meaningful, outcome-focused measures to better demonstrate impact.
	<p>Given the important role of the Authority in addressing the impact of tourism on the natural environment and the need to influence behaviour, we recommend that the Authority:</p>
R3	Work with tourist businesses to promote the concept of sustainable tourism and identifies what and how they can contribute to help deliver the Authority's ambitions.

Detailed report

The Authority has well established partnerships to address sustainable tourism, but its vision is not yet clearly defined which makes it difficult to demonstrate impact

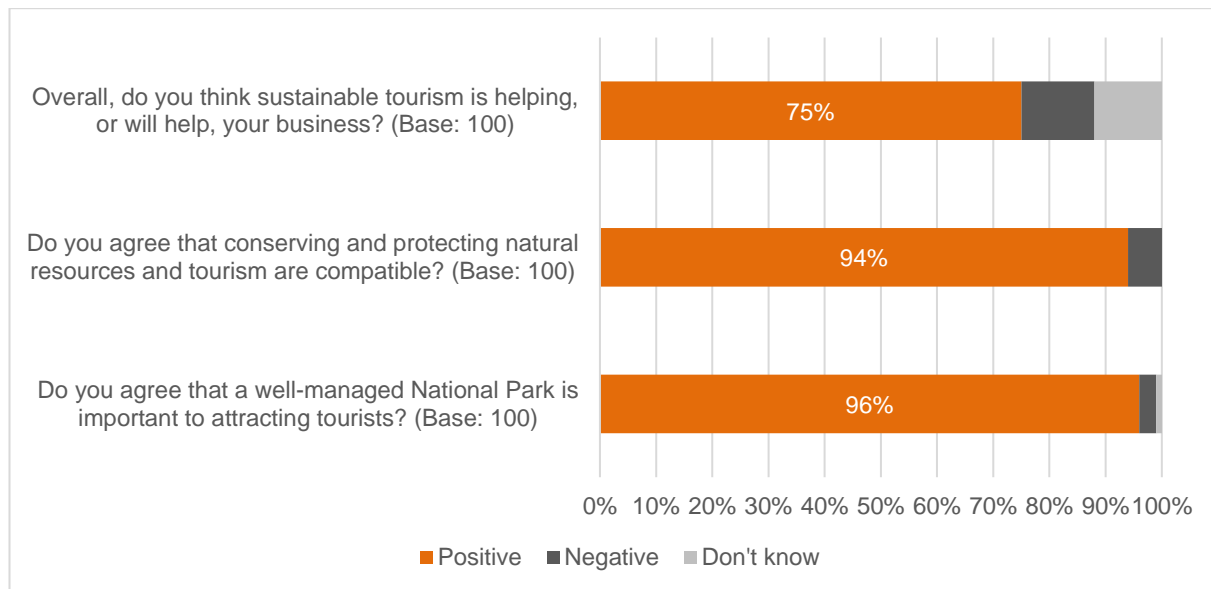
Cynllun Eryri sets out a broad ambition to address sustainable tourism, but this is yet to be translated into a clear vision with tangible outcomes that partners are fully signed up to deliver

- 9 Cynllun Eryri (the Plan) is the statutory management plan for Eryri National Park. Alongside the Local Development Plan, it is a key document which provides the strategic policy framework for Eryri National Park Authority (the Authority) and its partners over its five-year lifecycle (2020-25). In 2020 we reported that the Authority had established an effective partnership-led approach in developing the Plan and was well-placed to build on this foundation in future.⁴ Formally adopted in autumn 2020, it details one of the Authority's key outcomes – to achieve “sustainable tourism principles” by 2025. This is one of seven long-term outcomes set out in the Plan and a challenge that, if not tackled effectively, could lead to an adverse impact on the special qualities⁵ of the National Park.
- 10 The Authority uses the United Nations World Tourism Organisation's definition of sustainable tourism (see **Exhibit 1**). Officers and Members demonstrated a clear and consistent understanding of this definition, in particular the importance of ensuring that the visitor economy benefits the well-being of the people, environment, language and culture of the local area. This broad understanding of sustainable tourism is reflected in the views of tourism businesses we surveyed. **Exhibit 3** suggests that tourism businesses strongly value the role of a sustainable visitor economy in helping to support their business.

⁴ [Review of involvement – Eryri National Park Authority, February 2020](#)

⁵ All of the National Parks in Wales, Scotland and England have a clearly defined list of 'Special Qualities'. They set out what makes the area special and unique. The combination of these Special Qualities are at the core of the area's designation as a National Park. The nine qualities that make Eryri special are listed in [Cynllun Eryri \(page 26\)](#).

Exhibit 3: tourism businesses in Eryri demonstrate a good appreciation of the benefits of a sustainable visitor economy



Source: Audit Wales survey of tourism businesses, February 2022

- 11 Despite an agreed definition of sustainable tourism, we found weaknesses in the Authority’s plans to improve the sustainability of the visitor economy, and the measures to be used to judge and evaluate its work. Translating its broad ambition into a clear vision, underpinned by an action plan, therefore remains a work in progress for the Authority.
- 12 Senior leaders also acknowledge the Authority needs to refine and clarify its own ambitions in light of the pressures experienced during the pandemic. Progressing this is important to ensure officers focus on making the best contribution towards achieving meaningful outcomes and for Members’ ability to monitor performance and demonstrate value for money. This is not helped by some significant operational challenges facing the Authority.
- 13 For example, officers described some significant infrastructure improvements needed to better manage the impact of visitors travelling by car, especially around the most popular attractions within the National Park and during the peak seasons. As the local Planning Authority, the Local Development Plan and adopted supplementary planning guidance, such as developing Visitor Accommodation, provide a framework to inform decisions on developments which support sustainable tourism.
- 14 More broadly, however, the Authority has neither the power nor capacity to directly control or solely deliver the significant infrastructure changes needed to help achieve sustainable tourism. Yet, through the Environment Act 1995, it is charged with conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of

the National Park⁶, so doing nothing is not an option. This challenge is not unique to Eryri. **Appendix 2** sets out the common national messages highlighted through our reviews across all three National Park Authorities.

The Authority uses strategic partnerships to drive its work on sustainable tourism but needs to better demonstrate the impact of its work

- 15 Given the limitations in its remit and resources to directly manage tourism, it is not surprising to find the Authority building on its strong culture of partnership working to shape and deliver its ambitions around sustainable tourism. Gwynedd Council is the lead Destination Management Organisation locally and its destination brand 'Eryri: Mynyddoedd a Môr'⁷ extends into the Conwy valley to cover the entirety of the National Park. The Authority is considered a key partner in the process of reviewing and developing a new Destination Management Plan for the area. Its involvement is underpinned by a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Authority and Gwynedd Council, adopted by both parties in November 2021. Partners such as Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council are also statutorily obliged to have regard to the Authority's purposes in all their work in the National Park⁸.
- 16 Officers we interviewed describe positive collaboration through this partnership framework. The formalised structure with Gwynedd Council – the Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership – has three key strands:
- Strategic Board – involving Elected Members and senior officers;
 - Steering Group – provides oversight and direction to the implementation group, and reports on performance to the strategic board;
 - Implementation Group – currently focused on research, governance and engagement activities.
- 17 Through this partnership a number of engagement events have taken place to jointly agree new principles for a sustainable visitor economy. Much of the activity undertaken by the Authority and its partners through the Implementation Group (prior to the MoU being formalised) remains at the 'exploring and informing' stage. Examples include:
- making the landscape more accessible to non-car-based visitors and enabling those arriving by car to access the area and its attractions by alternative means. This involves learning from and building on the online booking pilot for car parking at Pen y Pass, where officers note a reduction in visitors driving up to the car park. It also involves engagement with key

⁶ [Environment Act 1995](#)

⁷ [Eryri: Mynyddoedd a Môr – Visit Snowdonia website](#)

⁸ [Environment Act 1995 – Section 62](#)

gateway communities to ascertain their appetite to see more infrastructure being put in place to reduce visitors' dependency on cars.

- gathering data and research on the socio-economic impact of tourism on the area and how it compares to other areas across the region, including developing metrics based on STEAM⁹ data.
- surveying residents and visitors to understand different views on the National Park as a destination.

18 Despite this positive activity, weaknesses in the Authority's collaborative performance monitoring arrangements limit its ability to demonstrate impact. Whilst it has established shared platforms for partners to report on actions completed in line with certain commitments within partnership structures such as Fforwm Eryri, accountability arrangements would be improved by establishing meaningful outcomes, SMART objectives and performance indicators.

19 Without a clearly defined 'end goal', the Authority cannot effectively demonstrate how it is influencing partners to deliver against its purposes and key outcomes. At present, we conclude that the Authority is too focused on actions and outputs, rather than demonstrating how its actions contribute to a bigger picture. The Authority needs to address this or risks perceiving new partnerships as outcomes in their own right.

The Authority is focused on developing a shared understanding of a sustainable visitor economy but cannot yet demonstrate its ability to influence and manage the impact of tourism

20 Influencing people's behaviours is not easy. Officers and Members we interviewed described the first lockdown in 2020 as the first time in many years that local communities and the natural environment experienced a much-needed fire break without tourists. The pressures seen during the re-opening periods in the summers of 2020 and 2021 were felt to be even starker as a result, despite visitor numbers having been increasing prior to the pandemic (for example, increasing by 15% between 2015 and 2020¹⁰).

21 The UNWTO's definition of sustainable tourism (**Exhibit 1**) focuses on four key elements, highlighting the importance of addressing the needs of visitors, the tourism industry, the environment and host communities. Addressing all four is a delicate balancing act, with too much focus on any single element likely to be at the expense of others. Whilst our survey suggests the Authority has more to do to

⁹ STEAM stands for Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor. It is a tourism economic modelling tool that provides destinations with annual tourism data on areas such as visitor numbers, spending, overnight stays, numbers employed in the tourism sector and the economic impact of tourism.

¹⁰ [STEAM data – Visitor Numbers – Eryri National Park Authority](#)

engage the local tourism industry, we found it to be on a stronger footing in understanding the needs of local communities. We found positive examples of the Authority seeking to engage local communities, through its consultation to inform its recovery planning during the reopening period in 2020.

The Authority is exploring how to prevent problems from escalating whilst reacting to short-term issues

- 22 The Authority's current use of resources to address sustainable tourism is focused on a mix of preventative and reactive measures. It has invested in posts to explore ways of addressing the root causes of what it considers to be an increasingly unsustainable visitor economy. Meanwhile, it must also continue to mitigate and respond to the short-term impacts of growing visitor pressures.
- 23 The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales (the Commissioner) defines prevention as 'working in partnership to co-produce the best outcomes possible, utilising the strengths and assets people and places have to contribute'. The Commissioner has broken down preventative activities into four different levels:
- **Primary prevention:** building resilience: creating the conditions in which problems do not arise in the future. A universal approach.
 - **Secondary prevention:** targeting action towards areas where there is a high risk of a problem occurring. A targeted approach, which cements the principles of progressive universalism (a determination to provide support for all, giving everyone and everything a voice and vested interest, but which recognises more support will be required by those people or areas with greater needs).
 - **Tertiary prevention:** intervening once there is a problem, to stop it getting worse and prevent it reoccurring in the future. An intervention approach.
 - **Acute spending:** spending which acts to manage the impact of a strongly negative situation but does little or nothing to prevent problems occurring in the future¹¹.
- 24 Using the Commissioner's criteria, we have categorised the proactive work undertaken by the Sustainable Tourism Manager, Sustainable Tourism Officer and the wider engagement team as broadly focusing on secondary prevention. For example:
- Llysgennad Eryri and wider business and public engagement initiatives to increase awareness of how to behave in the National Park;
 - undertaking research and analysing data to better understand the socio-economic impact of tourism on the special qualities of the National Park, and
 - nurturing and servicing new and existing partnerships with key stakeholders.

¹¹ [Budget process and preventative spend, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales website](#)

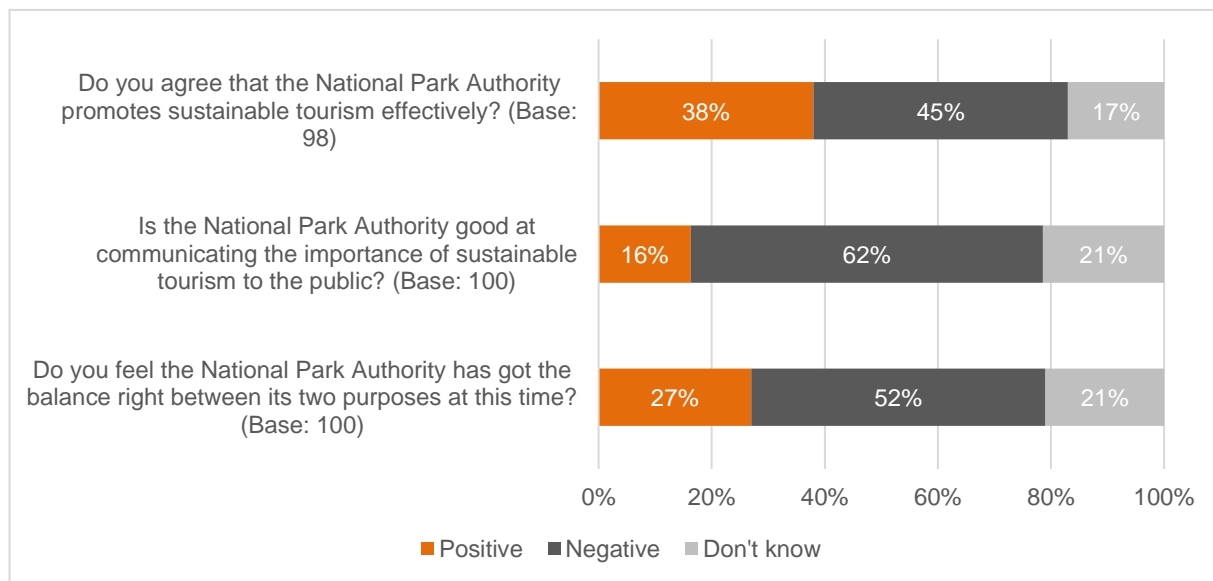
- 25 Tertiary prevention examples in the context of sustainable tourism include the positive work being undertaken through the Wyddfa Partnership place plan, including initiatives such as the Wyddfa Di-blastig project and the Pen y Pass car parking pilot.

Despite a clear focus on prevention, this is not making a significant contribution to changing visitor behaviour and the work of tourist businesses

- 26 Given the Authority's limited enforcement powers, it relies heavily on 'softer tools' such as communication, engagement and involvement to influence behaviours. Officers we interviewed demonstrated a good understanding of the need to engage visitors as early as possible to have the best chance of succeeding in ensuring they behave respectfully when visiting the area. During the pandemic, examples of communication campaigns such as **#CynllunioCanfodCaru** promoted messages of respect for the National Park and its host communities. Through its social media channels, the Authority sought to target audiences in areas such as the northwest of England to encourage better planning ahead of visiting. By aligning its messaging with key partners such as Gwynedd Council, other National Park Authorities in Wales, the National Trust and Natural Resources Wales, we found this to be a good example of a co-ordinated campaign to extend reach and ensure consistent communications.
- 27 National Park Authorities experienced a new audience and a different challenge during the pandemic. Traditionally, many of those visiting a National Park may have been repeat visitors and people who chose to visit the area because of its designation and special qualities. Conversely, during the pandemic, many of those who visited Wales' National Parks did so because they could not holiday abroad. Officers describe a lack of experience and understanding amongst visitors of what it means to visit a National Park, but that people visited in big numbers. This offered a lifeline for many local tourism businesses who struggled as a result of COVID-19.
- 28 For the Authority, however, it made the delicate balancing act between its two statutory purposes and duty even trickier. **Exhibit 4** suggests the Authority has more to do to effectively communicate to manage the impact of tourism given the low levels of satisfaction expressed by tourist businesses.

Exhibit 4: tourism businesses' views on the Authority's approach to promoting sustainable tourism

Few tourist businesses believe the Authority is effectively promoting and communicating the importance of sustainable tourism.



Source: Audit Wales survey of tourism businesses, February 2022

- 29 We found that the Authority had good structures in place to capture feedback from front line staff dealing with visitors, for instance wardens and visitor centre staff, during the pandemic. Officers described the benefit of closer working relationships with colleagues across the organisation through regular internal meetings, which helped to ensure staff remained abreast of key communication messages. The additional seasonal wardens, funded through Welsh Government grants, also bolstered the Authority's capacity to react to issues on the ground during the pandemic.
- 30 Volunteers play an important role in managing tourism and the Authority has good links to support access to volunteering opportunities through organisations such as Cymdeithas Eryri. The Authority has also launched Llysgennad Eryri – an Ambassadors Scheme which helps to deliver against the Welsh Government's ambition for National Park Authorities to proactively engage with tourism providers¹².
- 31 Llysgennad Eryri has been developed for the local tourism industry but offers training to anyone wishing to learn more about the National Park¹³. The online

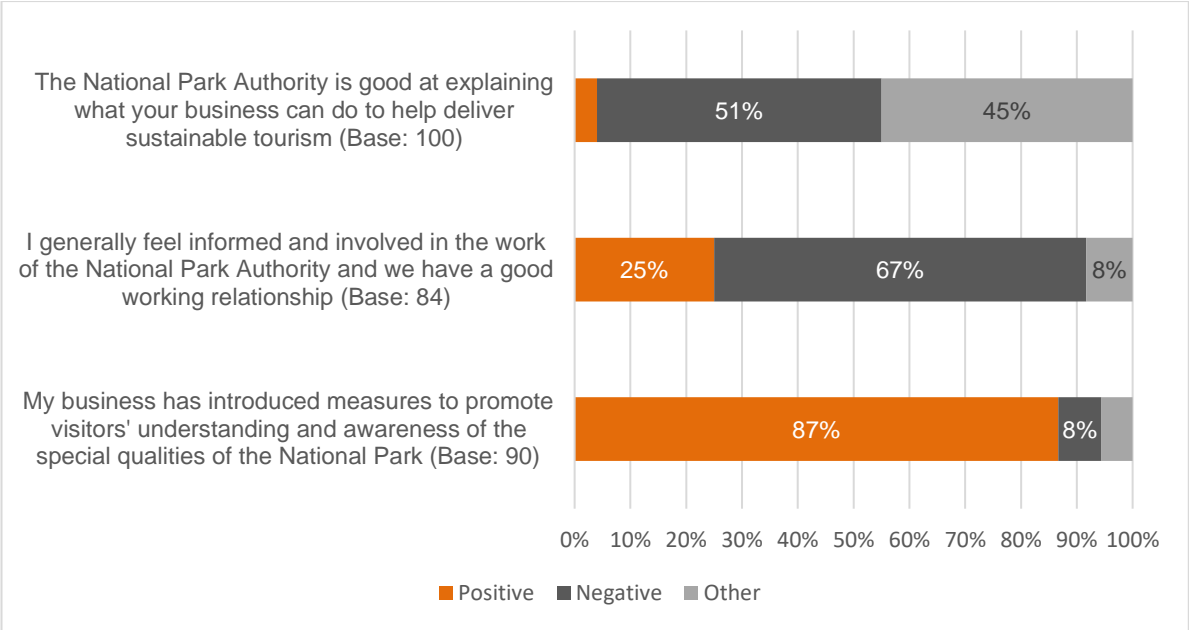
¹² [Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government's Priorities for Areas of outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks, July 2018.](#)

¹³ [Llysgennad Eryri, Ambassadors Wales website](#)

training programme includes 12 modules that reflect the National Park’s special qualities. It was launched in November 2020 and there are now over 400 ambassadors who have completed the necessary modules to achieve the gold standard. Practically, the Authority cannot possibly reach all visitors directly through their communication platforms, so having over 400 others trained to have a detailed understanding of how to conserve and respect the National Park, and able to relay those messages to visitors, is a powerful tool. Whilst it is difficult to measure the impact of its business engagement on visitor awareness and behaviours, Llysgennad Eryri includes refresher courses to help ensure ambassadors’ information is kept up to date, and the Authority can monitor attainment and progression throughout the different training modules.

32 Despite the positive work of Llysgennad Eryri, **Exhibit 5** shows a mixed picture in terms of business views on feeling involved in the work of the Authority and working differently as a result.

Exhibit 5: tourism businesses’ views on their sense of involvement in the Authority’s work



Source: Audit Wales survey of tourism businesses, February 2022

Appendix 1

Methodology

To inform our overall conclusions we explored the following lines of enquiry:

- Does the Authority have the right vision, resources and systems in place to effectively promote and manage sustainable tourism?
- Is the Authority influencing behaviour of key stakeholders to promote and manage the impact of tourism?

We undertook the review during the autumn of 2021. Our methods included:

- Consolidating our cumulative audit knowledge and experience.
- A survey of National Park tourism businesses promoted via Visit Wales. Across Wales, 281 businesses responded to our survey. Of these, 204 were located within, or operate mainly within, the boundaries of a Welsh National Park and 107 were based in Eryri. The data presented in this report focuses on the responses specific to Eryri.
- Reviewing data and key documents.
- Interviewing 11 officers and two Members at the Authority.
- Interviewing key officers in partner organisations including Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council.
- Keeping in regular contact with the Land, Nature and Forestry Division in Welsh Government.

Appendix 2

A national perspective: sustainable tourism in National Parks across Wales

While people visit the National Parks for many reasons, typically recreational use and admiration of natural beauty, these Parks also house irreplaceable ecosystems and living, breathing communities. Tourism is often therefore described as a problematic contradiction; where tourism attracts visitors, economic benefits, and educates the public, but their presence can pose a risk to the protection of the cultural and natural sites in a National Park. With the growing rate of tourism in National Parks, sustainable tourism – finding ways to encourage tourism growth while still preserving the culture and biodiversity of these areas – has become ever more important.

Through our work, we know that the National Park Authorities collectively possess many years' experience of managing large numbers of visitors. They employ a range of staff who engage with visitors on a day-to-day basis, enhancing visitors' experiences, and helping to promote the importance of people enjoying but not adversely impacting on the natural environment. Despite this positive work, in the course of our reviews of sustainable tourism, we found some issues of concern that are common to all three National Park Authorities.

National Parks in Wales have to balance encouraging tourism with conserving the natural environment

The three National Parks have two statutory purposes and a statutory duty. The purposes and duty form the basis of all the work undertaken by each Authority and are the starting point for the plans and strategies they develop – **Exhibit 6**.

Exhibit 6 – the Statutory Purposes and duty of Welsh National Park Authorities

Statutory Purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park.• To promote opportunities for public enjoyment and understanding of the special qualities of the National Park.
Statutory Duty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To foster the economic and social wellbeing of communities living within the National Park

Source: 1995 Environment Act

The three National Park Authorities play an important role in managing the environment and encouraging visitors to enjoy the outdoors

It is estimated that the three Welsh National Parks are visited by 12 million people each year. Annually, three quarters of the population of Wales make a visit to a National Park benefiting from the great outdoors.

Recreation and tourism are important for both the local economy and for people's health and wellbeing. In addition, the National Parks also need to balance these requirements with their responsibilities for the preservation of land, animals, and habitats. If there is a conflict between these two purposes, greater weight is given to conservation than recreation.

All three Authorities recognised that COVID-19 and COP26 have brought the nature crisis into sharp focus – National Parks are now visited more than they ever have been in the past, but increased visitor numbers damage the biodiversity and unique environments of National Parks. Intrinsicly, balancing the needs of the two purposes is difficult and all National Park Authorities told us they struggle with this.

Respondents to our survey of tourism businesses located within Welsh National Parks told us that Authorities' have some clear strengths. These include conserving and protecting the natural environment; promoting the 'national – Welsh' role of Parks; and promoting activities and options when visiting the National Park area such as walking routes.

Tourist businesses mostly value the work of the National Parks but do not think they have got the balance right between their two statutory purposes

Tourism businesses we surveyed were also positive about the work of the National Park Authorities. For instance:

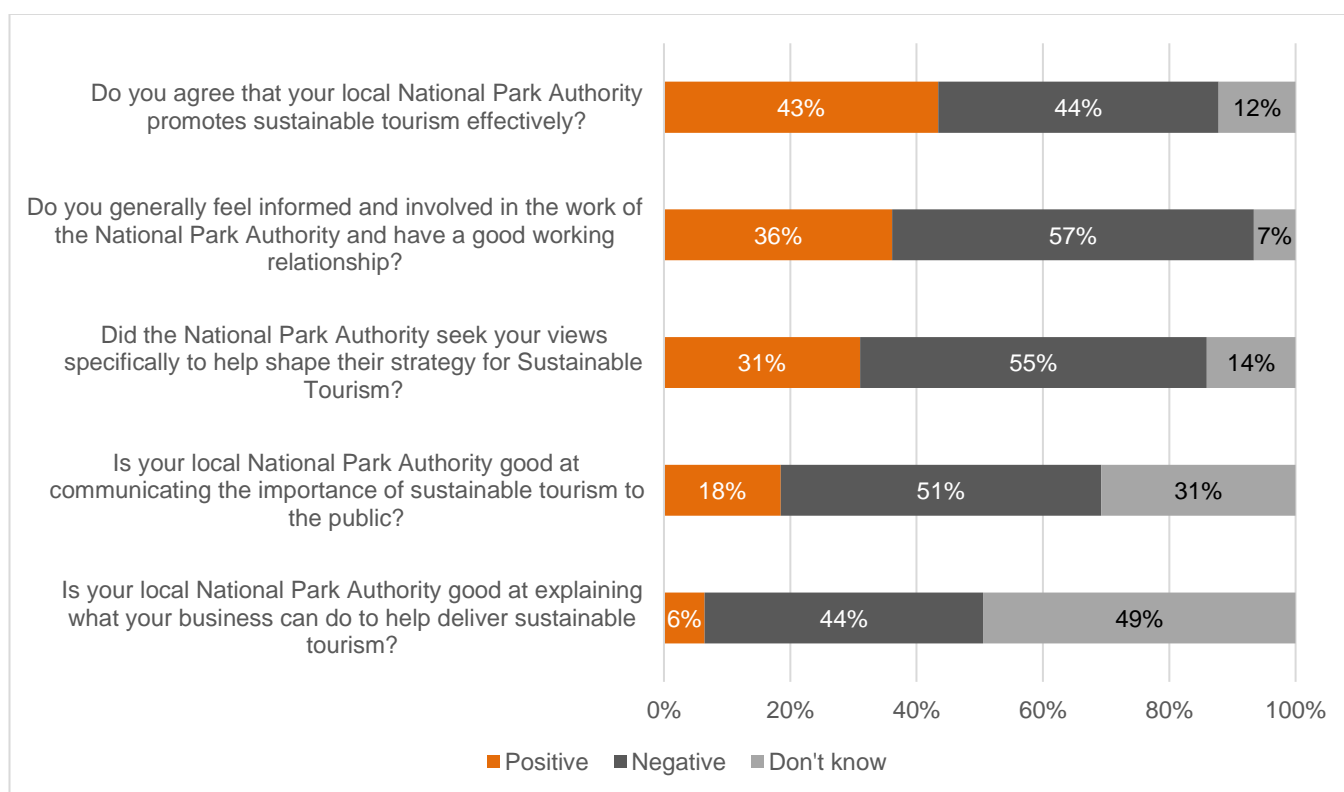
- 95% of those who responded to our survey agree or strongly agree that a well-managed National Park is important to attracting tourists;
- 92% of businesses also agree or strongly agree that conserving and protecting natural resources and tourism are compatible; and
- 72% of businesses think sustainable tourism is helping, or will help, their business.

However, only 29% of survey respondents agree that their local National Park Authority has got the balance right between protecting the natural environment and promoting enjoyment of the National Park at this time.

Our survey of tourism businesses indicates there is room for improvement in how National Park Authorities engage with the private sector (**Exhibit 7**). Just 31% of businesses responding to our survey stated that their local National Park Authority sought their views specifically to help shape their strategy for sustainable tourism. Around a third of businesses feel informed and involved in the work of the National Park and have a good working relationship with their local National Park Authority.

In addition, roughly half of businesses do not think that their local National Park Authority is good at explaining what businesses can do to help deliver sustainable tourism. Only 43% agree or strongly agree that their local National Park Authority promotes sustainable tourism effectively. Just 18% believe that their local National Park Authority is good at communicating the importance of sustainable tourism to the public – **Exhibit 7**.

Exhibit 7: tourism businesses’ views on the National Park Authorities’ approach to sustainable tourism



Source: Audit Wales Survey of Welsh Tourist Businesses, February 2022¹⁴

Most tourist businesses seek to work sustainably and recognise the value of sustainable tourism

As well as promoting sustainable tourism, it is important that businesses also work in a sustainable way. Today’s tourists are more aware of their actions and the environmental and social impacts they can have. So, they want to see more businesses actively doing something. Sustainable practices will also save money in the long run. Our survey found that:

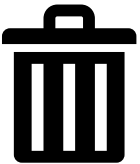
¹⁴ We received 281 responses to our survey. In respect of these specific questions, 280 responded to the first; 224 the second; 277 the third; 276 the fourth; and 279 the fifth.



Over 80% of the businesses we surveyed promote visitors' understanding and awareness of the special qualities of the National Park



Roughly 70% of businesses we surveyed promote local culture and heritage – eg encouraging use of the Welsh language



Over 80% of tourist businesses we surveyed seek to reduce landfill waste and increase recycling



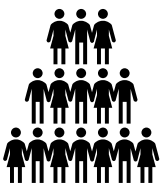
Just under 80% of tourist businesses we surveyed seek to reduce energy use



Just under 60% of tourist businesses we surveyed seek to reduce or conserve use of water



Just over 30% of tourist businesses we surveyed generate their own green energy



82% of tourist businesses we surveyed hire mainly (50%) local people (By local, we mean people who live within 15 miles of the business)



60% of tourist businesses we surveyed source the majority (75%) of their supplies from local producers (By local we mean within 30 miles of the business)

National Park Authorities do not have the resources or powers to control or influence the numbers visiting, nor their behaviour and impact

Historically, National Park Authorities have not had a direct role in promoting tourism and marketing their destinations. And proportionally, they own very little land. They are one of many players within their area that have a role in tourism and protecting the environment. Too many of the strategic levers for sustainable tourism are vested in organisations and bodies who do not share the same vision or responsibilities for protecting the environment of the National Parks.

For instance, the funding and remit of National Park Authorities does not cover the direct marketing of tourism within National Parks and only Brecon Beacons National Park Authority is a destination management organisation. Both Pembrokeshire Coast and Eryri work with the local bodies who lead on this agenda: Visit Pembrokeshire and Gwynedd Council respectively. To be successful therefore, the Authorities primarily focus on influencing what others do, but this is not easy and often not straightforward.

After two years of lockdowns and restrictions, tourist businesses are naturally keen to encourage visitors and benefit economically from an increase in tourism. This can however stress local infrastructure and create unintended problems of fly tipping, irresponsible car parking on verges, an increased risk of accidents, growing anti-social behaviour and a negative impact on local communities in each of the National Parks.

Our reports on sustainable tourism in all three National Park Authorities in Wales emphasise the importance of each Authority communicating responsible use of the Parks to the public. To be most effective, this should be supported at a national level by the Welsh Government and relevant organisations such as National Resources Wales working together with the three National Park Authorities.

All three National Parks highlighted ongoing and long-standing problems with the local infrastructure in their areas, especially public transport, car parking, integrated active travel routes and responding to anti-social behaviour. Many of the statutory responsibilities for responding in these matters are however vested in partners, most notably local authorities and/or the Police, or private landowners, and there is often little that Authorities themselves can directly do.

However, other public bodies are often unable to respond effectively and consistently due to resource and other pressures. And many private landowners focus as much, if not more, on generating income rather than managing the impact of tourism on the local environment. The limitations in the statutory responsibilities of National Park Authorities mean that these matters often go unchecked and continue to cause problems, particularly in local communities. With year-on-year growth in tourism it is clear that this problem will be exacerbated.

All three National Park Authorities told us that the Welsh Government's annual funding cycle does not allow for long-term planning of, and investment into, infrastructure which supports sustainable tourism.



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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.

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Chair, Snowdonia National Park Authority
National Park Office
Penrhyndeudraeth
Gwynedd
LL48 6LF

9 May 2022

Term of Government Remit Letter for Snowdonia National Park Authority

Our Programme for Government outlines the Government's priorities and its commitments to the people of Wales. I firmly believe our National Park Authorities have a key role to play in helping us deliver for the people of Wales. In particular, you should align your work with key Wellbeing Objectives, including:

- **Build an economy based on the principles of fair work, sustainability and the industries and services of the future**
- **Build a stronger, greener economy as we make maximum progress towards decarbonisation**
- **Embed our response to the climate and nature emergency in everything we do**
- **Celebrate diversity and move to eliminate inequality in all of its forms**
- **Push forward towards a million Welsh speakers, and enable our tourism, sports and arts industries to thrive**
- **Make our cities, towns and villages even better places in which to live and work**

In particular, I want to see National Parks become exemplars in responding to the climate and nature emergency. You are uniquely placed to engage with the communities within your boundaries to develop solution which deliver benefits for people and the environment.

The National Parks are home to agricultural communities who have worked in and shaped the landscapes around them for millennia. Sustainable farming is an intrinsic part of our landscape and can underpin many of the policy aims set out in this letter. I would like to see you work with Welsh Government as it develops its approaches to sustainable farming to support farmers to take actions that lead to the National Parks being more biodiverse areas, with appropriate afforestation and habitat restoration, alongside food production.

As part of our response to tackling the nature emergency I have committed to achieving the 30x30 target. Landscape scale designations such as National Parks will play an important part in achieving the target, but they are not currently managed effectively for biodiversity as a result of their original designation. I will be holding a deep dive focussing on the effective implementation of the 30x30 target in early 2022-23. I would like the NPAs to participate in

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

this process so we can consider what actions are needed to scale up delivery for biodiversity across these designations. Following the deep dive, I would of course also expect you to work together to deliver on the agreed actions; this can be facilitated by the new collaborative Biodiversity posts I have agreed to support

Tourism is another area where I see National Parks playing a key role. Our ambition is to 'grow tourism for the good of Wales'. People choose to visit Wales to enjoy our superb natural environment, as well as to experience our culture, including the Welsh language. The role of Park Authorities in supporting the management of visitors to ensure communities are able to benefit from tourism, and minimising the negative impacts for people and the environment, is critical.

It has been evident how the demands placed on local infrastructure can harm the experience of visitors and put a strain on the relationship with local communities. NPAs have played an important leadership role during the recent pandemic and I expect this to continue as we emerge from the pandemic. I would like to convey my thanks to you for the important work you have undertaken in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. I also appreciate the collaborative approach NPAs have taken with other bodies and with Welsh Government teams during the pandemic. This is something I would like to see us build upon in the future.

In our Programme for Government we have committed to establishing a new National Park in north-east Wales, and I would like you to support the process as needed.

It is my intention that our relationship will continue to be based on mutual trust and respect, and on open and honest communication. Through an effective working partnership, the Authority can flourish, and we can maximise your impact for people and the environment. Your status as a special purpose Authority gives you considerable operational independence, and, of course, you must at all times be guided by your statutory purposes. I fully expect you to continue to look for ways to reach the very highest standards of governance and we are keen to support you in that where appropriate. In particular I would like to see you implement best practice and any recommendations that emerge from the thematic work being carried out by Audit Wales and do more to promote diversity, making maximum use of the new Inclusion, Diversity and Governance Excellence Strategic lead.

In line with the Framework Document, which underpins the relationship between NPAs and the Welsh Government, you should now review your business plans to set out how you will deliver against the areas outlined in this letter and its appendices. We will, of course, need to monitor progress against these priorities over the course of this government, in a way that is appropriate to your local context. I would like you to work with my officials to identify a small number of appropriate indicators that will effectively monitor progress against these priorities. This data, coupled with a short narrative report, will form the basis of regular discussions through the course of this term of government. Through this we will be able to satisfy ourselves, Audit Wales, and the wider public, that we are truly delivering, and where we do hit difficulties work together to overcome them.

This Term of Government letter is designed to provide you with a clear framework within which to work for the coming years, I have outlined the key deliverables for you in relation to the Programme for Government in Annex A. The strategic context for the NPAs is ambitious and evolving and the key considerations have been captured in Annex B.

As well as this Term of Government letter setting out our aspirations over the coming years, I will also issue you with a shorter grant letter confirming your annual budget allocation.

There is much to do, but I am convinced that my portfolio can make a positive and lasting difference to people's lives in Wales. I look forward to working with you to achieve this.

Yours sincerely,



Julie James AS/MS
Minister for Climate Change

(cc Emyr Williams, Chief Executive Officer)

ANNEX A: Priority Objectives and Actions for the Senedd term

My priorities have been grouped according to four themes of action: ***Environment; People and Place; Governance and Planning Excellence***, and ***Collaboration***.

Environment

NRW's State of Natural Resources Report (SoNARR) 2020 together with its Protected Sites Baseline report 2020 present a stark picture. Most habitat types have seen a reduction in diversity over the last 100 years, with the rate of decline increasing from the 1970s onwards. Very few Welsh habitats are reported as being in good condition. Despite the protection designation affords, it is not thought that protected sites within National Parks are in significantly better condition than those outside. That is something we must change. As a government, we are committed to halting and reversing the decline in nature in Wales, contributing positively to the international agenda in this regard.

Our ambition is for the Welsh public sector to be collectively net zero by 2030. You have already made good progress in reducing your emissions as organisations, and I expect this to continue. You must also continue to look beyond your own organisations to the wider environment, communities and visitors. I welcome the commissioning of baseline research to guide you in a more strategic way in your role as drivers of change. There will be a range of interventions – carbon capture through peatland and woodland restoration and creation, decarbonisation of housing, and renewable energy. All should play a part.

I would therefore like you to:

- Actively support Welsh Government's commitment to achieving a zero-carbon economy by working to become carbon neutral by 2030 through your everyday work and a range of decarbonisation interventions
- Support a shift away from private car use to more sustainable transport modes for the majority of journeys amongst staff, visitors and service users in order to meet the target of 45% of journeys being undertaken by sustainable modes by 2040
- Proactively help facilitate carbon sequestration including by supporting delivery of woodland creation where appropriate and our aim to strengthen the protection of ancient woodlands, and increase engagement in the National Forest programme
- Take action to improve the connectivity, condition, scale/extent and diversity of ecosystems, and maintain and enhance resilient ecological networks, embedding delivery in emerging national targets arising from the 30x30 commitment
- Support the National Peatland Action Programme (NPAP) that has been designed to restore, enhance and maintain resilient ecological networks, tackle climate change and manage water. You should work with NRW to address the NPAP themes, including the priority actions and cross-cutting themes.
- Support the PfG commitment to establish a targeted scheme to support restoration of seagrass and saltmarsh habitats along our coastline, help deliver the ambitions of the Marine Protected Area Network Management Framework and contribute to emerging policy on blue carbon.
- the Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places Capital Fund, and other WG schemes to deliver on nature and decarbonisation goals

- Engage actively in Local Energy Planning to help bring about the transformation of the energy system needed to reach Net Zero, securing greater benefits for your communities
- Engaging positively in initiatives to promote reuse and repair, to grow the circular economy, and reduce the harm caused to the environment by single use plastics through discouraging their use wherever possible.

People and Place

During the pandemic, green and open spaces have given people respite and opportunities to breathe freely. However it has been evident that the demands placed on local infrastructure can harm the experience of visitors and strain relationships with local communities. I want you to continue seeking to encourage participation in an environmentally, economically and culturally sensitive way, and advocate for sustainable solutions where tensions and issues arise. I welcome the recent work undertaken to enable more strategic sustainable transport solutions and would like you to continue to work with Local Authorities and Transport for Wales for this to be a continued focus for action.

National Parks have some of the most acute housing problems in Wales. Concerns around second homes, temporary and permanent holiday lets, increased prices and lack of affordable stock have all placed great pressure on your communities. It is essential our Parks are home to living, working communities; I believe visitors also wish to see this. We have committed to take forward actions to control the number of second homes, bring more homes into common ownership, and licence holiday lets. NPAs can influence this agenda through their work as Local Planning Authorities and should work with the Housing Authority, local communities and developers to make more affordable houses available.

The long term sustainability of many of our most sensitive landscape areas and their communities is also intertwined with Welsh language and culture; I would like to see you continuing to deliver our commitment to achieve a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

I would therefore like you to:

- Contribute to the co-design and implementation of the Sustainable Farming Scheme
- Contribute, where appropriate, to the PfG commitment to establish a Community Food Strategy to encourage the production and supply of locally-sourced food
- Work with Housing Authorities, Community Land Trusts and private developers, to develop innovative solutions to acute housing issues, and contribute to the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan
- Working with partners such as Local Authorities and Transport for Wales, implement solutions to the pressures of visitors on local infrastructure, including more sustainable transport systems, and communication campaigns to ensure responsible recreation. You must balance that with the importance of tourism to our economy, and the role you play at the heart of this in meeting the needs of visitors. You should be guided in this by the recommendations and findings of the recent work by Audit Wales on sustainable tourism.

- Support the designation of inland bathing waters and deployment of Sustainable Drainage Systems
- Engage with the development of the proposed all-Wales framework for social prescribing
- Collaborate with key partners to deliver against *Priorities for the Historic Environment in Wales* to safeguard and interpret the historic environment and cultural heritage.
- Develop policies that ensure that the Welsh language is able to thrive, delivering against *Cymraeg 2050: Our plan for 2021 to 2026*
- Increase engagement in opportunities for people in vulnerable or disadvantaged groups and under-represented communities to benefit from the landscapes you manage
- Increase provision of skills training, apprenticeship and volunteering opportunities.

Excellence in Governance and Planning

I greatly value the contributions made by both Local Authority and Welsh Government appointees to the NPAs. When it works well, the local and community based perspective of LA appointees complements the more national, 'big picture' perspective bought by Ministerial appointees.

NPAs already have a robust scrutiny structure through the work of Audit Wales, internal audit and the ongoing monitoring arrangements with Welsh Government. There are several areas where we can do more work collectively to support NPA members, to ensure they can contribute as effectively as possible. That will include, but not be limited to, improving the support provided by the Welsh Government to the Members we appoint to National Park Authorities.

As Planning Authorities NPAs are unique planning entities with a specific remit to reflect the distinctive characteristics of their areas and have a key role in both discharging statutory responsibilities but also, with the new Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) now established, contributing to shaping strategic decision-making at a regional scale. Active engagement in the preparation of Strategic Development Plans with local authorities and national parks formally working together is the best way for regions to meet the strategic challenges and opportunities they face and provide a strong framework for Local Development Plans; the statutory duty of NPAs should inform the preparation of Strategic Development Plans.

I would therefore like you to:

- Actively participate in WLGA sector-led improvement and support programme
- Contribute to designing a revamped training package for NPA members and develop a co-ordinated approach to NPA training to share best practice
- Proactively promote the new protocol for Local Authorities in appointing NPA members, ahead of, during and after Local elections, emphasising experience and interest above political considerations as far as is possible within the current legislation
- Fully embrace a strengthened annual performance reporting system for WG appointees, and investigate how this be extended to Local Authority appointees

- Strive for excellence in governance including the sharing of best practice between NPAs, maximising use of the new Inclusion, Diversity and Governance Excellence Strategic lead (see below)
- Proactively contribute to setting local and regional planning policy, including through the CJC structure and through regional and national collaboration to implement the policies in Future Wales (with particular reference to Policy 9 and the requirement to secure resilient ecological networks and green infrastructure).

Collaboration

Previous reviews have identified the need for solutions that retain the local focus of National Park Authorities but that can punch above their weight by closer working arrangements. I am convinced that for our designated landscapes to punch above their weight in responding to our priorities we must ramp up our collaborative efforts. I am keen for the NPAs to collectively step up to this challenge and I am pleased to offer additional funding for this purpose.

In our Programme for Government we have committed to establishing a new National Park in north-east Wales, and I would like you to support the process as needed.

I would therefore like you to:

- Support Tirweddau Cymru (the National Designated Landscapes Partnership) to develop its ambition, embed collaborative working at all levels within NPAs and AONBs, help produce a strategic vision for action for 2022-24
- Implement a transformational tripartite agreement between NPAs to host a team of WG-funded Strategic Landscape Co-ordinators to work across our Parks and AONBs, and ensure the objectives and outputs of these posts are included within wider NPA monitoring arrangements and those of Tirweddau Cymru:
 - i. A **Nature Recovery and Carbon Sequestration Strategic Lead**, with a focus on all of the unimproved habitats and woodland and the biodiversity they contain inclusive of invasives, and opportunities for carbon reduction.
 - ii. A **Nature Recovery and Nutrient Management Strategic Lead**, with a focus on working soil management, riparian and marine matters from terrestrial activity, upland lake eutrophication, water /aquatic biosecurity to agricultural run-off issues, and support the development of Nutrient Management Boards.

Both posts would help:

- develop a strategic plan to respond to the nature and climate emergencies;
 - support the development of approaches to enable Designated Landscapes to transition to the new Sustainable Farming Scheme;
 - identify how Designated Landscapes can develop new partnerships and support wider Welsh Government priorities, and identify innovative funding streams.
- iii. An **Inclusion, Diversity and Governance Excellence Strategic lead** to work across all NPAs, hosted by one NPA. A key aspect of their work should also be to take bold steps to drive up diversity and equality– on Boards, your staffing profile, and

your visitors and support NPAs to meet the requirements of the socio-economic duty and increase contributions towards tackling child and rural poverty.

- Share experience and best practice as designation for a new National Park progresses.

ANNEX B: The Strategic Context

As well as meeting your statutory purposes, National Park Authorities have responsibilities within legislation designed specifically for Wales. We are unique in the UK in having legislation that puts sustainable development at the heart of decision making; I attach great importance to our legislative framework. **The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** continues to be an important driver for our wellbeing priorities and shared goals in Wales. The wellbeing objectives set out in the Programme for Government exist to support and enhance the delivery of these goals over this new term of government.

A resilient Wales

The National Assembly for Wales was the first Parliament in the world to declare a **climate emergency**. In March 2021 Senedd Cymru approved a net zero target for 2050. Net zero means balancing the greenhouse gas emissions with the amount of gases removed from the atmosphere. We also have interim targets for 2030 and 2040, and a series of 5-year carbon budgets: see <https://gov.wales/climate-change-targets-and-carbon-budgets>

Maintaining and enhancing resilient ecological networks has a role to play in mitigating the climate emergency and the decline in biodiversity, as set out in the refreshed Nature Recovery Action Plan. National Parks should also work with NRW through Area Statements to ensure plans and actions deliver our Natural Resources Policy.

Welsh Government has set out its commitment to achieving net zero emissions by 2050 and has published its All Wales Net Zero plan: [Working Together to Reach Net Zero](#) (2021-2025). Our ambition is that the public sector will be carbon neutral by 2030, leading the way in delivering a Net Zero Wales. To support this work we have published the [Public Sector Net Zero Reporting Guide](#) and the Public Sector Route-map will provide a clear framework for how the sector will achieve net zero by 2030.

As well as reducing emissions we also need to build resilience to the impacts of climate change to ensure we can continue to deliver our key public services. The Climate Change Committee recently published its third Climate Change Risk Assessment for the UK, which highlights a range of risks and opportunities for the environment, communities and businesses resulting from a changing climate. The Welsh Public Sector must demonstrate it has understood and taken account of the risks and opportunities in delivering its services.

In March 2021, Welsh Government published '[Beyond Recycling – a strategy to make the circular economy in Wales a reality](#)', which outlines our goals to become zero waste by 2050 and for making resource efficiency part of Welsh culture. Moving to a circular economy is essential to the delivery of key environmental actions.

Biodiversity underpins and drives the functioning of ecosystems and so, importantly, the Environment (Wales) Act includes the enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty which NPAs are subject to. **'30x30'** is one of the targets proposed for the post-2020 **biodiversity framework**. It is shorthand for a target to protect 30% of the world's land and 30% of the world's ocean by 2030. All administrations across the UK, have publically committed to supporting the 30x30 target.

The **National Forest for Wales** will comprise a nationwide network of publically accessible woodlands and forests under high quality management. It will involve improving management standards of existing woodlands and planting trees in previously unwooded areas, contributing to Welsh Government's target of planting 43,000 hectares of trees by 2030 and 180,000 hectares by 2050 to combat climate change. This project will take place over many decades and will be a lasting legacy for future generations. NPAs should work proactively with stakeholders at a national and local level; to support the National Forest and seek appropriate opportunities for woodland planting, informed by the Woodland Opportunity Map.

The new **Sustainable Farming Scheme** will maximise the protective power of nature through farming and will be key in protecting the environment for this generation and those to come. Future farm support will reward farmers who take action to meet the challenges of responding to the climate emergency and reversing the decline of biodiversity. We will work closely with Protected Landscapes bodies on how the scheme can support farmers to make improvements to the natural environment, cultural heritage and public access on their land.

A more equal Wales

The Programme for Government shows how we intend to eliminate inequality in all its forms. During this term of Government we will publish a new Race Equality Action Plan (REAP) for Wales, and an action plan for advancing LGBTQ+ equality in Wales. These action plans should be read alongside our Strategic Equality Plan, Gender Equality Plan and Framework for Action on Disability. They are designed to achieve sustained change in the short, medium and long term, and you should demonstrate a clear and pro-active response to achieving the goals set out in these plans. We are committed to reaching out to and engaging with Wales' vulnerable groups, ensuring Wales is an age-friendly nation, and that poverty, social disadvantage, ill health and disability should not be a barrier to participation.

The new Socio-economic Duty came into force on the 31 March 2021 and requires public bodies, including NPAs, to consider how their strategic actions can deliver better outcomes for those who experience socio-economic disadvantage. Under Part 1 of the [Children and Families \(Wales\) Measure 2010](#) you are also required to publish child poverty objectives.

A Healthier Wales

I would like to see all bodies engaging with new and diverse stakeholders, working with under-represented audiences and communities, and actively expressing the link between their work and the health and wellbeing of the people of Wales.

A Prosperous Wales

Wales' stunning landscapes feature prominently within marketing work aligned to the Cymru Wales tourism brand and Visit Wales, in its Tourism Strategy for Wales 2020-25, recognises their importance and fragility. That strategy advocates activity to address challenges around seasonality, encourage increased spend per head and improve the spread of benefits to areas that have capacity.

Our Economic Action Plan is based on the principle of public investment with a social purpose. Central to the Plan is the Economic Contract that requires those receiving investment from the Welsh Government to demonstrate inclusive growth, fair work, promotion of health (with a special emphasis on mental health), skills and learning in the workplace, and progress in reducing carbon footprint. Our commitment to fair work and

sustainability and the industries and services of the future includes delivering the young person's guarantee and a promise of creating 125,000 all age apprenticeships. You should seek opportunities to contribute to the Young Person's Guarantee and this ambitious target.

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language

The [Cymraeg 2050 strategy](#) continues to be an area of focus in our efforts to achieve the wellbeing goal of a thriving Welsh language, and of reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050. I expect the Welsh language to be thoroughly embedded in all that you do, celebrating bilingualism and enabling the people of Wales to use the language as part of their everyday lives. The results of the 2021 Census will be known during this term of Government, and we will update the Cymraeg 2050 work programme for the strategy, but the three main themes will remain – increasing the number of Welsh speakers and use of the Welsh language, and creating favourable conditions in which the language can thrive.

During this term of Government we will create and publish a new **cultural strategy** for Wales which will define our cultural priorities for the years ahead. NPAs are custodians of the historic environment and the built and cultural heritage within the Parks.

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	15 th June 2022
TITLE	APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON COMMITTEES, PANELS, WORKING GROUPS AND EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION
REPORT BY	Chief Executive
PURPOSE	To appoint Members for the forthcoming year

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Authority is invited to nominate Members to serve on its Committees, Panels, Working Groups, and to represent the Authority at meetings of other organisations for the forthcoming year. (Background information enclosed for Members).
- 1.2 All Committees, Panels and Working Groups are fully vacant with the exception of the Standards Committee whose Members are appointed for a 4-year term. Names of previous membership are included, for information only, to assist members.
- 1.3 Members are reminded that the constitution of Committees and Sub-Committees has been arranged so that the proportion of Local Authority to Welsh Government appointees is in the same proportion as on the Authority itself (2:1) as far as is practical having regard to whole numbers.

2. RECOMMENDATION

To appoint Members to serve on the following Committees, Panels, Working Groups and external organisations.

3. COMMITTEES

- i) **Planning and Access Committee** - All Authority Members
(8 meetings a year)
- ii) **Performance and Resources Committee** – All Authority Members
(3 meetings a year)

iii) **Standards Committee** (3 Authority Members – 4-year term of office)
(1 meeting a year)

Local Authority Appointees	(2)	1) Vacancy 2) Vacancy
Welsh Government Appointee	(1)	1) Mrs. Sarah Hattle
Independent Members	(3)	1) Mrs. Sharon Warnes 2) Mrs. Rachael Leah Jane Davies 3) Mr. Martin James Hughes

4. **PANEL**

i) **Single Status Grading Appeals Panel** (3 Members + 2 substitute Members)
(no scheduled meetings - to meet as required)

* (All Members should be drawn from the Standards Committee by the Standards Committee)

5. **WORKING GROUPS**

i) **Members Working Group** - All Authority Members
(8 meetings a year)

ii) **Local Joint Working Group** (4 Members)
(2 meetings a year)

Local Authority Appointees	(3)	1) Cllr. Ifor Glyn Lloyd 2) Cllr. Elwyn Edwards 3) Vacancy
Welsh Government Appointee	(1)	1) Mrs. Sarah Hattle
Trade Union Representatives	(4)	Apportioned in accordance with the Constitution of the Working Group

iii) **Yr Ysgwrn Management Board** (3 Authority Members)
(to meet as required)

Local Authority Appointees	(2)	1) Cllr. Elfed Powell Roberts 2) Cllr. Elwyn Edwards
Welsh Government Appointees	(1)	1) Vacancy

iv) **Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board** (3 Members)
(to meet as required)

Councillor **Vacancy**; Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones.

6. AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

i) **Celyn, Tegid and Tryweryn Advisory Conference** (4 Members) (to meet as required)

Local Authority Appointees (3) 1) Cllr. Elwyn Edwards
2) Cllr. Ifor Glyn Lloyd
3) **Vacancy**

Welsh Government Appointee (1) 1) Mr. Brian Angell

ii) **Forum Eryri** (5 Members) (4 meetings a year – every quarter)

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Local Authority Appointees (2) 1) **Vacancy**
2) Cllr. Ifor Glyn Lloyd

Welsh Government Appointee (1) 1) Mr. Brian Angell

iii) **Local Access Forums** (2 Members) (4 meetings a year – every quarter)

Southern Area Access Forum (1) 1) Cllr. John Pughe Roberts

Northern Area Access Forum (1) 1) Mr. Tim Jones

iv) **Eryri Equality Forum** (1 Member) Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd

7. TASK & FINISH GROUPS AND STEERING GROUPS

(i) **Assets Sub-Group** (6 Members) Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd + **2 Vacancies**; Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, **Vacancy**. (In Reserve: Mr. Tim Jones)

(ii) **Communication** (4 Members) Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd; Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones, **Vacancy**.

(iii) **Europarc Youth Manifesto Group** (3 Members) Councillors **Vacancy**, John Pughe Roberts; Ms. Tracey Evans.

(iv) **Traffic Management Task and Finish Group** (3 Members) Councillors John Pughe Roberts, Edgar Owen; Ms Tracey Evans.

- (v) **Carbon Account Steering Group** (3 Members)
Councillor John Pughe Roberts; Mr. Brian Angell, **Vacancy**.
- (vi) **Place Names Steering Group** (3 Members)
Councillors Elwyn Edwards + **2 Vacancies**.
- (vii) **New Welsh Language Promotion Strategy Steering Group** (3 Members)
A new steering group to be established for leading on the development of a new 5-year Welsh Language Promotion Strategy for the Authority.

8. OTHER BODIES

- i) **Trawsfynydd Site Stakeholder Group** (1 Member)
 - 1) Cllr. Elfed Powell Roberts
- ii) **Joint Council for Wales** (1 Member)
 - 1) **Vacancy**
- iii) **National Trust, Beddgelert Local Liaison Committee** (1 Member)
 - 1) **Vacancy**
- iv) **Campaign for National Parks**
(It is agreed that the 3 Welsh National Park Authorities are represented by a Member of the Authority that holds the National Parks Wales Secretariat)
- v) **Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes** (1 Member)
 - 1) **Vacancy**
- vi) **Welsh Local Government Association Council** (1 Member)
 - 1) **Vacancy**
- vii) **Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau SAC** (1 Member)
 - 1) **Vacancy**
 - 2) In Reserve: Cllr. Annwen Hughes
- viii) **Snowdonia Green Key Executive Group** (1 Member)
 - 1) **Vacancy**
- ix) **Energy Island Programme Strategic Forum** (1 Member)
 - 1) **Vacancy**
- x) **Dyfi Biosphere Partnership** (1 Member)
 - 1) **Vacancy**
 - 2) In Reserve: Mr. Tim Jones
- xi) **Cambrian Coast Railway Liaison Conference** (1 Member)
 - 1) **Vacancy**
 - 3) In Reserve: Cllr. Annwen Hughes

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	15 June 2022
TITLE	ANNUAL REPORT TO THE AUTHORITY
REPORT BY	Chair of the Standards Committee
PURPOSE	To agree and to note the contents of the Annual Report

BACKGROUND

1. The terms of reference of the Standards Committee contains two general functions namely:
 - 1.1. To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members and co-opted members of the Authority.
 - 1.2. To assist members and co-opted members of the Authority to observe the Authority's code of conduct.
2. The Standards Committee also has the following specific functions:
 - 2.1. To advise the Authority on the adoption of, or revision of, the Authority's codes of conduct.
 - 2.2. To monitor the operation of the Authority's codes of conduct.
 - 2.3. To advise on training of members and co-opted members of the Authority on matters relating to the Authority's codes of conduct.
 - 2.4. Considering and where appropriate determining matters referred to it by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.
 - 2.5. Considering Complaints against Members and co-opted Members.
 - 2.6. Granting dispensations to members or co-opted members who have a personal interest in any business of the Authority.
 - 2.7. Authorising payments by the Monitoring Officer of allowances and expenses to persons who have assisted in an investigation by the Monitoring Officer.
 - 2.8. To establish the procedure for determining complaints referred to it for consideration.
3. Finally, the Standards Committee also has some staff functions namely as a final internal appeal on disciplinary matters and as a final appeal on grievances or on conditions of service.
4. The present membership of the Standards Committee consists of two Local Authority Members, one Welsh Government appointed Member and three Independent Members namely Mrs Rachael Leah Jane Davies (Chair), Mrs Sharon Warnes (Vice Chair) and Mr Martin James Hughes. In accordance with the regulations governing Standards Committees both the Chair and Vice Chair have been appointed from amongst the Independent Members.

ADDITIONAL STATUTORY DUTY

5. From May 2022 the remit of the Standards Committee includes an additional statutory duty to prepare an annual report to the Authority on how the committee's functions have been discharged and provide an overview of conduct matters generally within the Authority.
6. The Chair of the Standards Committee and the Director of Corporate Services have prepared this report, and a draft has been circulated to all members of the Standards Committee before submitting the finalised report to the Authority.
7. The Chair of the Standards Committee will present the report to the Authority.
8. Draft Guidance has been issued in relation to the preparation of the Annual Report which stipulates that the report must:
 - 8.1. describe how the committee has discharged its functions during the preceding financial year.
 - 8.2. include a summary of reports and recommendations made or referred to the committee by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales relating to the investigation of alleged breaches of the member code of conduct, and any subsequent action taken by the committee.
 - 8.3. include a summary of notices given to the committee by the Adjudication Panel for Wales, relating to the Panel's decisions on possible breaches of the member code of conduct.
 - 8.4. describe the advice it has provided on training for all members and how that has been implemented.

ANNUAL REPORT

9. The Standards Committee has met twice during the year and considered member training on both occasions.
10. It considered the declarations of interest forms completed by Members of the Authority and advised on how the same could be improved.
11. It granted a general dispensation to members of Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council to enable said members to take a full part in the determination of issues relating to Gwynedd Council or Conwy County Borough Council for a period up to 31st December 2022 unless further extended by resolution of the Committee prior to 31st December 2022.
12. It has had input into the report of the Task and Finish Group's work on Governance and supported the package of measures proposed. It concurred that training for members following the Local Government elections is a priority. The Committee agreed that a formal review process for all Members should be reintroduced with a skills matrix to recognise individual skills gaps. The Standards Committee also agreed that establishing a new Member mentoring programme would be beneficial. It was agreed that the mentoring should go hand in hand with the training and Members noted that one of the members, namely Sarah Hattle, had experience in this area and may be interested in taking the lead on Member mentoring.

13. There have been no matters referred to the Public Services Ombudsman or to the Adjudication Panel for Wales relating to the investigation of alleged breaches of the member code of conduct as members of this Authority.
14. There have been no instances during the year where the Authority's Local Resolution procedure has been invoked.
15. The Standards Committee did however meet during the year to determine an appeal hearing in accordance with the Authority's Grievance Procedure.
16. The Standards Committee will continue to monitor progress on training particularly with new members' induction during the year.
17. During the year the Standards Committee also contributed to the North Wales Standards Committee Forum during the review of the Guidance on the Code of Conduct.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

RECOMMENDATION

1. **To discuss and agree the contents of the report.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

ITEM NO. 14

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	15 June 2022
TITLE	ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021/22
REPORT BY	Head of Administration and Customer Care
PURPOSE	To approve the Statement and allow it to be signed by the Chair and the Chief Executive.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Amongst the requirements placed on local authorities in Wales by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (Wales) 2005 (as amended in 2010) is the need to produce an annual Statement on Internal Control.
- 1.2 In preparing the statement, the Authority must ensure that it incorporates the statutory requirements as outlined in the Regulations. To ensure that this happens, the guidelines published by professional bodies such as CIPFA and SOLACE were followed.
- 1.3 When preparing the Annual Governance Statement, it is essential that evidence is in place in order to support the contents before the document is published. In preparing this statement, a review was undertaken of all the Authority's main Strategies, Plans, Policies, Procedures, Codes of Practice and Guidelines, as detailed in the Statement.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Authority is requested to approve the Annual Governance Statement for the 2021/22 financial year.

Snowdonia National Park Authority Annual Governance Statement 2021-22



This statement meets the requirement to produce a Statement of Internal Control pursuant to Regulation 4 of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended in 2010)

1. Introduction

Snowdonia National Park Authority is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

Snowdonia National Park Authority is subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Act places a duty on the Authority to set Well-being Objectives that directly contribute to achieving the 7 Well-being Goals as set out in the Act, namely:

- 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

Furthermore, Snowdonia National Park Authority must meet its duties in accordance with a 'statutory sustainability principle', which means that the Authority must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

In discharging this overall responsibility, Snowdonia National Park Authority is also responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk and adequate and effective financial management.

Snowdonia National Park Authority has approved and adopted a code of corporate governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/Solace Framework Delivering Good Governance in Local Government. This statement explains how the Authority has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of regulation 4(2) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2005 in relation to the publication of a statement on internal control.

The Code of Corporate Governance has been reviewed and updated this year by a Task and Finish Group set up specifically to review the Authority's governance arrangements to ensure that they remain fit for purpose. The new Code of Corporate Governance was formally adopted by the Authority in April 2022.

2. The Purpose of the Governance Framework

The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, and culture and values, by which the authority is directed and controlled and its activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community. It enables the authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost effective services.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Snowdonia National Park Authority's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

3. The Governance Framework

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

Snowdonia National Park Authority develops and implements its strategic corporate planning through the adoption of the:

- Cynllun Eryri (Snowdonia National Park Management Plan);
- Eryri Local Development Plan;
- Well-being Statement and Well-being Objectives; and
- Corporate Work Programme.

These 4 documents represent the cornerstone for the Authority's work in fulfilling its primary purposes as defined in the Environment Act 1995 and in implementing its vision.

Governance Structure

The Authority's governance structure comprises of 4 main committees:

- Snowdonia National Park Authority has 18 appointed Members and during 2021/22 had 7 scheduled meetings.
- The Performance and Resources Committee was held 3 times during 2021/22. As part of its remit it undertakes audit committee functions in accordance with CIPFA requirements.
- The Planning and Access Committee was held 8 times during 2021/22. This committee is responsible for carrying out the Authority's statutory planning functions.
- The Authority's Standards Committee was held once during 2021/22. Membership of the committee, whose remit it is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members, comprises of 3 Authority Members and 3 independent members.

The Authority's Standing Orders (published on the website) gives a detailed account of the arrangements for each committee. For every committee, the agenda, minutes and associated reports and background papers are all published on the Authority's website.

Management Team

The Authority's management structure includes the Chief Executive (who is also the 'National Park Officer' and the Head of Paid Service) and two Directors. The Authority's Management Team meet fortnightly, with the Head of Finance and the Head of Personnel in attendance.

Standards

The Authority has an established Code of Conduct for Members, which includes a section that specifically refers to interests and a Members' Register of Interest. The Code of Conduct for staff is the national standard code of conduct for public authority employees.

The Authority has adopted the following policies and procedures for maintaining high standards of conduct for both staff and Members, and to ensure accountability to the public:

- Complaints Procedure – based on the best practice model complaints procedure produced by the Public Service Ombudsman;

- Whistle Blowing Policy – to enable staff to raise serious concerns with the confidence in knowing that they will be thoroughly and fairly investigated, without fear of reprisals;
- Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy – contains measures designed to frustrate any attempted fraudulent or corrupt act, and the steps to be taken if such an act occurs; and a
- Scheme of Delegation – outlines how the full Authority’s functions are carried out through delegation to its committees and sub-committees.

Risk Management

A Risk Management Policy and Strategy is in place. The risk identification process is co-ordinated by the Head of Administration and Customer Care, with input from the Management Team and Heads of Service. The Risk Register and mitigation measures is reviewed and updated quarterly.

Internal Audit

The review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control and governance arrangements is informed by the work of the Internal Auditors, undertaken by Cyngor Gwynedd. The Internal Audit service is provided in accordance with CIPFA’s Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government in the UK. The Internal Audit Manager prepares an annual report that summarises the results of internal audit work during the year.

External Audit

Audit Wales act as the Authority’s external auditor, and accordingly report on the Authority’s financial management and performance. In addition, Audit Wales gives an opinion on the adequacy of internal audit work.

Monitoring Officer

The Director of Corporate Services has been nominated as the Monitoring Officer. The Monitoring Officer has the specific duty to ensure that the Authority’s Officers and appointed Members maintain the highest standard of conduct in all they do. The Monitoring Officer advises on constitutional procedure and the legality of the Authority’s actions.

Financial Management

The Authority’s financial management arrangements conform to the governance requirement of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2010). The Chief Finance Officer (who is Cyngor Gwynedd’s Chief Finance Officer) is the officer responsible for the administration of financial affairs as required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

4. Significant Governance Issues and Actions Undertaken During the Year

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets a core duty on the Authority to set well-being objectives that maximise its contribution to achieving the 7 well-being goals set out in the Act. The Authority's well-being objectives should be objectives for change over the long term.

A Well-being Statement for the Authority was developed over the course of 18 months and sets out new Well-being Objectives which describes how they will help the Authority achieve the seven wellbeing goals for Wales. The Well-being Statement and Well-being Objectives were adopted as strategic documents by the Authority during the Performance and Resources Committee on the 23rd of March, 2021.

The Well-being Objectives concentrate on three key areas of work - Resilient Environments, Resilient Communities and Resilient Ways of Working - and have been aligned with five sub themes to provide focus, as set out below.

Resilient Environments

1. Improving recreation management and any negative effects of recreation.
2. Responding to the challenges of Climate Change.
3. Improving the management and understanding of Cultural Heritage.
4. Addressing the challenges and opportunities of post Brexit land management scenarios.
5. Addressing the decline in nature.

Resilient Communities

1. Maintaining and increasing the quality of life of residents.
2. Supporting young people.
3. Promoting sustainable tourism to add value to local communities.
4. Promoting and actively supporting the Welsh language.
5. Developing a local economy which supports both the designation and the management of Snowdonia as a National Park.

Resilient Ways of Working

1. Developing a skilled workforce.
2. Developing and promoting best practice.
3. Effective partnership working.
4. Modernising governance arrangements.
5. Maintaining and improve the understanding and support of local communities to the work of the National Park.

Any actions that the Authority takes in achieving the well-being objectives will need to be made in a sustainable way. Sustainable development involves five key requirements namely:

1. Long Term – the importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long term needs, especially where things done to meet short term needs may have detrimental long term effects.

2. Integration – how our well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, how the well-being objectives may impact upon each other or upon other public bodies' well-being objectives, in particular where steps taken by us may contribute to meeting one objective but may be detrimental to meeting another.
3. Involvement – the importance of involving other persons with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and of ensuring those persons reflect the diversity of the population of Wales or the geographical area of the Authority.
4. Collaboration – acting in collaboration with any person (or how different parts of the Authority acting together) could assist the Authority to meet its well-being objectives, or assist another body to meet its objectives.
5. Prevention – to take account of how deploying resources to prevent problems occurring, or getting worse may contribute to meeting the Authority's well-being objectives, or another body's objectives.

The Corporate Work Programme for 2021/22 was presented for approval by the Members at the Authority meeting on the 28th of April 2021. The Programme sets out the projects, initiatives and specific actions that will fulfil the Authority's Well-being Objectives and Service Priorities.

Progress against the Programme has been reported to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 24th of November 2021 and on the 23rd of March 2022. The full annual report on the Corporate Work Programme is due to be reported to the Performance and Resources Committee in July 2022.

A significant review of the Authority's governance procedures and practices has taken place during 2021/22, as this area was chosen as one of the scrutiny topics by the Authority.

The remit of the Reviewing Governance Task and Finish Group (as set out in the Terms of Reference) included a focus on some of the proposals for improvement as set out in the Audit Wales report on Resilient and Sustainable Services which related to governance.

In addition, Welsh Government had requested that the Authority review certain governance matters following a letter to the Minister expressing concerns. The issues raised provided an opportunity for the Authority to review and improve its governance systems and as a result build on the culture of open dialogue and constructive challenge to senior leaders as they make difficult decisions around service provision and the use of resources.

One of the key outcomes from the Reviewing Governance Task and Finish Group was a revision and update of the Authority's Code of Corporate Governance. The new Code has been formally adopted by the Authority in its meeting on the 27th of April 2022.

Other key outcomes are set out in this Statement under the appropriate headings.

5. Effectiveness of the Governance Framework

Snowdonia National Park Authority has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal auditors and the senior managers within the Authority, who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, and also by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates. The review is based on the seven principles from the Code of Corporate Governance.

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

<p>Code of Corporate Governance</p>	<p>Governance was identified as one of the topic areas to scrutinise in depth during 2021/22, and as a result a Reviewing Governance Task and Finish Group was established. The group met 4 times between November 21 and February 22.</p> <p>The Code of Corporate Governance was reviewed in depth and redrafted by the Group, to ensure that it remains a cornerstone of effective governance for the future.</p> <p>The draft revised Code of Governance was discussed in detail at the Members Working Group on the 6th of April 2022, before being submitted for final approval and adoption by the Authority at the end of April 2022.</p>
<p>Standards Committee</p>	<p>The Standards Committee had a full day on the 3rd of September 2021.</p> <p>During the morning, the Standards Committee held an Appeal Hearing in accordance with the Authority’s Grievance Procedure. The appeal was ultimately dismissed.</p> <p>The afternoon session considered the usual business of the Standards Committee. During this meeting, it considered a number of matters including a Grant of Dispensation to Members of both Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council.</p> <p>Members also reviewed the Ombudsman’s Annual Report for 2020/21, and were advised of the developments applicable to this Authority. The Annual Complaints Monitoring Report was also submitted to the Standards Committee, for information.</p>

<p>Whistle Blowing Policy</p>	<p>The last detailed review of the Policy was undertaken by the Standards Committee in September 2016, with subsequent changes approved at the Authority meeting in December 2016.</p> <p>During 2021/22, no reports or concerns were raised in relation to any Member or Officer of the Authority under the Whistle Blowing Policy.</p>
<p>Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy</p>	<p>During 2021/22, no complaints of alleged fraud or corruption were made regarding any Member or Officer of the Authority, and Internal Auditors did not identify any areas of concern through their auditing work.</p>
<p>Model Code of Conduct</p>	<p>During 2021/22, no amendments or revisions were made to the Model Code of Conduct.</p>
<p>Complaints – Officers</p>	<p>During 2021/22, the Authority received a total of 15 formal complaints.</p> <p>The Authority was not subject to a formal investigation of alleged maladministration by the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales during 2021/22.</p> <p>However, a complaint was made to the Welsh Language Commissioner that the Authority was in breach of its Welsh Language Standards, by failing to provide a fully bilingual on-line pre-booking service for the Pen y Pass car park. The service was provided by an external provider Just Park.</p> <p>The Commissioner instigated an investigation and concluded that the Authority had failed to comply with 3 specific standards, namely standards 50, 52 and 56. The Authority developed an Action Plan which was agreed by the Commissioner to ensure full compliance with these standards by Easter 2022.</p>
<p>Complaints - Members</p>	<p>During 2021/22, the Authority’s Monitoring Officer did not receive any formal complaints relating to the Members, and no complaints were submitted directly by the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales.</p>

<p>Complaints – Other</p>	<p>During the year a complaint was submitted directly to Welsh Government concerning various governance and administration issues within the Authority.</p> <p>The Authority responded to the allegations and supplied relevant information. Recommended actions were given to the Authority to strengthen governance in specific areas, which the Authority has accepted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to the Standing Orders relating to Contracts (specific changes detailed under Standing Orders relating to Contracts heading). • Bidding for Welsh Government Funding – review decision making process to meet submission deadlines in some circumstances. This was discussed and agreed by Members at the Performance and Resources Committee on the 23rd of March 2022. • Level of reserves to be standing item at all meetings between SNPA and Welsh Government. • Diversity - progress against the Authority’s Strategic Equality Plan will be reviewed at monitoring meetings between SNPA and Welsh Government.
<p>Standing Orders</p>	<p>The Standing Orders were last reviewed and amended by the Authority on the 26th of April 2017, following receipt of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2017.</p> <p>No matters were raised relating to the implementation of the Standing Orders during 2021/22.</p>
<p>Standing Orders relating to Contracts</p>	<p>The Authority has accepted Welsh Government’s recommendations to ensure that the Authority’s processes relating to contracts are sufficiently transparent, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The threshold for publication of details of contracts awarded to be set at £1,000. 2. To review the processes for reviewing and recording details of contracts where Members, staff, families and friends have directly benefit from the awarding of contracts. This will now be extended to all staff, in addition to the current requirement on the heads of service and the management team. 3. When awarding contracts, the general principles set out in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 should be implemented, even where the value of a contract would not trigger the 2015 Regulations requirements.

	<p>A new draft version of the Standing Orders relating to Contracts has been produced which incorporates the above recommendations and ensures compliance with all new regulations relating to the withdrawal from the European Union. Further work is required on the draft before it can be presented to the Members for adoption in 2022/23.</p>
Scheme of Delegation	<p>The Scheme of Delegation was last revised and amended by the Authority in its meeting on the 13th of December 2017.</p> <p>As part of the remit of the Reviewing Governance Task and Finish Group, consideration was given to how the Authority had approached decision making during various stages of the Covid-19 pandemic, and whether there were any learning points to be incorporated for the future.</p> <p>Whilst it was acknowledged that there is a need to differentiate how the Authority needs to operate in times of national crisis and in ordinary times; it was interesting to note that the dynamic working practices implemented during the first stage of the pandemic were enabled under the current Officer Scheme of Delegation.</p> <p>The Group concluded that the current Officer Scheme of Delegation continued to be fit for purpose, and therefore no recommendation for changes were given.</p>
Members' Register of Interests	<p>The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 places a requirement on the Authority to publish the current Members' Register of Interests on the Authority's website.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of each Authority Member to keep their record of personal interests up to date and to report on any changes in a timely manner. Nonetheless, the Member Services Officer sends each Member a copy of their current record after each AGM of the Authority, and requests that they be reviewed and updated if required.</p> <p>During 2021/22, confirmation was given to Welsh Government that the Register is up to date and publicly available and that arrangements are in place to ensure compliance is maintained.</p>

Principle 2: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

<p>Strategic Equality Plan</p>	<p>The Annual Report on the Strategic Equality Plan was presented to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 24th of November 2021.</p> <p>The Authority’s progress on its action plan for reaching its Equality Objectives was reported, along with the Equality Impact Assessments undertaken during the year, equal pay monitoring data and staff equality data.</p> <p>The Socio-economic Duty came into force in Wales on the 31st of March 2021. Consideration must now be given to how the Authority’s strategic decisions can improve inequality of outcome for people who suffer socio-economic disadvantage. A new impact assessment template has been developed in partnership with other north Wales public sector bodies to ensure we can fully embrace our new responsibilities.</p>
<p>Direct Consultation</p>	<p>As various Covid-19 restrictions remained in place throughout the year, the Authority continued to use various online solutions to enable direct communication, consultation and engagement, as its primary means of contact.</p> <p>During 2021/22 the Authority continued to engage with local communities and stakeholders through a range of means, from traditional written consultations and online questionnaires to webinars and online meetings and workshops. When restrictions allowed, in-person consultation events took place in Covid secure spaces.</p> <p>Whilst Fforwm Eryri, the Annual Agriculture Liaison Group, North and South Access Forums to name but a few, have continue to take place virtually, discussions on how to proceed in future have commenced. What has become clear is that many see great advantages to holding on-line meetings and wish to continue, whilst others see disadvantages of not meeting in person and a wish to resume in-person meetings. The coming year will see some in-person meetings resume, some meetings will employ hybrid solutions whilst some remain entirely on-line.</p>

	<p>Outside of the normal direct consultations on the Authority's business that has taken place this year, engagement and consultation has also taken place with local communities to enable information to be shared and to give people an opportunity to give their views over numerous challenges the National Park Authority and its communities have faced due to the increased visitor numbers.</p>
<p>Communication and Engagement Strategy</p>	<p>Communication and engagement is an essential element in everything the Authority does. It is also something that can always be improved upon, and the Authority's Strategy reflects this.</p> <p>Fast paced technological advancements and the continuing growth in social media platforms and participation levels, means that the Authority needs to be fully focused on engaging effectively through the correct channels at the correct time with a wide range of audiences.</p> <p>The Authority's new Communication and Engagement Strategy was formally adopted by the Authority on the 9th of June 2021.</p> <p>The annual report on the strategy was presented to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 23rd of March 2022. The report included data for the performance indicators set out in the strategy.</p> <p>The Content and Brand Manager has been working with the appointed contracted Creo in developing the design phase of the new website for the Authority during the year.</p> <p>The new website was launched in April 2022.</p>

<p>Freedom of Information</p>	<p>The Authority has adopted the Information Commissioner’s Model Publication Scheme and has published a guide to information, both of which are available on the website.</p> <p>During 2021, 33 requests were received of which 30 received all the information requested (91%). Of the other 3 requests, 2 were refused or partially refused as the information requested did not exist or the authority did not hold the information, and 1 request was partially refused as it contained third party personal data, which was redacted from the released information.</p> <p>No complaints were submitted to the Information Commissioner with regard to any information request.</p>
<p>Committee Agendas and Associated Reports</p>	<p>The Authority’s Committee agendas and associated reports are published on the website at least 3 clear working days before each meeting.</p> <p>An archive of past Committee meetings agendas and associated papers is also available on the website.</p>

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

<p>Cynllun Yr Wyddfa Partnership Plan</p>	<p>Although no formal update report on the Snowdon Plan was presented to Members during 2021/22, three newsletters providing an update on the work of the Partnership were issued and a discussion on the parking and transport element took place on the 22nd of January 2021 and the 20th of October 20 2021 at the Member Working Groups.</p> <p>Since launching the scheme in 2018 many of the initial projects have been completed and the Partnership intends to review the Plan during 2023 with the launch of a revised version - five years since the original Plan was created.</p>
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	<p>One of the Plan's priorities is to implement the Snowdonia and Ogwen Parking and Transport Strategy. Many of the initial elements have been implemented with support from Transport for Wales. There is a delay in relation to Pen Y Pass and the recently approved planning application to install a barrier which would improve the efficiency of the pre-order system, as concerns have been raised by the landowner.</p> <p>A bespoke area plan for Nant Gwynant was written during the year, in conjunction with the relevant partners in the area.</p> <p>The Snowdonia Ambassador program has gone from strength to strength with over 700 qualified and approximately 200 re-qualified during the year.</p> <p>Funding has been secured to appoint an officer to lead on the rubbish-free Snowdon operation with a view to advertising the post this year.</p> <p>The Snowdon Paths app is due to be launched in its new form as the app has recently been updated to reflect the accessibility act for public bodies.</p>
<p>Cynllun Eryri (Snowdonia National Park Partnership Plan)</p>	<p>Cynllun Eryri – the new National Park Partnership Plan for 2020 – 25, was formally adopted by the Authority at its Annual General Meeting on the 23rd of September 2020.</p> <p>Fforwm Eryri's Terms of Reference have been amended to accommodate remote partnership meetings, and is now specified as the preferred mode of operation for at least 3 out of the 4 annual meetings.</p> <p>In the summer of 2021, work commenced on producing the first Annual Monitoring Report for Cynllun Eryri, with the information and data collected covering the period from September 2020 to December 2021.</p> <p>Each Outcome will be assessed in relation to the Measurements of Success as agreed by all Partners in the original Action Plan of Cynllun Eryri and reported on in the report.</p> <p>At the end of March 2022, the report was in the process of being finalised and approved by Fforwm Eryri, after which it will be presented to the Authority.</p>

<p>Eryri Local Development Plan 2016-2031</p>	<p>The revised Eryri Local Development Plan 2016-2031 (LDP) was adopted on the 6th of February 2019.</p> <p>The second Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) was presented to the Planning and Access Committee on the 20th of October 2021, and it covered the period April 2020 to the end of March 2021. The AMR is submitted to the Welsh Government by the 31st of October each year.</p> <p>The Monitoring Report noted that early indications point towards necessary future changes to the Eryri LDP due to the consequences of Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic, changes in national policy such as the publication of the Future Wales National Plan 2040 as well as the performance of certain aspects of the Plan.</p>
<p>Corporate Work Programme 2021-22</p>	<p>As the Authority now has an adopted Well-being Statement which includes its Well-being Objectives for a five-year period from 2021-26; there will therefore be no need for an annual review.</p> <p>The agreed actions in the Corporate Work Programme will now be sufficient to enable the Authority to assess its progress in attaining the Well-being Objectives and there will accordingly be no need for a separate report on Performance Indicators. The Corporate Work Programme for 2021/22 was adopted by the Authority on the 28th of April 2021.</p> <p>Members were provided with regular updates on the progress made in meeting the Well-being Objectives, outlined in the Corporate Work Program 2021/22.</p> <p>Progress on the first two quarters of the financial year was reported to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 24th of November 2021 and a third quarter progress report was provided on the 23rd of March 2022.</p> <p>Members welcomed the new layout, noting it was more concise and easier to understand.</p>

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

<p>Budget Strategy 2021/22</p>	<p>The Authority’s revenue budget for 2021/22 was confirmed in the Chief Finance Officer’s report to the Authority on the 3rd of February 2021. The report also confirmed the levy on constituent authorities.</p> <p>An update on the Budget was presented to the Authority on the 8th of December 2021 and to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 23rd of March 2022.</p> <p>The March report outlined the financial assistance received to mitigate some of the effects due to Covid-19, which have included a Welsh Government support grant, rate relief and rebates from staff salaries through the furlough scheme.</p> <p>Following an increase in the National Park grant of 10% for 2021/22, it was reported that the Authority still has a surplus of £476,251, which has now been earmarked for specific purposes, including improving the Authority’s resilience, increasing the Authority’s capacity, de-carbonisation agenda and capital commitments.</p>
<p>Mid Term Financial Plan 2022/23 – 2025/26</p>	<p>In its meeting on the 9th of February 2022, the Chief Executive presented the revised Medium Term Financial Plan for 2022/23 – 2025/26 to the Authority, which outlines a range of financial situations that could face the Authority over the next four years. The Plan outlines a model of the financial resources required by the Authority for the service levels it hopes to provide in the mid term.</p> <p>The Plan confirmed that the income targets for 2022/23 have been maintained on the same level as 2021/22. It was also reported that the core National Park Grant settlement will likely remain at the same level over the next 3 years, and although there is no provision for inflation, this at least gives some certainty with regards the Authority’s financial situation.</p> <p>Any additional money received through specific grants (other than core grants) brings with it additional administrative work, therefore consideration needs to be given to the additional work pressure on some of the Authority’s services.</p>

<p>Performance Management</p>	<p>As part of the Reviewing Governance Task and Finish Group, the mechanism for reviewing performance in relation to the Authority’s Well-being Statement and the Corporate Work Programme has now been set out formally.</p> <p>It confirms that 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.</p> <p>Also, 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.</p>

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

<p>Members’ Role Descriptions</p>	<p>As part of the remit of the Reviewing Governance Task and Finish Group, the current role descriptions for Authority Members were reviewed.</p> <p>Changes were made to strengthen the emphasis of the role of members in setting a strategic direction and ambition for the Authority, providing an overarching introduction including the purpose of National Parks and the role of the Authority in delivering on these purposes, and strengthening the section on personal and role development.</p> <p>The new role descriptions for Members and for the Chair and Vice Chair were adopted by the Authority on the 27th of April 2022.</p>
<p>Members’ Attendance</p>	<p>All meetings continued to be held on-line during the year, as new waves of Covid-19 emerged and restrictions were tightened at various points.</p> <p>The online platform Zoom for holding committee and other meetings is now well embedded across the Authority and is working well.</p> <p>Members’ attendance at meetings during 2021/22 was 85%, compared to 90% in 2020/21 and 81% in 2019/20.</p>

	<p>Work is underway by the Authority’s IT service to identify an appropriate platform for conducting hybrid meetings in the next year and to recommend an appropriate venue that could accommodate this.</p> <p>If the Authority proceeds down this route, there will likely be additional training needs for Chairs and Vice Chairs of committees and meetings, to ensure that meetings are managed effectively to enable everyone to participate fully.</p>
<p>Member Training</p>	<p>As noted above, Covid-19 restrictions were in place for most of 2021/22, and therefore very few face to face training opportunities were available for Members.</p> <p>However, on the 25th of March 2022, the first in-person Member Development Day was held for 2 years.</p> <p>In 2021/22, member attendance at training events was 75% (69% in 2020/21).</p> <p>As part of the work of the Reviewing Governance Task and Finish Group, a recommendation has been put forward to develop a Member Development Strategy. Initial work will be focused on the expected change to Members following local government elections on the 5th of May 2022. It is proposed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a collective skills assessment is conducted, which will be mandatory for all new Members to complete; • the internal induction sessions are reviewed and improved; • everyone appointed Chair or Vice-Chair to be offered training on chairing meetings; and • consideration be given to having a mentor for each new Member appointed in May 2022.
<p>Staff Performance Appraisals and Training</p>	<p>Learning and development needs are identified in annual performance appraisal reviews and a training plan is produced by the Head of Personnel, which outlines training priorities for the year ahead.</p>

	<p>Concern has been raised over the last couple of years at the Performance and Resources Committee meetings that the percentage of staff appraised continued to be low, and in 2020/21 had dropped to an unprecedented 32%. Due to the lack of personnel resources, data is not currently available for the percentage appraised in 2021/22.</p> <p>However, in a staff survey undertaken in 2021/22, 87% of staff agreed that they have opportunities to develop their skills (81.5% in 2020/21).</p>
<p>Human Resources Strategy</p>	<p>Staff sickness absences was 11.5 days in 2019/20, but this had dropped significantly to 3 days in 2020/21. It is thought that a combination of most staff working from home and restricted social contacts due to lockdowns, has significantly reduced contagious illnesses, which has led to reduced staff sickness absence as a result.</p> <p>However, further personnel data is not currently available, as the Annual Updating Report on implementing the Authority's HR Strategy has not been presented to the Performance and Resources Committee during 2021/22. This is due to the Head of Personnel retiring on the 30th of June 2021, and the subsequent failure to appoint to the post.</p> <p>It is clear that the Human Resources Strategy needs to be revised and updated as a matter of priority. Recruitment and retention are increasing risks for the Authority as is succession planning.</p> <p>A new Head of Personnel has been appointed and is due to commence in post on the 13th of June 2022. It is hoped that the Head of Personnel will in due course be able to revise the strategy and produce an action plan to address these issues.</p>
<p>Authority Resilience: Staff Terms and Conditions</p>	<p>The Audit Wales report on the Resilience of the Authority identified the Authority's capacity to meet current and emerging challenges and matters relating to the retention and recruitment of staff as issues to be addressed.</p> <p>Members discussed these issues in detail and commissioned a report, which concluded that the Authority's pay structure was not competitive, compared to other public sector employers.</p>

	<p>Members also recommended that acknowledging bilingualism should be included within the review of the Authority’s pay structure. Members considered that the ability to be bilingual was essential in enabling the Authority to provide its services, there is a business case to recognise such in its pay structure.</p> <p>After consultation with staff and Unions, approval was given by the Authority on the 9th of April 2022 for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustment in the Authority’s pay bands by two pay points (upwards) on the pay spine. • An additional day’s leave on Saint David’s Day from 2022 onwards. • The retention of the last pay point in any pay band subject to attaining an agreed standard in English and Welsh.
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Principle 6: Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

<p>Financial Statements</p>	<p>The draft Statement of Accounts was not completed within the extended timeline of 31st of August 2021. They were certified (subject to audit) by the Authority’s Chief Finance Officer and presented to the Authority on the 13th of October 2021.</p> <p>Prior to this, Members had approved the Outturn Report for 2020/21 at an Authority special meeting on the 30th of June 2021.</p> <p>The Statement of Accounts was audited by Audit Wales, and the final version (post-audit) of the Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 along with the Final Letter of Representation was presented to Members at a special Authority meeting on the 24th of November 2021 for approval in accordance with The Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.</p> <p>At the same meeting, the Audit Wales presented its annual ISA260 report to the Authority. The Auditor confirmed that he would be presenting an unqualified opinion on the Authority’s financial statements and related notes.</p>
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<p>Risk Management</p>	<p>The Risk Register is reviewed and updated quarterly by the Heads of Service and Management Team.</p> <p>Identified risks as noted in the Risk Register are allocated as a responsibility to named officers and target dates are set for mitigation. The Risk Register is reviewed by Members at each Performance and Resources Committee and any removal of risks from the Register is ratified annually at an Authority meeting.</p>
<p>External Audit</p>	<p>At the Authority meeting on the 28th of April 2021, Audit Wales presented its report setting out its findings following its Review of Resilient and Sustainable Services. Full details of the findings are set out under Section 6 (Significant Governance Issues) in this Statement.</p> <p>At the same meeting, Audit Wales presented their Audit Plan for 2021/22. The Audit Plan had incorporated the possible effects of Covid-19 on the work of the Authority as well as on Audit Wales' ability to carry out its work.</p> <p>The Audit Plan set out revised arrangements for the Audit of Financial Statements, which would be dependent on when the Authority could complete the accounts. It also set out the intention of carrying out a performance audit which would reflect the risks and opportunities highlighted in the 2019/20 review of involvement and the 2020/21 review of corporate resilience.</p> <p>Further to this, at the Authority meeting on the 8th of December 2021, Audit Wales issued a Certificate to confirm that following an audit of the Authority's Assessment of its performance for 2020/21, the Authority had discharged its duty under section 15 (2) (8) and (9) of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.</p> <p>At the Authority meeting on the 9th of February 2022, Audit Wales presented an Annual Audit Summary of the work undertaken during 2021. The report noted that the Auditor General gave an unqualified true and fair opinion on the Authority's financial statements on the 29th of November 2021, in advance of the statutory deadline.</p> <p>It was also reported that the Authority's Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report were prepared in line with the CIPFA Code and relevant guidance.</p>

	<p>The Auditor General noted that progress had been made in improving the quality of the draft statements presented for audit on the 27th of July 2021. There remains scope for further improvement some discrepancies between the financial statements and supporting working papers had been identified.</p> <p>At the Authority meeting on the 28th of April 2022, Audit Wales presented their Audit Plan for 2022. The report sets out the audit risks and proposed audit response to be undertake during the year. The report also notes that the performance audit is yet to confirmed. The audit fees was also confirmed.</p>
<p>Internal Audit</p>	<p>The Internal Audit Manager reports on the previous financial year’s work to the Performance and Resources Committee in July.</p> <p>There were four internal audits scheduled to be undertaken during 2021/22, namely Well-being of Future Generations, Tendering Arrangements, Absence Management, and Business Continuity Plans.</p> <p>Both audits on the Tendering Arrangements and Business Continuity Plans were given a “Restricted” rating - although rules are in place, there is a need to improve compliance with the rules and / or introduce new controls to reduce the risks to which the service is exposed.</p> <p>As a result of the ratings given, specific action points and a timetable for completion were agreed by relevant officers to address the weaknesses identified.</p> <p>The audit on Wellbeing of Future Generations was given a “Satisfactory” rating – there are controls in place to achieve the objectives but there are aspects where the arrangements can be tightened to further mitigate the risks.</p> <p>Managing Sickness Absence and Staff Well-being was given a “High” rating - assurance of propriety can be expressed as the internal controls in place can be relied upon to achieve objectives.</p>

<p>Health and Safety</p>	<p>The Health and Safety Group meets quarterly to monitor health and safety issues within the Authority.</p> <p>The Annual Health and Safety Report presented to the Performance and Resources Committee details the training courses undertaken during the year and the incidents / accidents that were recorded.</p> <p>It was reported that it is usual to compare year on year data on incidents that were recorded, which also includes reportable incidents to the Health and Safety Executive under the 'Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)'. However, data from the 2020/21 is not representative due to several factors including home working and the suspension of business at Plas Tan y Bwlch.</p> <p>Concern was raised at the lack of comparable data, and it was agreed that the Head of Personnel would circulate further data as requested.</p>
<p>Information Centres</p>	<p>The Authority has 3 Information Centres in Betws y Coed, Beddgelert and Aberdyfi, which are managed by the Centres Commercial Manager, whose main objective is to ensure that the Centres are commercially viable / self-financing.</p> <p>The Information Centres Annual Report was presented to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 24th of November 2021. The report provided an overview of the 2021/22 year to date, and the actions to be taken in 2022/23.</p> <p>It was reported that the limit on numbers due to Covid restrictions and a reduction in opening hours were factors that have negatively affected visitor numbers. In addition, staff recruitment and retention levels are causing problems.</p> <p>The report outlined detailed visitor numbers and spend per head data at each of the Centres.</p>
<p>Borrowing and Investment Strategies / Treasury Management</p>	<p>The Annual Report providing the actual Treasury Management (borrowing and investment) of the Authority during 2020/21, was presented to the Authority meeting on the 9th of June 2021.</p>

	<p>During 2020/21, the Authority's activity remained within the limits that were originally set. There has been no borrowing.</p> <p>In 2020/21, the total interest received from investments was £11,113. Interest received from car loans of £1,194 increases the total to £12,307 against a budget of £23,000.</p> <p>The bank and building society interest sum of £11,113 for 2020/21 is much lower than the corresponding amount of £48,077 in 2019/20. The main reason being that interest rates have generally fallen due to the effects of the pandemic, and the Authority having stopped depositing in 95 day notice accounts on the basis of professional advice.</p> <p>An oral Interim Treasury Management report was given to the Authority on the 8th of December 2021. The Chief Finance Officer advised that the Authority's funds and investments continued to be secure and that interest rates continued to be very low.</p> <p>The Chief Finance Officer presented the Capital Strategy for 2022/23 at the Authority meeting on the 9th of February 2022.</p> <p>The report gives a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of National Park services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability.</p> <p>The report confirms that the Authority commences 2022/2 debt free. Members approved no change in the authorised borrowing limit and the operational boundary, and approved both the Capital Borrowing Strategy and Investment Strategy for 2022/23, and noted the content with regard to the Prudential Code.</p>
<p>Plas Tan y Bwlch Study Centre</p>	<p>At the Special Authority meeting held on the 23rd of October 2020, Members resolved to continue operating Plas Tan y Bwlch as a B&B in the short to medium term; to proceed with staff restructuring; to continue the dialogue with a range of possible future partners; and to report on progress to each meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee.</p>

	<p>The risks of failing to reach the income generating target for Plas Tan y Bwlch was increased to High on the Authority's Risk Register in March 2022. Details are outlined under section 6 of this statement.</p> <p>The Chief Executive has previously advised Members at the Performance and Resources Committee on the 24th of November 2021, that the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch will need to be considered at the end of the 2022 season.</p>
Yr Ysgwrn	<p>Yr Ysgwrn's Annual Report was presented to the Authority on the 28th of April 2022.</p> <p>The report confirms that Yr Ysgwrn had a £7,000 overspend at the end of the 2021/22 financial year 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.</p> <p>The report also sets out the proposed site plans for the forthcoming year and acknowledges that the budget targets are challenging. Visitor numbers and corresponding income trends are not clear due to the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>

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

Pay Policy Statement	<p>Section 38 (1) of the Localism Act 2011 places a requirement on Local Authorities to prepare pay policy statements. Whilst National Park Authorities are exempt from this requirement, it has been considered good practice to adopt such a statement, and accordingly this is done annually by the Head of Personnel.</p> <p>The Authority's Pay Policy Report for 2021/22 and Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 was presented to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 23rd of March 2022, ensuring transparency in staff remuneration at the Authority.</p>
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	<p>At the time of reporting, the Pay Award for 2021/22 had only recently been agreed, which means back pay from April 2021 had been paid to all staff in March 2022 salaries.</p>
<p>Annual Report and Improvement Plan 2020/21</p>	<p>The Annual Report and Improvement Plan for 2020/21 was presented to the Authority meeting on the 13th of October 2021, before being published on the website and distributed to the Authority’s main centres, public libraries etc., within the National Park.</p> <p>It contains the Chairman’s Annual Report for the year, which sets out what was achieved, not achieved and any problems that were encountered.</p> <p>It also contains details of the Authority’s Service Priorities and the Authority’s Objectives set on an annual basis that feed into and show how it is intended to take the National Park forward in order to attain the Authority’s vision; a summary evaluation of progress made in attaining the Authority’s Objectives, the key work activities for 2020/21, and performance management (including performance indicator results for the year).</p> <p>The Director of Corporate Services advised Members that following the adoption of the Well-being Statement 2021 – 2026, the process had now changed, and that this was the final time the Annual Report would be submitted in the current format under the Local Government Measure.</p>
<p>Broadcasting Committees</p>	<p>As part of the remit of the Reviewing Governance Task and Finish Group, consideration was given to how committee meetings should be held in future as well as moving forward with broadcasting committees.</p> <p>Recommendations made by the Task & Finish Group were discussed at the Members Working Group on the 6th of April 2022, before being submitted for final approval and adoption by the Authority at the end of April 2022. These were:</p> <p>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.</p>

	<p>Move forward with arrangements without translating English contributions.</p> <p>Introduce a system of pre-registration for the public.</p> <p>Staff to investigate the best location for hybrid committees and make a recommendation to the Authority in due course.</p>
<p>Member Scrutiny</p>	<p>During 2021/22, a report was received by the Performance and Resources Committee on the 14th of July 2021 regarding the Task & Finish Group’s progress on the scrutiny of Snowdonia’s Carbon Account (established in 2020/21); and a report was received by the Authority on the 13th of October 2021 on the progress of the Task & Finish Group to scrutinise the protection of Welsh Place Names.</p> <p>The Task and Finish Group on Reviewing Governance also reported their recommendations to the Members Working Group on the 6th of April 2022. Part of the group’s remit was looking at Strategic Scrutiny. A number of recommendations were made, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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. Appointing Members on Task and Finish Groups should be reviewed. People with expertise or interest in the subjects should be appointed. 3. Delay setting the 2022/23 scrutiny topics 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions on Climate Change • Actions on the Wildlife and Nature Emergency • Contingency Planning and how we deal with Future Events

6. Significant Governance Issues and Actions Proposed for 2022/23

Audit Wales: Resilient and Sustainable Services

During 2020-21 a review of corporate resilience was commenced remotely, with examination and audit of relevant documents and by issuing a survey to Members and staff to gather their views.

Reporting on the outcome in April 2021, Audit Wales concluded that “the Authority responded well in the pandemic but the challenges it faced have highlighted a need to improve its resilience and sustainability in the longer term”.

Proposals for Improvement

The table below sets out the proposals for improvement identified by Audit Wales whilst undertaking the review. During 2021/22, the Authority worked at implementing these proposals, the outcomes of which have been reported under the specific headings within this Statement. Some work is ongoing and will be progressed further in 2022/23.

PF11	To support resilience the Authority should consolidate and appraise its new ways of working in relation to governance, business continuity and remote working.
PF12	To maximise the impact of grant funded projects the Authority should develop a framework to appraise their potential contribution to progressing Cynllun Eryri and to ensure appropriate legacy planning takes place.
PF13	To support greater resilience the Authority should consider how and when to expose officers to new experiences in wider services and teams to build skills, knowledge and capacity.

Audit Wales: A Review of how the Authority is Promoting Sustainable Tourism

The audit has been undertaken but the outcome report of this review is yet to be published by Wales Audit.

The Authority's Risk Profile

The three highest risks to the Authority as updated in March 2022, is as follows:

Risk	Result	Action Identified / Progress to date
Income Generating Target (Plas Tan y Bwlch).	Failure to keep within the Authority's budget.	<p>At the Authority meeting on 23rd October 2020 the decision was taken to continue operating Plas Tan y Bwlch as a B&B type business in the short to medium term and to proceed with staff restructuring as outlined in the report. This decision means that the risk to the Authority has reduced somewhat. However, there is still risk to the Authority, although both the likely effect and impact have reduced somewhat.</p> <p>Following the process of re-opening the economy, Plas has had a busy season operating as outlined above. We recently reported to the Plas Board. As with the rest of the sector, we have suffered from staff shortages in places and the uncertainty of Covid. At present we are in the process of calculating the income to date for the year but we are aware that there have been cost overruns on staff as well as fuel costs for running and heating Plas. These additional costs will not be offset by income generation and have the potential to have a minor impact on the Authority's accounts.</p>
Risk (publicity) as a result of the Traffic Scheme / Snowdonia Green Key Policy	Mismanagement leading to lack of credibility in the Authority and its partners.	<p>Development of the Snowdon Plan has established a better relationship between the individual elements relating to management on Snowdon, including the Sherpa service.</p> <p>A sub-group to Cynllun Yr Wyddfa has been formed to review the Sherpa service and transport / parking issues in the area. A traffic management study for Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) and Ogwen has been commissioned and received. The partners have considered the report's</p>

		<p>recommendations with Welsh Government. A public consultation with the communities has taken place. Transport for Wales are considering a regional approach for such matters and the formation of Corporate Joint Committees which have specific responsibility for transport may provide further opportunities.</p> <p>Unprecedented numbers of UK day visitors are expected again this summer as lockdown eases, which will cause problems for local communities. Although a partnership approach is taken, the public perception of responsibility will fall on the Authority. A number of mitigation measures have been put in place with partners for the 2021 season and will be continued for the 2022 season.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>SNPA and other partners required to self finance aspects of project expenditure to date.</p>	<p>Second mid-term report to EC (and associated grant claim) due end of April 2022. Project has reached the spend threshold for submitting the claim on time.</p> <p>Official feedback from the Commission to the first mid-term report largely positive, with no major concerns raised. Minor concerns to be addressed alongside Project monitor in time for next mid-term report.</p> <p>The project successfully reached the spending threshold required to enable the £2m from Welsh Government to be claimed. Welsh Government's financial contribution has now come to an end.</p>

7. Opinion

We propose over the coming year to take steps to address the matters referred to in part 6 to further enhance our governance arrangements. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvements that were identified in our review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementation and operation as part of our next annual review.

EMYR WILLIAMS

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK
AUTHORITY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

DATE

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK
AUTHORITY CHAIR**

DATE

MEETING:	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE:	15 th June, 2022
TITLE:	(DRAFT) CORPORATE WORK PROGRAMME 2022-23
AUTHOR:	Director of Corporate Services
PURPOSE:	To receive, discuss and adopt the (Draft) Corporate Work Programme as a working document for 2022-23

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1. Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, public bodies are required to publish a Well-being Statement when setting their well-being objectives explaining why they feel the objective will help them achieve the goals and how it has applied the sustainable development principle. They must also make sure they involve people interested in achieving the goals and that those people reflect the diversity of their area.
- 1.2 The Well-being Statement and Well-being Objectives were adopted as strategic documents by the Authority during the Performance and Resources Committee on 23rd March, 2021. (As strategic documents an Equality Impact Assessment under the Equality Act 2010, which now also incorporates due regard to the Socio-economic Duty, has been prepared and is available on request).
- 1.3 The Well-being Statement for the Authority sets out well-being objectives which describes how they will help us achieve the seven wellbeing goals for Wales and establishes the rationale and the steps we will take to achieve them.
- 1.4 The disapplication (with caveats) of the Local Government Measure 2009 allowed the Authority to adopt longer term objectives and better alignment of the Authority's work with the Park Management Plan, Local Development Plan, reporting mechanisms and establishment of realistic and SMART'er objectives for the annual work programmes.
- 1.5 The adopted Well-being Objectives concentrated on three key areas of work - Resilient Environments, Resilient Communities and Resilient ways of Working - and have been aligned with five sub themes to provide focus.
- 1.6 These three key areas of work were developed into the annual Corporate Work Programme and updated for 2022-23 outlining projects, initiatives and specific actions that will be undertaken this year to fulfil the Wellbeing Objectives and Service Priorities.

1.7 On completion of the projects and initiatives, the Authority will be able to measure whether improvements have been achieved in each of the three key areas at the end of the financial year 2022-23.

1.8 The Authority recently received the Welsh Government's Term of Government Remit Letter outlining the Priority Objectives and Actions the Government expects the Authority to work towards for the term of the Senedd.

The priorities have been grouped according to four themes of action:

- Environment
- People and Place
- Governance and Planning Excellence
- Collaboration

which align well with the adopted well-being objectives of the Authority.

1.9 The Authority's Corporate Work Programme has been cross referenced with the objectives of the Welsh Government Remit Letter and projects identified that when actioned/completed will contribute towards achieving the WG priority objectives.

2. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

2.1 The Corporate Work Programme will have an impact on both staff resources and financial obligations but these factors have been taken into consideration in the preparation of the Work Programme.

3. RECOMMENDATION:

3.1 That Members formally adopt the (Draft) Corporate Work Programme as a working document for 2022-23.

4. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

4.1 (Draft) Corporate Work Programme 2022-23.

4.2 SNPA's Well-being Statement 2021-26.



WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES 2021-26 : (Refer also to SNPAs Wellbeing Statement 2021-26)

Page 1.

CORPORATE WORK PROGRAMME 2022 – 2023

The Authority's Well-Being Objectives, Corresponding Projects/Initiatives and Outcomes of Success
(Cross Referenced to the Welsh Government's Term of Government Remit Letter for SNPA)

1. RESILIENT ENVIRONMENTS

This outcome will be achieved by:	AC 1	IMPROVING RECREATION MANAGEMENT AND ANY NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF RECREATION		
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 1.)		Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible	
AC 1.1	Monitor visitor numbers through people counters to establish the impact of users across the National Park		March 2023	Hof Engagement + Access & Well-being Manager
AC 1.2	2022 Season Messaging Campaign to raise awareness of the National Park and it's Special Qualities, influence positive behaviour and to tackle unlawful fly-camping – implemented and results/reach reported on. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The three Welsh National Parks have delivered a joint visitor campaign to address visitor management challenges ➤ We are working closely with Gwynedd Council to address issues with fly-camping and motorhomes. ➤ Opportunities have been explored to develop Welsh National Park Experiences that are focused on Special Qualities and sustainable tourism 		December 2022 & Ongoing	Hof Engagement and Sustainable Tourism Officer

Footnote:

- Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme
- Officer(s) Responsible: The first listed officer is lead officer

Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 1.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
AC 1.3 Improved provision for public engagement at Betws y Coed Information Centre via an upgrade of visitor facilities	Anticipated Completion by August 2022	Sustainable Tourism Manager
AC 1.4 Identify and quantify access work to mitigate the effects of people pressure	Ongoing	Hof Warden Service
AC 1.5 Produce an Engagement Strategy for footpath works in Snowdonia	Sept. 2022	Ho Warden Service
AC 1.6 Produce guidelines for undertaking access route works in Snowdonia	Sept. 2022	Ho Warden Service
AC 1.7 Ensure that promoted routes are regularly surveyed, maintained and improved when necessary	Ongoing	Hof Warden Service
AC 1.8 Area Wardens to work with the Communities and partners to identify and take advantage of opportunities to provide a range of promoted routes for varying abilities	Ongoing	Hof Warden Service
AC 1.9 Work across the Authority to integrate work programmes and progress implementation of Area Plans	Ongoing	Hof Warden Service
AC 1.10 Secure funding and recruit an officer to develop the Wyddfa Di-blastig project	October 2022	Partnership Manager

Footnote:

1. Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme
2. Officer(s) Responsible: The first listed officer is lead officer

This outcome will be achieved by:	AC 2	RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE
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Description of SNPA Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 1.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
AC 2.1 Ensuring the implementation of the current LDP policies that contribute to mitigating climate change.	To be reported annually	Head of Development Management and Compliance (Hof DM&C) Principal Planning Officer Policy
AC 2.2 Energy efficiency and reducing carbon footprint of SNPA buildings to be integral part of new Asset Management Plan (to be adopted from April 2022) and aligned with Wales Prosperity for All – A Low Carbon Public Estate targets	Asset Management Plan adopted from April 2022 + Ongoing	Head of Property
AC 2.3 Develop an Action Plan for SNPA to be carbon neutral by 2030 based on the recommendations of the Carbon Study report	Ongoing 2030	CEO Property Manager
AC 2.4 Commission a report to identify how the Authority can assist towards the National Park area being carbon neutral by 2050 to include specific reference to land management and working beyond SNPAs properties	Dec. 2022	CEO
AC 2.5 Support a strategic partnership with Welsh Government, Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authorities on Nature Recovery and Carbon Sequestration in the Designated Landscapes of Wales and hosting the post of strategic lead.	Ongoing	CEO

Footnote:

- Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme
- Officer(s) Responsible: The first listed officer is lead officer

This outcome will be achieved by:	AC 3	IMPROVING THE MANAGEMENT AND UNDERSTANDING OF CULTURAL HERITAGE
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Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 1.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
AC 3.1 Development and adoption of the SNPA Cultural Heritage Strategy	Autumn 2022	Hof Cultural Heritage
AC 3.2 Ensure that the Carneddau Landscape Partnership Scheme Work Programme for 2021/22 is completed on time to ensure that the Project remains on track for completion by 2025	Ongoing - 2025	Carneddau LPS Manager
AC 3.3 Review progress delivery of the Dolgellau Townscape Heritage Scheme in readiness for completion of the scheme	Completion of scheme	Dolgellau TH Project Manager
AC 3.4 Develop the Harlech & Ardudwy Cultural Heritage project that will enable the Authority to apply for external funding in due course	March 2023	Cultural Heritage Project Officer
AC 3.5 To actively contribute to the work programme of the North West Wales Slate Landscapes World Heritage Site Action Plan	March 2023	Ho Cultural Heritage
AC 3.6 Wardens to lead monthly walks with guest specialist to promote nature, culture and heritage	Ongoing - 2023/24	Ho Warden Service
AC 3.7 To actively contribute to the ongoing work programme of the Cadw-led Historic Environment Group (HEG) and its associated working groups including Wellbeing, Climate Change Mitigation, Peatlands and Local Heritage	Ongoing	Hof Cultural Heritage

Footnote:

1. Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme
2. Officer(s) Responsible: The first listed officer is lead officer

Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 1.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
AC 3.8 Sustain and develop Yr Ysgwrn as a museum and cultural centre of national repute including the delivery of the 'Geiriau Diflanedig' exhibition project onsite in a post Covid world	Sept. 2023	Hof Cultural Heritage
AC 3.9 Progress Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plan/Delivery Plan as a baseline of information for developing potential capital projects in subsequent years	March 2023	Hof DM&C Historic Environmental Planning Officer

This outcome will be achieved by:	AC 4	ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF POST BREXIT LAND MANAGEMENT SCENARIOS
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Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 1.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
AC 4.1 Assist in the development and design of future land management proposals with Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales, to ensure that Eryri benefits from future proposals and that the strategic aims of Cynllun Eryri are reflected in future proposals	Ongoing	Hof Conservation, Woodlands and Agric. (CWA) + CEO + Director Planning & Land Management
AC 4.2 Maintain close working relationship with the land based sector to ensure that the Authority has an understanding of the ongoing implications of Brexit on land management	March 2023 + Ongoing	Ho CWA

Footnote:

- Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme
- Officer(s) Responsible: The first listed officer is lead officer

This outcome will be achieved by:	AC 5	ADDRESSING THE DECLINE IN NATURE		
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 1.)		Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible	
AC 5.1	Develop an action plan based on the understanding and contents of e.g. SoNaRR (State of Natural Resources report), State of the National Park Report etc. to inform on priorities for nature recovery in Snowdonia		March 2023	Hof CWA
AC 5.2	Continuing to deliver biodiversity enhancement through the development management process following publication of Welsh Government guidance		To be reported annually	Hof DM&C
AC 5.3	Ensuring an SPG on biodiversity is produced to support the Development Management process by 2023 once guidance by Welsh Government is published		March 2023	Hof DM&C Principal Planning Officer Policy (PPOP)
AC 5.4	Continued delivery of approved projects that address the aims of Cynllun Eryri (e.g. HLF Carneddau, LIFE (Celtic Rainforest, Raised Bog, Quaking Bog, Curlew project) SMS Dinas Mawddwy, National Peat Programme, ENRAW, Dark Sky projects) and develop further programmes		Twice yearly update reports on individual projects	Hof CWA Project Managers
AC 5.5	To progress a National Park wide survey of Trees and Ancient Woodland sites (PAWS)		March 2023	Ho CWA

Footnote:

1. Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme
2. Officer(s) Responsible: The first listed officer is lead officer

RESILIENT ENVIRONMENTS: We will know we are succeeding in delivering the well-being objective when:

AC1: We will have developed and implemented guiding principles and thresholds in relation to visitor impacts on the environment and landscape *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A1.1)*

AC1: We have ensured that uplands paths are well maintained to manage the impacts of erosion and prioritise work based on the number of footpath users *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A1.2)*

AC1, 2: We have reduced the impacts of parking and transport on the environment and landscape *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A1.4)*

AC1: We have reduced any negative impacts of recreational activities *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A1.5)*

AC1: Using the brand marketing strategy as a foundation, we will have developed a shared plan with partners on the information we provide to visitors, with an emphasis on the Special Qualities and behavioural change *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome B3.3)*

AC2, 4: The carbon emissions of Snowdonia National Park are reduced *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A3.1)*

AC2, 4: We have safeguarded and increased the amount of carbon stored in Snowdonia *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A3.2)*

AC3, 4, 5: We have co-ordinated and implemented an ambitious public goods scheme that focuses on maintaining, restoring and expanding habitats, species, historic environment features and wider public goods *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A2.1)*

AC5: Biodiversity decline is being addressed through maintenance, restoration, expansion and connectivity activities *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A2.2)*

AC2, 4, 5: We have continued to expand current Partnership actions to control and reduce the extent of invasive species *(as per Cynllun Eryri A4.2)*

AC3: We have supported the repair and restoration of listed buildings, supported the safeguarding of Scheduled Monuments and developed and implemented landscape scale projects which benefit the historic environment *(as per Cynllun Eryri A6.1. A6.2. A6.3).*

WELSH GOVERNMENT REMIT LETTER: ENVIRONMENT

WG Priority objectives and actions for SNPA	SNPA Project/Initiative
Actively support WG commitment to achieving a Zero-carbon economy by working to become carbon neutral by 2030 through your everyday work and a range of decarbonisation interventions	AC 2.1. AC 2.2 AC 2.3 AC 2.4
Support a shift away from private car use to more sustainable transport modes for the majority of journeys amongst staff, visitors and service users in order to meet the target of 45% of journeys being undertaken by sustainable modes by 2040	CC 3.3 CW 2.3
Proactively help facilitate carbon sequestration including by supporting delivery of woodland creation where appropriate and our aim to strengthen the protection of ancient woodlands, and increase engagement in the National Forest programme	AC 5.5 (PAWS)
Take action to improve the connectivity, condition, scale/extent and diversity of ecosystems, and maintain and enhance resilient ecological networks, embedding delivery in emerging national targets arising from the 30x30 commitment	AC 5.1 - AC 5.5
Support the National Peatland Action Programme (NPAP) that has been designed to restore, enhance and maintain resilient ecological networks, tackle climate change and manage water. You should work with NRW to address the NPAP themes, including the priority actions and cross-cutting themes	AC 2.4 AC 5.1 AC 5.4
Support the PfG commitment to establish a targeted scheme to support restoration of seagrass and saltmarsh habitats along our coastline, help deliver the ambitions of the Marine Protected Area Network Management Framework and contribute to emerging policy of blue carbon	AC 5.1
The Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places Capital fund, and other WG schemes to deliver on nature and decarbonisation goals	CW 3.3
Engage actively in Local Energy Planning to help bring about the transformation of the energy system needed to reach Net Zero, securing greater benefits for your communities	
Engaging positively in initiatives to promote reuse and repair, to grow the circular economy, and reduce the harm caused to the environment by single use plastics through discouraging their use wherever possible	AC 1.10

2. RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

This outcome will be achieved by:	CC 1	MAINTAINING AND INCREASING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF RESIDENTS
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Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 2.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
CC 1.1 Develop an online resource as part of the new website relating to activities and routes within the National Park targeted and tailored appropriately	Work to be started in April 2022 once new website launched	Ho Engagement, Ho Wardens + Brand & Content Manager - website
CC 1.2 As part of the SNPA Volunteer Strategy and in collaboration with partners, continue to expand volunteer opportunities within the National Park that include both physical and cultural activities	Ongoing	Hof Engagement + Volunteer and Well-being Officer
CC 1.3 Develop volunteering opportunities for under-represented, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups	Ongoing	Hof Engagement + Volunteer and Well-being Officer
CC 1.4 Ensuring planning takes a pro-active role in encouraging affordable housing by working with other agencies in this sector, in order to try and achieve the annual target set out in the LDP	To be reported annually	Hof DM&C
CC 1.5 Continue to provide funding and measures to support local communities and economies through Cronfa Cymunedol Eryri, particularly where these are led by communities themselves, in green infrastructure, improved access to recreation for health and wellbeing, energy generation, local environmental improvements such as litter and waste management, community development and the Welsh Language	March 2023	Partnerships Manager

Footnote:

- Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme
- Officer(s) Responsible: The first listed officer is lead officer

This outcome will be achieved by:	CC 2	SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE
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Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 2.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
CC 2.1 Prepare a draft Youth Manifesto for discussion and approval by Members	Sept. 2022	Ho Warden Service
CC 2.2 Restart Young Rangers scheme and adopt a scheme for South of the Park	July 2022	Ho Warden Service

This outcome will be achieved by:	CC 3	PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM TO ADD VALUE TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES
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CC 3.1 Commission and promote the annual STEAM tourism Sustainability Report in order to measure the impacts of tourism and provide recommendations based on the report on how the impacts can be mitigated in Snowdonia	March 2023	Head of Engagement + Sustainable Tourism Officer
CC 3.2 Opportunities to encourage greener transport are being developed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Developing and progressing the recommendations from the review of transport and parking in the Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen areas with partners ➤ Implementing a Sustainable Tourism model across the region. Stage 1 scoping is nearing completion and Stage 2 has been confirmed for financing by TfW ➤ Actively seek opportunities to input to the North Wales Transport Commission that will help support the sustainable transport vision for Snowdonia 	Ongoing until April 2025 March 2022 March 2023	Hof Engagement + Partnership Manager

Footnote:

1. Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme
2. Officer(s) Responsible: The first listed officer is lead officer

Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 2.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
CC 3.3 Encourage visitors to come via public transport at different times of year and to different areas in order to ease pressure during the peak season and help businesses with seasonality issues, through developing the Welsh National Park Experiences	December 2022	Hof Engagement + Sustainable Tourism Officer
CC 3.4 Continue to develop the Eryri Ambassadors scheme and utilise to help spread messaging in relation to the above. Develop a Green Ambassador accreditation as part of the Snowdonia Ambassador scheme with associated sustainable tourism modules. Include information about those achieving the accreditation on our website.	Ongoing February 2023	Hof Engagement + Snowdon Partnership Officer
CC 3.5 Ensuring the current LDP positively implements its policies to contribute to sustainable tourism, that add value to local communities.	To be reported annually	Hof DM&C
CC 3.6 Seek to establish a Delivery Group and terms of reference for the northern Snowdonia area that will enable improved partnership working and the successful prioritisation and delivery of sustainable travel and transport projects.	March 2023	Hof Engagement
CC 3.7 Develop the National Parks strategic position on a tourism levy and actively engage in the Welsh Government consultation in the autumn of 2022	Ongoing Autumn 2022	Ho Engagement

Footnote:

1. Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme
2. Officer(s) Responsible: The first listed officer is lead officer

This outcome will be achieved by:	CC 4	PROMOTING AND ACTIVELY SUPPORTING THE WELSH LANGUAGE
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Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 2.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
CC 4.1 Produce a new 5 year Welsh Language Promotion Strategy for the period 2022 - 26	Sept. 2022	Head of Admin. & CC
CC 4.2 Continuing to develop Yr Ysgwrn as a cultural centre promoting Welsh language culture and actively providing opportunities to socialise through the medium of Welsh	Ongoing	Head of Cultural Heritage
CC 4.3 Develop the ‘Geiriau Diflanedig’ major exhibition project through collaboration with Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museums Wales and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (supported by grant funding), bringing ‘The Lost Words’ exhibition to Wales for the first time and showcasing the epic bilingual feat of the anthologies	Ongoing until March 2023 for exhibiting in 2024	Hof Cultural Heritage
CC 4.4 Safeguarding and promoting use of Welsh place names by developing guidance for the use of place names by the SNPA	September 2022	Ho Cultural Heritage
CC 4.5 Providing opportunities for volunteers to learn and use the Welsh language through the volunteering strategy	Ongoing	Ho Engagement + Volunteer & Well Being Officer
CC 4.6 The Carneddau Voices and Place Names project and Harlech and Arduwy Cultural Heritage Scheme will record, safeguard and celebrate Welsh place names through community mapping events, oral history interviews, outreach projects and interpretation	Ongoing until December 2025	Ho Cultural Heritage
CC 4.7 Ensuring Development Policy 18: The Welsh Language and the Social and Cultural fabric of Communities is effectively utilised within the development management process	To be reported annually	Hof DM&C PPO Policy

Footnote:

1. Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme
2. Officer(s) Responsible: The first listed officer is lead officer

CC 4.8 Produce a Supplementary Planning Guidance on the World Heritage Site, the Slate Landscape of North West Wales, to support the Development Management process	October 2022	Hof DM&C PPO Policy
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This outcome will be achieved by:	CC 5	DEVELOPING A LOCAL ECONOMY WHICH SUPPORT BOTH THE DESIGNATION AND THE MANAGEMENT OF SNOWDONIA AS A NATIONAL PARK
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CC 5.1 Ensuring the positive implementation of current LDP policies to develop a local economy which support the designation of the NP	To be reported annually	Hof DM&C PPO Policy
CC 5.2 Present an annual monitoring report to members for discussion and consideration of the timetable for commencing a review of the current LDP	Annual report	Hof DM&C PPO Policy

Note: Projects and initiatives under AC4 (post Brexit) and CC3 (Sustainable Tourism) are also relevant under CC 5

Footnote:

1. Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme
2. Officer(s) Responsible: The first listed officer is lead officer

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES: We will know we are succeeding in delivering the well-being objective when:

CC1, 2, 4: We have promoted and enabled a diverse range of activities that improve people's wellbeing *(as per Cynllun Eryri B1.2)*

CC1, 3, 5: We have created a plan and focus resources on promoting, developing and maintaining well-marked long distance trails, accessible trails, multi user trails (particularly cycling trails and mountain bike routes), promoted routes and links and loops between towns and villages *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome B2.1)*

CC1, 2, 3, 5: We have encouraged visitors to come at different times of year and to different areas in order to ease pressure during the peak season and help businesses with seasonality issues *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome B3.2)*

CC1,3,5: We have explored and implemented opportunities to encourage greener transport *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome B4.2)*

CC2, 3, 4: We have created opportunities for young people to be ambassadors for the language and culture of the area *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome C1.1)*

CC4, 5: We lead by example in ensuring that the Welsh language, culture and heritage is promoted and used in events, activities and information *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome C1.1)*

CC 4: We have implemented measures in the Local Development Plan and related Supplementary Planning Guidance which encourages new developments to maintain or enhance the development of the Welsh language *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome C1.1)*

CC4: We have provided opportunities for Welsh learners in the area *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome C1.2)*

CC4: We have protected Welsh place names *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome C1.3)*

CC1, 2, 4: We have worked with partners to address underlying issues and develop innovative solutions to delivering affordable housing that meets local needs *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome C3.1)*

WELSH GOVERNMENT REMIT LETTER: PEOPLE AND PLACE

WG Priority objectives and actions for SNPA	SNPA Project/Initiative
Contribute to the co-design and implementation of the Sustainable Farming Scheme	AC 4.1
Contribute, where appropriate, to the PfG commitment to establish a Community Food Strategy to encourage the production and supply of locally-sourced food	-
Work with Housing Authorities, Community Land Trusts and private developers, to develop innovative solutions to acute housing issues, and contribute to the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan	CC 1.4
Working with partners such as Local Authorities and Transport for Wales, implement solutions to the pressures of visitors on local infrastructure, including more sustainable transport systems, and communication campaigns to ensure responsible recreation. You must balance that with the importance of tourism to our economy, and the role you play at the heart of this in meeting the need of visitors. You should be guided in this by the recommendations and findings of the recent works by Audit Wales on sustainable tourism.	AC 1.2 1.4 1.5 1.6 1.9 CC 3.1 – 3.5
Support the designation of inland bathing waters and development of Sustainable Drainage Systems	-
Engage with the development of the proposed all-Wales framework for social prescribing	-
Collaborate with key partners to deliver against Priorities for the <i>Historic Environment in Wales</i> to safeguard and interpret the historic environment and cultural heritage	AC 3.1 – AC 3.10
Develop policies that ensure that the Welsh Language is able to thrive, delivering against <i>Cymraeg 2050: Our plan for 2021 to 2026</i>	CC 4.1 – CC 4.7
Increase engagement in opportunities for people in vulnerable or disadvantaged groups, and under-represented communities to benefit from the landscapes you manage	CC 1.2 1.3
Increase provision of skills training, apprenticeship and volunteering opportunities	CC 1.2 1.3 CC 2.1 2.2

3. RESILIENT WAYS OF WORKING

This outcome will be achieved by:	CW 1	DEVELOPING A SKILLED WORKFORCE
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Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 3.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
CW 1.1 Engaging with our staff at all levels to assist performance management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All Authority staff members will be appraised within the 12 months ➤ Training needs assessments of all staff will have been undertaken within the 12 months 	Ongoing March 2023	Ho Personnel
CW 1.2 Supporting staff to attend National Park peer groups to keep them informed of development and to assist performance management and understanding within their respective disciplines	Ongoing March 2023	Ho Personnel Ho Service
CW 1.3 Further develop our workforce and provide staff with every opportunity to develop to meet future challenges	Ongoing March 2023	Ho Service Ho Personnel

This outcome will be achieved by:	CW 2	DEVELOPING AND PROMOTING BEST PRACTICE
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CW 2.1 Share achievements of Decarbonisation projects through SLSP funding with other bodies within designated landscapes and wider public estate	March 2023	Head of Property
CW 2.2 When appointed new Ho Personnel to collate information re. best practice in other National Parks, gain staff feedback and draft paper for discussion/consideration by Members Working Group	March 2023	Ho Personnel

Footnote:

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2. Officer(s) Responsible: The first listed officer is lead officer

CW 2.3 Review staff working arrangements in response to Welsh Government target of home working and blended home/office working where it is possible for staff to do so	December2022	Ho Personnel
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This outcome will be achieved by:	CW 3	EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WORKING
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Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 3.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
CW 3.1 Cynllun Eryri is being implemented successfully and the first annual progress report has been presented to the Authority	June 2022	Partnerships Manager
CW 3.2 Support the work of the National Designated Landscapes Partnership (NDLP) in Wales	Ongoing	CEO
CW 3.3 Continue to support the work of UK wide National Park Authorities, the National Parks Partnership, National Parks Foundation and other associated collaborative initiatives	Ongoing	CEO
CW 3.4 Contribute to the formation and development of the planning function of the North Wales CJC	Ongoing	Director Planning & Land Man.

Footnote:

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2. Officer(s) Responsible: The first listed officer is lead officer

This outcome will be achieved by:	CW 4	MODERNISING GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS
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Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 3.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
CW 4.1 Implement the results of the Governance Task & Finish Group as approved by the Authority	Sept. 2022	Director Corporate Services
CW 4.2 Establish a mentoring programme for Authority members	Throughout 2022	Director Corporate Services
CW 4.3 Support and develop Authority members by establishing a training and development programme	Throughout 2022	Director Corporate Services
CW 4.4 Install new Information System Servers	June/July 2022	Ho Information systems

This outcome will be achieved by:	CW 5	MAINTAINING AND IMPROVE THE UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL PARK
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CW 5.1 Developing further volunteer opportunities at Yr Ysgwrn to enhance the current cohort of volunteers, seeking to recruit young people who are keen to develop new skills and gain experience, focusing on delivery of activities by volunteers as well as more traditional roles such as visitor guides.	Ongoing	Hof Cultural Heritage + Visitor Experience Manager (when appointed)
CW 5.2 When adopted implement and monitor measures in Engagement Strategy to ensure local communities understand and are aware of the work of the Authority.	Ongoing	Ho Engagement

Footnote:

1. Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme
2. Officer(s) Responsible: The first listed officer is lead officer

Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 3.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
CW 5.3 Continue to engage with local communities on aspects of the Snowdon Area Traffic Management Study	Throughout 2022	Partnerships Manager + Snowdon Partnership Officer
CW 5.4 Engage with and keep communities informed through meetings with Community Councils	Autumn 2022 Arrange at least 1 meeting	Ho Admin. & Customer Care
CW 5.5 Liaise with landowners and interested parties through meetings of the Snowdonia National Park Access Forums	Ongoing March 2023	Access Manager
CW 5.6 Liaise with the farming community and farming unions and through meetings of the Agricultural Liaison Group	Annual meeting November 2023	Ho CWA
CW 5.7 Involve our local communities in all important aspects of the Authority's work e.g. delivery of Cynllun Eryri, and LDP, formulation of Supplementary Planning Guidances, Engagement Strategies when developing new projects etc.	On going March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Partnerships Manager ➤ Planning Manager ➤ Project Managers

Footnote:

1. Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme
2. Officer(s) Responsible: The first listed officer is lead officer

RESILIENT WAYS OF WORKING: We will know we are succeeding in delivering the well-being objective when:

CW1, 2: We have invested in our staff to ensure that they have both the expertise and skills needed to meet present and future challenges.

CW2, 3: Cynllun Eryri is being implemented successfully.

CW2, 4: We have undertaken a review of existing governance arrangements to ensure that the Authority continues to function effectively and will be adaptable enough to meet future challenges. Monitor any changes to ensure that they are working as planned.

CW5: Opportunities for local communities, schools, hard to reach and disadvantaged groups to engage with, and learn about, Eryri's environment and cultural heritage, and how they can help care for it have been identified (*as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A5.1*)

CW5: We have supported, promoted and delivered volunteering opportunities that help protect and enhance the environment and cultural heritage (*as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A5.2*)

CW5: We will have increased opportunities for dialogue between the National Park Authority and community based organisations (*as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome C4.1*)

WELSH GOVERNMENT REMIT LETTER: EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING

WG Priority objectives and actions for SNPA	SNPA Project/Initiative
Actively participate in WLGA sector-led improvement and support programme	-
Contribute to designing revamped training package for NPA members and develop a co-ordinated approach to NPA training to share best practice	CW 4
Proactively promote the new protocol for Local Authorities in appointing NPA members, ahead of, during and after Local elections, emphasising experience and interest above political considerations as far as is possible within the current legislation	CW 4
Fully embrace a strengthened annual performance reporting system for WG appointees, and investigate how this be extended to Local Authority appointees	CW 4
Strive for excellence in governance including the sharing of best practice between NPAs, maximising use of the new Inclusion, Diversity and Governance Excellence Strategic lead	CW 4
Proactively contribute to setting local and regional planning policy, including through the CJC structure and through regional and national collaboration to implement the policies in Future Wales (with particular reference to Policy 9 and the requirement to secure resilient ecological networks and green infrastructure)	CW 3.4

WELSH GOVERNMENT REMIT LETTER: COLLABORATION

WG Priority Objectives and Actions for SNPA (and Designated Landscapes Wales (DLW))	SNPA Project/ Work
Support Tirweddau Cymru (the National Designated Landscapes Partnership) to develop its ambition, embed collaborative working at all levels within NPAs and AONBs, help produce a strategic vision for action for 2022-24	CW 3.3
<p>Implement a transformational tripartite agreement between NPAs to host a team of WG-funded Strategic Landscape Co-ordinators to work across our Parks and AONBs, and ensure the objectives and outputs of these posts are included within wider NPA monitoring arrangements and those of DLW:</p> <p>i. A Nature Recovery and Carbon Sequestration Strategic Lead, with focus on all of the unimproved habitats and woodland and the biodiversity they contain inclusive of invasives, and opportunities for carbon reduction</p> <p>ii. A Nature Recovery and Nutrient Management Strategic Lead, with a focus on working soil management, riparian and marine matters from terrestrial activity, upland lake eutrophication, water/aquatic biosecurity to agricultural run-off issues, and support the development of Nutrient Management Boards</p> <p>Both posts would help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a strategic plan to respond to the nature and climate emergencies • Support the development of approaches to enable DLW to transition to the new Sustainable Farming Scheme • Identify how DLW can develop new partnerships and support wider Welsh Government priorities, and identify innovative funding streams <p>iii. An Inclusion, Diversity and Governance Excellence Strategic Lead, to work across all NPAs, hosted by one NPA. A key aspect of their work should also be to take bold steps to drive up diversity and equality – on Boards, staffing profile, and visitors and support NPAs to meet the requirements of the socio-economic duty and increase contributions towards tackling child and rural poverty.</p>	CW 4.3
Share experience and best practice as designation for a new National Park progresses	-



SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

WELL-BEING STATEMENT 2021-2026

Adopted by the Authority March, 2021

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:

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
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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. In the Act the sustainable development principle is represented by the five ways of working, which are:



This document sets out Snowdonia National Park Authority’s revised well-being objectives, describes how they will help us achieve the seven well-being goals for Wales and establishes the rationale and the steps we will take to achieve them. Underpinning our well-being objectives, are our Sustainable Development principles, Vision, Service Priorities and Corporate Work Programme.



WELL-BEING STATEMENT 2021-2026

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WELL-BEING STATEMENT 2021-2026

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Snowdonia National Park Authority is committed to the principles of Sustainable Development and Continuous Improvement. This document forms a key element in the system by which the Authority establishes its work programme and monitors performance and improvement
- 1.2 The Authority's Well-Being Statement is the document which details the Authority's corporate vision and priority outcomes. The document is a high level strategic document which identifies the Authority's guiding principles and key priorities. The Well-Being Statement helps to shape what new initiatives and projects/programmes the Authority may develop or bid for in the coming years as well as highlight any areas for improvement.

2. BACKGROUND TO ADOPTING NEW WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES FOR 2021-26

- 2.1 In 2018-19 Snowdonia National Park Authority combined its improvement objectives into its Corporate Plan (well-being statement) and produced one document. This approach was consistent across the three National Park Authorities and supported and audited by the Wales Audit Office.
- 2.2 Since the publication of the "Valued and Resilient" report in July 2018, which identified Welsh Government's priorities for the Designated Landscapes of Wales, the Authority's well-being objectives are required to meet the 10 cross-cutting themes found in the document:
 1. Landscapes for everyone
 2. Exemplars of the sustainable management of natural resources
 3. Halting the loss of biodiversity
 4. Green energy and decarbonisation
 5. Realising the economic potential of landscape
 6. Growing tourism and outdoor recreation
 7. Thriving Welsh language
 8. All landscapes matter
 9. Delivering through collaboration
 10. Innovation in resourcing
- 2.3 The disapplication (with caveats) of the Local Government Measure 2009 allows the Authority to adopt longer term objectives which will facilitate better alignment of the Authority's work with the Park Management Plan, Local Development Plan, reporting mechanisms and establishment of realistic and SMART'er objectives for annual work programmes.
- 2.4 The Wellbeing and Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 stipulates that the Authority must carry out sustainable development and in doing so must set and publish objectives ("well-being objectives") that are designed to maximise its contribution to achieving each of the

well-being goals, and take all reasonable steps (in exercising its functions) to meet those objectives.

- 2.5 The Authority is required to reflect purposes and duties under the Environment (Wales) Act 1995.
- 2.6 In 2019 Members agreed on the need to review the Authority's objectives to ensure that they better reflected and aligned with the priorities identified in the documents 2.2 – 2.5 above and accommodate Welsh Government's priorities for the designated landscapes of Wales.
- 2.7 A timeline was adopted by the Authority to adopt new wellbeing and strategic objectives for the period 2021-26.

A series of Member and/or staff facilitated engagement sessions were held throughout 2020 during which key areas were identified. Three main themes emerged, two outward and one inward facing. Aligned with the three main themes further five sub themes were developed to provide focus:

RESILIENT ENVIRONMENTS:

1. Improve recreation management and any negative effects of recreation
2. Responding to the challenges of climate change
3. Improving the management and understanding of our cultural heritage
4. Addressing the challenges and opportunities of post Brexit land management scenarios
5. Addressing the decline in nature.

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES:

1. Maintaining and increasing the quality of life of residents
2. Supporting young people
3. Promote sustainable tourism to add value to local communities
4. Promote and actively support the Welsh language
5. Develop a local economy which supports both the designation and the management of Snowdonia as a National Park.

RESILIENT WAYS OF WORKING:

1. Developing a skilled workforce,
2. Developing and promoting best practice,
3. Effective partnership working,
4. Modernising governance arrangements,
5. Maintain and improve the understanding and support of local communities to the work of the National park.

- 2.8 During the summer of 2020, the Authority held an initial informal consultation with stakeholders to gauge whether the initial themes reflected the aims and vision of the National Park Authority whilst utilising the resources available in the most sustainable way. Feedback confirmed the themes and provided suggestions for changes and further improvement.

A formal consultation took place late 2020 prior to further Member/Staff sessions to discuss, consider and develop final draft well-being objectives and a Corporate Work Programme.

- 2.9 The position of the Authority like all other sectors has changed dramatically due to the need to protect public health against the Covid-19 pandemic and the requirements of dealing with the threat to society. Accordingly, this has necessitated changes to both the Authority's Service Priorities and to some elements of the well-being objectives themselves so as to enable the Authority to concentrate efforts and resources on where it is needed.

3. SERVICE PRIORITIES

3.1 In developing its service priorities and well-being objectives the Authority takes regard to key legislation and strategic policy statements, other relevant plans and the views of staff, its members, key stakeholders and members of the public including:

- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Natural Resources Policy
- Remit letter issued on an annual basis by the Welsh Government to the Authority
- Delivery of the National Park Management Plan (Cynllun Eryri)
- Reports by Wales Audit Office on the Authority
- Gwynedd & Mon and Conwy & Denbighshire Public Service Boards Well-Being Plans
- Consultation responses and the views of stakeholders.

3.2 **OUR SERVICE PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING FINANCIAL YEARS ARE SET OUT AS FOLLOWS:**

- ensure that the objectives in Cynllun Eryri, the National Park Management Plan, are delivered successfully by ourselves, our partners and our stakeholders in order to improve the state of the Park;
- ensure that the statutory planning function is adequately resourced and effectively managed in order to meet national policy, customer expectations and support sustainable communities;
- sourcing new income streams to support Park purposes and the Authority;
- ensure that we are fully engaged with and delivering against the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and priorities of Valued and Resilient;
- demonstrating both locally and nationally the benefits of a National Park Authority to manage such a special place as Snowdonia for both now and for future generations;
- protect our staff, residents, users and the National Health Service against the spread of Covid-19 virus at a local, regional and national level;
- ensure that both staff and members are adequately supported in their working arrangements in such a period and that the wellbeing of staff is supported;
- deal with the operational needs and financial pressures resulting from the constraints and challenges of operating in a challenging environment and the required measures in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic and years beyond;

3.3 **HOW THE AUTHORITY GOES ABOUT ITS BUSINESS IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT IN THESE ECONOMIC TIMES AND IN THIS CONTEXT THE AUTHORITY WILL ADOPT THE FOLLOWING APPROACH:**

- further embedding sustainable development as a core principle that guides all our work;
- by working with our partners, adopting an enabling and facilitating role in attaining our purposes;
- will fully evaluate long term financial and other commitments of all potential projects;
- working with our communities in attaining the vision of the Authority.

4. WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 The Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 (“the Act”) gives a legally binding common purpose namely the seven well-being goals. The seven well-being goals are as follows:

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
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The Act applies to national government, local government, local health boards and other specified public bodies such as this Authority.

For the Authority the core duty in the Act (the well-being duty) is that we must set well-being objectives that maximise our contribution to achieving the well-being goals set out above. In doing so, we must take all reasonable steps to meet those well-being objectives in accordance with the sustainable development principle.

- 4.2 The Authority’s well-being objectives should be objectives for change over the long term. We will meet our well-being objectives by a series of steps and these can themselves be short, medium or long term actions for change or a combination of the same.
- 4.3 The Authority’s well-being objectives are set out in Section 5 of this Well-being Statement. They are set out in such a way as to clearly show how each and every one of them applies to each of the seven well-being goals. Beneath the individual well-being objectives are the series of steps needed to achieve the same and these have, once again, been assessed individually as to how they apply to each of the seven well-being goals. The steps to be undertaken as set out above and in Section 5 is supported by a detailed Work Programme that is reported to and audited by the Authority on a regular basis throughout the year. The progress can then be measured by the Local Performance Indicators adopted for that specific purpose.
- 4.4 Supporting the Well-being goals is a parallel duty that each public body must carry out sustainable development. Further details as to what constitutes sustainable development is set out below.

Any actions that we take in achieving our well-being objectives will need to be made in a sustainable way. Sustainable development involves five key requirements namely:

1. **Long Term** – the importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long term needs, especially where things done to meet short term needs may have detrimental long term effects.
2. **Integration** – how our well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, how the well-being objectives may impact upon each other or upon other public bodies’ well-being objectives, in particular where steps taken by us may contribute to meeting one objective but may be detrimental to meeting another.
3. **Involvement** – the importance of involving other persons with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and of ensuring those persons reflect the diversity of the population of Wales or the geographical area of the Authority.

4. **Collaboration** – acting in collaboration with any person (or how different parts of the Authority acting together) could assist the Authority to meet its well-being objectives, or assist another body to meet its objectives.
5. **Prevention** – to take account of how deploying resources to prevent problems occurring, or getting worse may contribute to meeting the Authority’s well-being objectives, or another body’s objectives.

4.5 Having assessed the requirements of sustainable development with the Authority’s well-being objectives it appears that sustainable development is an integral part of our well-being objectives, further details of which are set out below:

Long Term: Each of the Authority’s well-being objectives encompasses the long term aspirations of the Authority, in particular how we as an Authority will go about our business in the future and the ethos of our thinking. These involve greater collaboration with our stakeholders, increased awareness of the health benefits of the National Park to people in general, the challenges of climate change, empowering our communities whilst recognising that the Authority must continue to operate within the financial resources available to it.

Integration: Some of our well-being objectives have a greater impact on individual well-being goals than others. As part of the process of adopting our well-being objectives the Authority considered how they meet the well-being goals and these are set out not only in respect for each of the well-being objectives but also for the actions associated with our well-being objectives.

Involvement: Most of our well-being objectives involve other people. By communicating effectively and broadening the understanding of the public on such diverse subjects as to the challenges faced by Snowdonia in responding to climate change, addressing any negative effects of recreation whilst improving understanding of our cultural heritage it is expected that such communications will reflect the population of Wales. Likewise ensuring that our communities are resilient in the face of the challenges that they face will of course involve not only the population of the geographical area of the Authority but also the population of Wales as a whole as it is only by involving all that we can ultimately hope to be successful. Our Resilient ways of working objective, whilst not directly involving other people is the objective that ensures that the long term ambitions of the Authority continue to be attainable.

Collaboration: As a relatively small Authority Snowdonia National Park Authority has always recognised the significant advantages that can be gained through collaborating with others and through sustained partnership working. This form of thinking is by now ingrained into the fabric of the Authority and its staff and it comes as no surprise that all our well-being objectives involve collaboration. All of our well-being objectives will involve a mixture of internal and external collaboration.

Prevention: It should come as no surprise that prevention is a central plank to the Authority’s well-being objectives when one considers our statutory purposes. By involving our communities and others in the work of the Authority; by communicating effectively as to the very real opportunities that the National Park offers; by ensuring that we offer favourable conditions for habitat recovery; by taking these and other actions now, we can begin the process of adapting to the challenges of climate change. If resources are not deployed now on these issues there is a real risk that the challenges facing future generations will prove insurmountable.

The Authority’s well-being objectives are set out in Section 5. Progress on the implementation of its well-being objectives will be reviewed on a regular basis by the Authority’s Performance and Resources Committee. A final report is considered by the Authority after the financial year has ended, through consideration of the Authority’s Annual Report.

5. WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES

The Well-Being Objectives and Corresponding Activities, and a Summary of how they meet the Well-Being Goals

RESILIENT ENVIRONMENTS Amgylcheddau Cydnerth (AC)	Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture	Global responsible
This outcome will be achieved by:							
AC1 Improving recreation management and any negative effects of recreation	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
AC2 Responding to the challenges of Climate Change	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
AC3 Improving the management and understanding of Cultural Heritage	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
AC4 Addressing the challenges and opportunities of post Brexit land management scenarios	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
AC5 Addressing the decline in nature		✓	✓				✓

We will know we are succeeding in delivering the well-being objective when:

AC1: We will have developed and implemented guiding principles and thresholds in relation to visitor impacts on the environment and landscape *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A1.1)*

AC1: We have ensured that uplands paths are well maintained to manage the impacts of erosion and prioritise work based on the number of footpath users *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A1.2)*

AC1, 2: We have reduced the impacts of parking and transport on the environment and landscape *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A1.4)*

AC1: We have reduced any negative impacts of recreational activities *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A1.5)*

AC1: Using the brand marketing strategy as a foundation, we will have developed a shared plan with partners on the information we provide to visitors, with an emphasis on the Special Qualities and behavioural change *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome B3.3)*

AC2, 4: The carbon emissions of Snowdonia National Park are reduced *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A3.1)*

AC2, 4: We have safeguarded and increased the amount of carbon stored in Snowdonia *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A3.2)*

AC3, 4, 5: We have co-ordinated and implemented an ambitious public goods scheme that focuses on maintaining, restoring and expanding habitats, species, historic environment features and wider public goods *(as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A2.1)*

AC5: Biodiversity decline is being addressed through maintenance, restoration, expansion and connectivity activities (*as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A2.2*)

AC2, 4, 5: We have continued to expand current Partnership actions to control and reduce the extent of invasive species (*as per Cynllun Eryri A4.2*)

AC3: We have supported the repair and restoration of listed buildings, supported the safeguarding of Scheduled Monuments and developed and implemented landscape scale projects which benefit the historic environment (*as per Cynllun Eryri A6.1. A6.2. A6.3*).

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES Cymunedau Cydnerth (CC)	Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture	Global responsible
This outcome will be achieved by:							
CC1 Maintaining and increasing the quality of life of residents	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CC2 Supporting young people	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CC3 Promoting sustainable tourism to add value to local communities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CC4 Promoting and actively supporting the Welsh language	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CC5 Developing a local economy which supports both the designation and the management of Snowdonia as a National Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

We will know we are succeeding in delivering the well-being objective when:

CC1, 2, 4: We have promoted and enabled a diverse range of activities that improve people's wellbeing (*as per Cynllun Eryri B1.2*)

CC1, 3, 5: We have created a plan and focus resources on promoting, developing and maintaining well-marked long distance trails, accessible trails, multi user trails (particularly cycling trails and mountain bike routes), promoted routes and links and loops between towns and villages (*as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome B2.1*)

CC1, 2, 3, 5: We have encouraged visitors to come at different times of year and to different areas in order to ease pressure during the peak season and help businesses with seasonality issues (*as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome B3.2*)

CC1,3,5: We have explored and implemented opportunities to encourage greener transport (*as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome B4.2*)

CC2, 3, 4: We have created opportunities for young people to be ambassadors for the language and culture of the area (*as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome C1.1*)

CC4, 5: We lead by example in ensuring that the Welsh language, culture and heritage is promoted and used in events, activities and information (*as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome C1.1*)

CC 4: We have implemented measures in the Local Development Plan and related Supplementary Planning Guidance which encourages new developments to maintain or enhance the development of the Welsh language (*as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome C1.1*)

CC4: We have provided opportunities for Welsh learners in the area (*as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome C1.2*)

CC4: We have protected Welsh place names (*as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome C1.3*)

CC1, 2, 4: We have worked with partners to address underlying issues and develop innovative solutions to delivering affordable housing that meets local needs (*as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome C3.1*)

RESILIENT WAYS OF WORKING Ffyrdd Cydnerth o Weithio (CW)	Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture	Global responsible
This outcome will be achieved by:							
CW1 Developing a skilled workforce	✓	✓	✓				
CW2 Developing and promoting best practice	✓	✓	✓	✓			
CW3 Effective partnership working	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
CW4 Modernising governance arrangements	✓	✓		✓			✓
CW5 Maintaining and improve the understanding and support of local communities to the work of the National Park		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

We will know we are succeeding in delivering the well-being objective when:

CW1, 2: We have invested in our staff to ensure that they have both the expertise and skills needed to meet present and future challenges.

CW2, 3: Cynllun Eryri is being implemented successfully.

CW2, 4: We have undertaken a review of existing governance arrangements to ensure that the Authority continues to function effectively and will be adaptable enough to meet future challenges. Monitor any changes to ensure that they are working as planned.

CW5: Opportunities for local communities, schools, hard to reach and disadvantaged groups to engage with, and learn about, Eryri’s environment and cultural heritage, and how they can help care for it have been identified (*as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A5.1*)

CW5: We have supported, promoted and delivered volunteering opportunities that help protect and enhance the environment and cultural heritage (*as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome A5.2*)

CW5: We will have increased opportunities for dialogue between the National Park Authority and community based organisations (*as per Cynllun Eryri Outcome C4.1*)

6. CONTACT DETAILS

We welcome your input and suggestions. Please contact Iwan Jones with your comments.

Further information on the details set out in this Well-Being Statement can be obtained by writing or e-mailing:

Iwan Jones

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Snowdonia National Park Authority

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Well-being Statement 2021-26
Adopted SNPA P&R ~ March 2021

ITEM NO .16

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	15 June 2022
TITLE	ANNUAL REPORT ON ACTUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY 2021/22
REPORT BY	Chief Finance Officer
PURPOSE	Reporting in accordance with statutory requirements. Authority members are requested to note the contents of the report for information only.

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Under the CIPFA Code of Practice we are required to report on the results of the Authority's Treasury Management activity. During 2021/22 the Authority's activity remained within the limits that were originally set. There has been no borrowing. No banks that the Authority had used for investment purposes have defaulted.
- 1.2 In 2021/22, the total interest received from investments was £10,846, against a budget of £8,000. Interest received from car loans of £710 brings the total amount to £11,556.
- 1.3 The bank and building society interest sum of £10,846 for 2021/22 is comparable to the corresponding amount of £11,113 in 2020/21, due to continuing low interest rates due to the effects of the pandemic. Despite rising inflation, interest rates remained low throughout the year.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Treasury management investments arise from the Authority's cash flows, income received in advance of expenditure, plus balances and reserves that need to be invested until the cash is required for use in the course of business. By investing substantial sums, the Authority is exposed to financial risks, including potential loss of invested funds. The Authority's finance officers identify, monitor and control these risks in accordance with its the Authority's treasury management strategy. Complying with CIPFA, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's requirement, the Authority approved its Capital Strategy for 2021/22, covering treasury management and investments at its meeting on 3 February 2021.

2.2 CIPFA's framework, 'Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice', requires the Authority to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year and, as a minimum, to receive a semi-annual and annual treasury outturn report. The actual annual activity of the Authority's treasury management (lending and investment) during 2021/22 is reported here for members' information.

3. BORROWING

3.1 CIPFA and Welsh Government Investment Guidelines require the Authority to invest carefully by considering the security and liquidity of the balances/investment rather than aiming to maximise returns.

A. **Borrowing Limits 2021/22**

On 3 February 2021 the Authority approved the following Borrowing Limits for 2021/22:-

- (i) A Maximum Overall Borrowing Limit of £500,000 for 2021/22, including the Short Term Borrowing Limit of £100,000.
- (ii) That no maximum limit be placed on the proportion of interest payable at a variable rate.

When these limits were set, it was noted that they were 'just in case' and there was no expectation that the Authority would borrow.

B. **Actual Borrowing 2021/22**

The Authority began the financial year with no outstanding debt - and financed capital and revenue expenditure during 2021/22 from grant income and revenue funds. The Authority therefore remains debt-free for Treasury Management purposes.

4. INVESTMENT

4.1 The Authority has been able to invest and earn interest because of its balances situation and positive cash flow. In accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy the monies have been invested as follows:

- Balances which were foreseen as being held for the short to medium term were deposited in the BOS (Bank of Scotland), HSBC (deposit), Nationwide and Santander UK "instant access" accounts, 32/35 day notice accounts (Bank of Scotland, HSBC and Santander UK) and in 95 day notice accounts (Nationwide and Santander UK). During 2020/21, we ceased investment in 95 day notice accounts as was the professional advice received at the time. This advice changed during 2021/22 and we have now resumed investing in said accounts.
- As Barclays bank charges have now changed, we are no longer required to keep a balance of £1,250,000 in a non-interest earning account (the previously required sum in accordance with their terms to avoid incurring bank charges).

4.2 The Bank Rate was 0.1% at the beginning of the reporting period (the 2021/22 financial year). Rising, persistent inflation, initially driven by energy price effects, changed that and the Bank of England increased the Bank Rate from 0.10% to 0.25% in December, then hiked it further to 0.50% in February and 0.75% in March. Of course, this only affected interest earned during the final quarter and ultra-low rates prevailed for much of the financial year. With interest rates continuing to be low for most of 2021/22, together with the need to ensure a relatively even distribution of the Authority's money between the above institutions, the total interest earned during the 2021/22 financial year has been as follows:

Account	Average Balance over the investment period	Interest rate	Interest earned
Bank of Scotland Commercial Call Account (365 days in credit)			
365 days (1 April - 31 March)	£483,500	0.01%	£48
Bank of Scotland 32 day notice Account (365 days in credit) :			
251 days (1 April - 17 March)	£1,662,847	0.03%	£480
14 days (18 March - 31 March)	£1,175,821	0.05%	£23
HSBC Deposit Account (365 days in credit) :			
365 days (1 April - 31 March)	£300	0.01%	£0
HSBC Mmarket Instant (365 days in credit) :			
365 days (1 April - 31 March)	£2,143,055	0.01%	£214
Nationwide Instant Saver Account (365 days in credit) :			
365 days (1 April - 31 March)	£1,633,220	0.05%	£817
Nationwide 95 day notice Account (365 days in credit) :			
244 days (1 April - 30 November)	£1	0.00%	£0.00
62 days (01 December - 31 January)	£1,542,419	0.25%	£655
59 days (01 February - 31 March)	£1,576,166	0.40%	£1,019
Santander Business Savings Account (365 days in credit):			
63 days (1 April - 2 June)	£271,070	0.08%	£37
215 days (3 June - 3 January)	£522,629	0.02%	£62
29 days (4 January - 1 February)	£170,228	0.08%	£11
29 days (2 February - 2 March)	£350,772	0.23%	£64
29 days (3 March - 31 March)	£365,246	0.41%	£119
Santander 95 day Term Deposit Account (365 days in credit)			
275 days (1 April - 31 December)	£267,847	0.40%	£807
59 days (1 January - 28 February)	£801,048	0.45%	£583
31 days (1 March - 31 March)	£801,501	0.55%	£374
Total carried over			£5,312

Total carried over			£5,312
Santander 35 day Term Deposit Account (365 days in credit) :			
276 days (1 April - 1 January)	£1,340,110	0.30%	£3,040
59 days (2 January - 1 March)	£604,928	0.35%	£342
30 days (2 March - 31 March)	£437,594	0.45%	£162
Santander 35 day Term Deposit Account - With Notice (365 days in credit) :			
276 days (1 April - 1 January)	£151,462	0.10%	£115
59 days (2 January - 1 March)	£215,247	0.15%	£52
30 days (2 March - 31 March)	£290,005	0.25%	£60
Barclays 32 Day Notice (196 Days in Credit):			
90 days (19 September - 15 December)	£1,406,791	0.05%	£173
49 days (16 December - 2 February)	£1,477,356	0.20%	£397
42 days (3 February - 16 March)	£952,959	0.45%	£493
15 days (17 March- 31 March)	£2,190,000	0.70%	£630
Barclays Business Premium Account (365 days) :			
365 days (1 April - 31 March)	£35,115	0.20%	70
Santander Business Reserve Account :			
Account that's used for banking Information Centres income - minimal interest received			£0
Total interest earned			£10,846

4.3 More importantly, **all the Authority's balances were kept safe, there was no loss of invested funds, as no banks** that the Authority used for investment (cash deposits) had **failed to repay monies** during the 2021/22 financial year. Further, all treasury management activities undertaken during the year complied fully with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the Authority's approved Treasury Management Strategy.

5. RECOMMENDATION

The Authority's members are asked to note the content of the report for information.

ITEM NO. 17

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	15 June 2022
TITLE	MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE
REPORT BY	Director of Corporate Services
PURPOSE	For information

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Authority has previously requested that an annual report be prepared detailing Members' attendance at Authority and Committee meetings. There is set out below details of such attendance for the period from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 for consideration by the Authority. The details have been broken down to attendance of individual members at the virtual meetings held of the Authority, Planning and Access, Performance and Resources and the Standards Committee. Where a member has been unable to attend because he or she has been away on Authority business this is noted in the record of attendance.

1.2 MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE 01/04/21 – 31/03/22

Committee	Authority	Planning & Access	Performance & Resources
	7	8	3
Members	Attended		
Cllr. Freya Bentham (resigned from the Authority on 24.05.21)	0 (from a possible 1)	0 (from a possible 2)	-
Cllr. Elwyn Edwards	6	8	3
Cllr. Alwyn Gruffydd	7	7	3
Cllr. Annwen Hughes	7	8	2

Cllr. Edgar W. Owen	7	8	3
Cllr. Elfed P. Roberts	5 (absent from 1 meeting to attend an Authority 70 year celebration event)	8	3
Cllr. John Pughe Roberts	5 (absent from 1 meeting to attend an Authority 70 year celebration event)	8	3
Cllr. Judith M. Humphreys	7	7	3
Cllr. Mike Stevens (appointed onto the Authority on 14.07.21)	3 (from a possible 4)	3 (from a possible 5)	2 (from a possible 2)
Cllr. Gethin G. Williams	3	4	0
Cllr. Ifor Glyn Lloyd	5	7	2
Cllr. Philip H. Capper	7	5	3
Cllr. Wyn E. Jones	7	8	3
Mr. Brian Angell	7	8	2
Ms. Tracey Evans	7	7	3
Mr. Tim Jones	5	5	2
Mrs. Sarah Hattle	4	5 (absent from 1 meeting due to another commitment)	3 clash
Mr. Owain Wyn	7	8	3

Committee	Standards	Total
Date	03.09.21	1
Cllr. A. Gruffydd	✓	1
Cllr. Philip H. Capper	✓	1
Mrs. Sarah Hattle	✓	1

1.3 As part of this report I have also collected information on the overall average attendance in percentage terms at Authority and Committee meetings from 1st April 2021 and this is set out below. I have also included the percentage attendance for previous years for comparative purposes.

1.4 MAIN MEETINGS ARRANGED/ ADMINISTERED

MEETING	HELD	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
AUTHORITY	7	85%	88%	82%	85%
PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES	3	86%	87%	74%	81%

PLANNING AND ACCESS	8	79%	87%	81%	82%
STANDARDS COMMITTEE	1	100%	100%	67%	100%
TOTAL	17	82%	88%	80%	83%

1.5 As can be seen attendance varies from 79% for the Planning and Access Committee to 86% for the Performance and Resources Committee and 100% for the Standards Committee (although there was only one meeting of the Standards Committees during the year). There is in fact very little variation in attendance and this is reflected in the overall average attendance of 82% which shows a small decline when compared to the previous year but is broadly comparable to the preceding years.

2.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 This report is submitted for information purposes only.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	15 June 2022
TITLE	WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS
REPORT BY	Head of Administration and Customer Care
PURPOSE	Monitoring Report on the Authority's Welsh Language Standards

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On the 30th of September 2015, the Welsh Language Commissioner issued the Authority with a Compliance Notice in accordance with section 44 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, which confirmed the Welsh Language Standards that the Authority is subject to.
- 1.2 The Authority is required to produce an annual report on its performance against the standards, in line with the requirements of the Compliance Notice.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. **That the Authority approves the report and authorises the Head of Administration and Customer Care to publish it on the Authority's website.**

3. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 3.1. Welsh Language Standards: 2021/22 Monitoring Report.



Snowdonia National Park Authority's Welsh Language Standards: 2021/22 Monitoring Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 On the 30th of September 2015, the Welsh Language Commissioner issued the Authority with a Compliance Notice in accordance with section 44 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, which confirmed the Welsh Language Standards that the Authority is subject to.
- 1.2 As in required on an annual basis, this Monitoring Report looks back over the financial year 2021-22, and reports on how the Authority has complied with, and performed against each of the 162 Standards given to it.
- 1.3 This Annual Report is presented for approval to the Annual General Meeting of the Authority in June each year, before being published on the Authority's website. Publicity is given to the Annual Report via the Authority's social media channels.
- 1.4 The Head of Administration and Customer Care has the day-to-day responsibility over implementing the standards, and contact should be made by sending an e-mail to Bethan.Hughes@eryri.llyw.cymru or by telephoning 01766 772530 to discuss any matter relating to this report.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The 2021-22 financial year has seen continued staff turnover, with 35 new or vacant posts being advertised during the year. Appointments were not made first time to all posts with many having to be re-advertised. On the 31st of March 2022, the Authority had 141 staff, of which 135 were able to undertake the duties of their post bilingually, which is 95.7%.
- 2.2 Staff recruitment and retention continues to be a major issue for the Authority, although we are not alone with this problem. Nationally, all kinds of organisations and businesses are experiencing difficulties in recruiting for positions at all levels. Wales Audit Office had already highlighted this as a risk area, in their report on the Authority's resilience in the provision of its services.

- 2.3 During the year, the Chief Executive commissioned research into Authority's salaries, which concluded that the Authority's pay structure was not competitive, compared to other public sector employers in Northwest Wales.
- 2.4 Members also recommended that acknowledging bilingualism should be included within the review of the Authority's pay structure. Members considered that the ability to be bilingual was essential in enabling the Authority to provide its services - there is a business case to recognise such in its pay structure.
- 2.5 Members agreed that a common standard across the workforce would be desirable. It was agreed that the current adopted Welsh language skills framework, could be adjusted for such a purpose. The framework sets out clearly the expectations and attainment of the Welsh language for all posts in four areas.
- 2.6 After staff and union consultation, the expected linguistic standard for both languages before progression onto the final pay point in any pay band was agreed. The linguistic standard for most jobs as identified under Welsh language skills framework, will however mostly be higher than a common standard across the Authority.
- 2.7 The attainment levels for both languages for the pay structure were set at
Listening (3)
Reading (2)
Talking (3) and
Writing (2).
- 2.8 Throughout 2021-22 the majority of head office staff continued to work from home, as various restrictions were put in place and lifted throughout the year.
- 2.9 A new VoIP telephone system was installed in April 2021, which now enables all staff to answer telephone calls to their direct office number both over their laptop and through an app on a mobile phone. This new system now ensures that staff who are working from home are contactable by members of the public as if they were in the office, which enables a seamless service.
- 2.10 All staff are instructed to set a bilingual voice mail message on their direct line numbers. However, if a personalised message hasn't been set for whatever reason, the voice mail message automatically defaults to a standard bilingual message set for reception, therefore ensuring compliance with the relevant Standards.
- 2.11 In November 2021 the Authority approved for publication, a report assessing the outcome of the Authority's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy. The report highlighted examples of the positive work that has been done over the last 5 years in promoting and raising awareness of the Welsh language.

- 2.12 Unfortunately, without the 2021 Census results, it is impossible to conclude if the target of a 2% increase in the number of Welsh speakers within the National Park had been reached.
- 2.13 Initial scoping work has commenced on producing a new strategy for the 5 next years, with a Member Steering Group due to be established at the Annual General Meeting of the Authority this summer, to drive the process forward.
- 2.14 In April 2021, a complaint was made to the Welsh Language Commissioner that the pre-book parking system that was implemented at Pen y Pass, did not enable an individual to proceed through the entire booking process through Welsh. This service, available by clicking a link from the Authority's website to a third-party provider, was not fully bilingual despite assurances from the company that this was possible prior to signing the initial contact.
- 2.15 After an investigation by the Welsh Language Commissioner, a Decision Notice was issued on the 15th of October 2021 confirming the Authority's failure to conform with Standards 50, 52 and 56.
- 2.16 The Authority was asked to draw up an action plan outlining the steps to be taken to ensure compliance with the appropriate Standards, and a timescale of a year was given to be fully compliant.
- 2.17 One of the difficulties the Authority faced with implementing such a system, is that it had to be fully integrated with ANPR technology, as the ultimate intention for the future is that the system can operate with minimum staffing resources. The limited number of companies that can both offer this technology and were willing to develop a bilingual solution was extremely limited.
- 2.18 Despite this, a contract was entered into with JustPark, and a system was implemented in time for the Easter holidays in April this year. At the time of writing, there are a couple of minor issues which are still to be resolved to ensure full compliance with the relevant Standards, and officers continue to work with the company to address these.
- 2.19 There were no other complaints regarding the Welsh language provision of services in any other area of the Authority's work during the year.
- 2.20 In conclusion, the Welsh language continues to be an integral part of the Authority's identity and culture, and this is reflected in the work that is done and the services provided.

3. Service Delivery Standards

- 3.1 Correspondence (Standards 1-7): The Authority sends out correspondence in the language of choice of the recipient, or in cases when this is not known a bilingual version of the correspondence is sent.
- 3.2 When bilingual correspondence is sent out, the Welsh and English language is treated equally by appearing side by side (where this is possible), with the same font and size used in both languages. On rare occasions when separate Welsh and English correspondence is produced, both versions are identical in terms of font and size, including contact details, signatures etc.
- 3.3 Telephone Calls (Standards 8-22): All staff who work at the Authority's main receptions and Information Centres are fully bilingual and accordingly are able to deal with all enquiries through the medium of Welsh at the first point of contact.
- 3.4 The Authority has an automated menu on the main contact number, which gives a choice to proceed in Welsh or English. Menu choices are then given in the language chosen. The pre-recorded message for out of hours is bilingual with the message in Welsh being transmitted first.
- 3.5 When contact is made through a direct line telephone number, staff are instructed to greet the caller with a bilingual greeting (with the Welsh first) or with a neutral greeting, ensuring that the Welsh language is not treated less favourably than the English language.
- 3.6 When contact is made through a direct line telephone number, staff are instructed to set a bilingual message on their voice mail, with the Welsh message playing first.
- 3.7 As the majority of the Authority staff are bilingual, any calls from Welsh speakers are dealt with at the first point of contact. For the staff that are not fully able to carry out a conversation in Welsh, they will transfer the call to a colleague without any delay.
- 3.8 During the year, the majority of office staff have continued to work from home. The new telephone system installed by the Authority in April 2021 now enables staff to answer their direct line office telephone numbers through an app on their mobile phone and through their laptop.

- 3.9 Meetings (Standards 23-38): All meetings arranged with an individual have and will continue to be conducted in the language of choice of the individual. For meetings that have been arranged for a group of individuals, they will be conducted in Welsh with simultaneous translation being arranged for any non-Welsh speakers in attendance (unless none of the invited individuals are able to communicate in Welsh, in which case the meeting will be conducted in English).
- 3.10 All public meetings of the Authority have and will continue to be conducted in Welsh with simultaneous translation available for those who cannot communicate through the Welsh language.
- 3.11 During the year, the majority of public meetings continued to be held virtually using Zoom, as this was the only software that was able to successfully accommodate simultaneous translation services. However, the Authority's Committees which are usually open for the public to observe were neither broadcasted live nor available for the public to join the meeting virtually.
- 3.12 Changes are currently being implemented to enable the Authority to commence broadcasting some of its committees and to put in place systems to enable hybrid meetings, therefore enabling the public to access the meetings virtually or in person.
- 3.13 All publicity, written materials and any documentation produced by the Authority and handed out at public events or meetings are fully bilingual, with the Welsh and English languages treated equally.
- 3.14 Public Documentation (Standards 40-51): All the Authority's public documents, including forms are bilingual with the Welsh appearing first or on the left hand side of the document. The Welsh and English languages are treated equally, with the same font and size of text used for both languages. The Welsh and English language versions are usually in a separate document when they are published on the website, and a sentence is included on the English version, stating that a Welsh version is available.
- 3.15 During the year, a compliance investigation by the Welsh Language Commissioner's office noted that not all documents published on the website had the sentence noting that a Welsh language version was available on the English document. During the process of transferring documents on to the new website, all documents were checked and for those that did not include the statement, this was added to ensure compliance.
- 3.16 Website, Apps and Social Media (Standards 52-59): The Authority's website and apps are fully bilingual with the user being able to choose their preferred language on the home page. Every single page of the new website has a toggle button which can be used to access the other language. All pages correspond fully between both languages.

- 3.17 During the year, a compliance investigation by the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office noted that on the recruitment pages on the website, there were 2 headings in English on the Welsh pages. The problem was quickly rectified with the website company.
- 3.18 The Authority has corresponding Welsh and English versions of twitter accounts and a bilingual version of Facebook. All messages from the Authority are replicated identically on the Welsh and English versions of the various social media sites, or bilingually in some instances. Any messages received in Welsh through social media are always answered in Welsh.
- 3.19 All the Authority's pay and display machines in the car parks are able to provide the service in Welsh and English. On older machines, the initial screen displays a language choice before proceeding whilst newer machines change language every 3 seconds.
- 3.20 Since the summer of 2020, Eryri (Snowdonia) has experienced unprecedented numbers of visitors, which caused public safety problems around irresponsible parking experienced around Yr Wyddfa. Following a pre-book parking pilot for a few weeks at Pen y Pass in August 2020, a 1 year contract was signed with Just Park to trial a sustainable solution for the longer term. Despite assurances of being able to supply a Welsh and English service, the system was not fully bilingual and a formal complaint was submitted to the Welsh Language Commissioner in early April 2021.
- 3.21 On the 15th of October 2021, the Commissioner issued a Decision Notice which concluded that the Authority was in breach of the Welsh Language Standards 50, 52 and 56.
- 3.22 The Authority was asked to produce an Acton Plan detailing how it would ensure compliance and was given a year to comply.
- 3.23 A bilingual pre-booking system was put in place in time for the Easter holidays in April 2022.
- 3.24 Signs (Standards 61-63): All signs erected by the Authority are fully bilingual, with the Welsh appearing first or on the left hand side. The Welsh and English languages are treated equally, with the same font and size of text used for both languages.
- 3.25 Reception Services (Standards 64-68): As previously stated all staff who work at the main reception areas or at Information Centres are fully bilingual. Each reception has the 'Iaith Gwaith' logo on display to indicate that a Welsh service is available and all reception staff have been given 'Iaith Gwaith' badges.

- 3.26 Official Notices (Standards 69-70): When the Authority publishes or displays an Official Notice they are always fully bilingual, with the Welsh appearing first or on the left hand side. The Welsh and English languages are treated equally, with the same font and size of text used for both languages.
- 3.27 Grant Schemes (Standards 71-75): The Authority has several grant schemes, namely
- Snowdonia Partnership Fund;
 - Grants for the repair of listed buildings at risk in Snowdonia;
 - Building grants in Dolgellau through the Dolgellau Townscape Heritage Initiative;
 - Cronfa Cymunedol y Carneddau which is funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund; and
 - Celtic Rainforest Fund which is funded by the EU LIFE.
- 3.28 For each of the grant schemes, all documentation including application forms and guidance notes are fully bilingual, and correspondence is carried out in the language of choice of the applicant or bilingually.
- 3.29 In addition, for those grants which are for community based projects, events and activities; conditions are set upon the grant to ensure that all activities and documentation funded by the grants are fully bilingual.
- 3.30 Although these measures have been in place for years, the Welsh Language Standards require that we have a formal Policy on Awarding Grant in relation to the Welsh language implications. To ensure compliance with the relevant Standard, a formal Policy on Awarding Grants was developed and adopted during the year.
- 3.31 All staff who have responsibility over administering grant schemes have been advised of the new policy and understand how to implement it.
- 3.32 Contract Tenders (Safonau 76-80): All Public Notices for Invitations to Tender or to Express an Interest are produced bilingually and usually published on the Authority's website. They are also published on the Sell2Wales website bilingually.
- 3.33 All submissions received in Welsh have been processed and treated in the same way as submission in English, and correspondence is carried out in the language of choice of the applicant or bilingually.

- 3.34 Corporate Identity and Promoting Services (Standards 81-83): The Authority's corporate identity has been fully bilingual since its inception, with the Welsh and English language being treated on the basis of equality. Any future changes or rebranding of the corporate identity will always adhere to this founding principle.
- 3.35 The Authority does not provide the same services separately in Welsh and English, but rather offers a bilingual service with one point of contact. The promotion of any services is therefore done bilingually in line with the Authority's corporate identity, ensuring that the Welsh and English language is treated on the basis of equality.
- 3.36 Education Courses (Standards 84-86): Until March 2020, Plas Tan y Bwlch the Authority's Study Centre, offered public education courses, which were subject to an assessment of the need for the courses to be offered through the medium of Welsh.
- 3.37 Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, the running of day and residential courses has ceased. Commercial activity at the Centre currently extends to Bed & Breakfast accommodation and third party events only.
- 3.38 Public Address System (Standard 87): The Authority currently does not have any public address systems in place across its buildings.
- 3.39 Complaints relating to Complying with the Service Delivery Standards
During the year 1 complaint was received relating to the way in which the Authority complied with the Service Delivery Standards. That complaint related to the pre-book parking system in place through the Authority's website. Details have been included under 3.20 – 3.23.

4. Policy Making Standards

- 4.1 Policy Formulation and Associated Consultation (Standards 88-93): With every new policy* that is developed (or if a present policy is revised and updated) an Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment screening process is undertaken as part of the process. This integrated assessment process has this year been extended to include the socio-economic duty.
**Policy is defined in its wider context to include plans and strategies*
- 4.2 The screening process will determine if the proposed policy will or is likely to have a negative effect on the Welsh language or the ability of people to use the Welsh language. The assessment will also identify the potential for the proposed policy to have a positive effect on the language either through its use or through its promotion.

- 4.3 If the proposed policy goes out to public consultation, the responses received through the consultation will be taken into account in full when undertaking the impact assessment. Members of the Authority will also have an opportunity to scrutinise the proposed policy at various points through the process. If a negative impact were to be identified, a fully equality impact assessment would take place to identify mitigation measures required and to decide whether to proceed with the policy.
- 4.4 During a compliance investigation, the Welsh Language Commissioner's office noted that not all the Authority's consultation documents from the Planning Policy service included the required wording which specifically asks about the potential effect that particular policy could have on the Welsh language or the ability to use the Welsh language.
- 4.5 As a result, the requirements under the Standards were discussed and made clear to Planning Policy staff. In addition, a Guidance Document was produced which outlined the requirements and which gave examples of appropriate wording to use in different consultation documents, which has been circulated to all services within the Authority.
- 4.6 Awarding Grants and Commissioning Research and Projects (Standards 94-97): The requirement to take into consideration the effect (both positive or negative) on the Welsh language has been fully integrated into Cronfa Eryri, the new commissioning fund. Additional conditions on the use and the promotion of Welsh, and to ensure equality for the Welsh language will continue to be part of the fund's requirements.
- 4.7 During the year, research was commissioned from Cronfa Eryri on one of Eryri's (Snowdonia) special qualities, namely Tranquillity and Solitude. A survey was undertaken with residents of the National Park to seek their views. The survey respondents were able to undertake the survey through Welsh or English.
- 4.8 The research gathered the views of residents on many aspects surrounding this special quality. Many residents raised concerns around second home owners and the effect visitors have on our culture and language. The research outcomes will be used as part of ongoing work to realise the vision of Cynllun Eryri.
- 4.9 Complaints relating to Complying with the Policy Making Standards
During the year no complaints were received relating to the way in which the Authority complied with the Policy Making Standards

5. Operational Standards

- 5.1 On the 31st of March 2022, the Authority employed 142 staff of which 136 are fully bilingual, representing 95.7%.
- 5.2 Using Welsh internally (Standard 98): Since its inception, the Authority has established through custom and practice that the main language of internal communications is Welsh, with English being used as required. Staff are aware that any general written communication directed at all staff (such as e-mails) are to be produced bilingually.
- 5.3 Staff Documentation (Standards 99-104): The Authority has a fully bilingual policy in place for all personnel matters. This means that all documentation relating to the employment of an individual is produced bilingually as standard and given to all staff members. Any correspondence that is sent out periodically from the personnel service to individual staff members is also produced bilingually.
- 5.4 Personnel Policies (Standards 105-111): All personnel policies are produced bilingually as standard.
- 5.5 Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures (Standards 112-119): Staff are welcome to correspond in the language of their choice. Both Welsh and English are treated equally and there would be no delay in responding to correspondence received in either language. Disciplinary or appeal hearings are all conducted in the language of choice of the staff member, as well as all related documentation and correspondence.
- 5.6 Computer Software (Standard 120): Every staff computer and laptop has Cysgliad installed for checking spelling and grammar in Welsh, as standard.
- 5.7 Staff and Members Intranet (Standards 121-126): Currently, the new website which was launched in April 2022 does not have a Staff and Members intranet.
- 5.8 Skills Assessment (Standard 127): Data from the staff skills assessment is set out in Appendix 1.
- 5.9 Training (Standards 128-133): General training courses are always provided in Welsh where possible. During 2022-23, no members of staff attended a course entirely through Welsh.
- 5.10 Employees who cannot fully communicate in Welsh are encouraged to attend Welsh language courses and training, which can be undertaken in work time. One member of staff attended Welsh / Improving Welsh courses during the year.

- 5.11 E-mail Signatures and Contact Details (Standards 134-135): The Authority uses the 'Iaith Gwaith' badge for Welsh language speakers and learners to place within their e-mail signature. All contact details provided as part of an e-mail signature are fully bilingual, as required in the Authority's 'Clear Communications' booklet, the guide for staff on customer service standards and house style.
- 5.12 Vacant Posts and Recruitment (Standards 136-140): During 2021-22, 35 vacant posts were advertised. Of these, all 35 were classed as Welsh essential.
- 5.13 A Welsh language skills framework was developed at the start of 2020, which classifies the required skill level for each post from 0 to 5+ in for categories, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each Head of Service now scores each vacant post, with the scoring being moderated by the Head of Administration and Customer Care, before receiving final approval from the Management Team. Applicants are now aware before applying, the exact skill level required for the position.
- 5.14 All recruitment advertisements are advertised in Welsh. The Authority uses Webrecruits to accept and process applications, which allows applicants to submit their applications online. All documentation is available bilingually e.g. application form, job description, person specification and equality monitoring form. Job interviews are conducted in Welsh.
- 5.15 The Webrecruits system sends out an e-mail to job applicants if they have been unsuccessful in their application and have not been selected for interview. This e-mail is in Welsh and English. Letters or e-mails sent to job applicants informing them of the outcome of their interview are sent out in Welsh only or bilingually.
- 5.16 Internal Signage and Announcements (Standards 141-144): All signs erected by the Authority are fully bilingual, with the Welsh appearing first or on the left hand side. The Welsh and English languages are treated equally, with the same font and size of text used for both languages. The Authority doesn't currently have an internal address system.
- 5.17 Complaints relating to Complying with the Operational Standards
During the year no complaints were received relating to the way in which the Authority complied with the Operational Standards.

6. Promotion Standards

- 6.1 Promoting the Welsh Language (Standards 145-146): During 2016/17 a Strategy for Promoting the Welsh Language was adopted by the Authority. The strategy includes a target of 'an increase of 2% of Snowdonia National Park's population which can speak Welsh by 2021'.

- 6.2 In November 2021, the Authority published a report assessing the outcome of the Promotion Strategy. Without the release of the 2021 Census data on the numbers of Welsh speakers, it has not been possible to assess whether the Authority has reached its target of increasing the number of Welsh speakers within the National Park by 2%.
- 6.3 Work has commenced on developing a new Strategy, although the work of promoting the Welsh language continues as always to be an integral part of the daily work of the Authority.

7. Record Keeping and Supplementary Standards

- 7.1 Keeping Records of Compliance with the Standards (Standards 147-176): A document titled 'Snowdonia National Park Authority Welsh Language Standards' has been produced, which is available in the Authority's offices and on the website. The document outlines all the Standards that the Authority is subject to and sets out how members of the public can make a complaint about the Authority's compliance with the Standards or any aspect of the Welsh language service offered by the Authority.
- 7.2 The Authority has kept records of how it complies with the Standards in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Language Commissioner.

APPENDIX 1

1. Staff Skill Levels - Overview

The number and % of staff within the Authority's services which are able to speak Welsh according to directorate			
	No. of Staff	No. of Welsh Speakers	%
Corporate	92	90	98%
Planning and Land Management	49	45	92%

The number and % of staff within the Authority's services which are able to speak Welsh according to post grade			
	No. of Staff	No. of Welsh Speakers	%
Management Team	3	3	100%
Heads of Service	10	9	90%
Grade 7+	57	53	93%
Up to Grade 6	71	70	98.6%

The number and % of staff within the Authority's services which are able to speak Welsh according to workplace			
	No. of Staff	No. of Welsh Speakers	%
Head Office	87	82	94%
Information Centres	10	10	100%
External Staff	31	31	100%
Plas Tan y Bwlch	13	12	92%

2. Staff Skill Levels by Service

Corporate Directorate

The number and % of staff within the service which are able to speak Welsh			
Section	No. of Staff	No. of Welsh Speakers	%
Management Team	2	2	100%
Finance	5	5	100%
Personnel	1	1	100%
Administration	12	12	100%
Information Systems	5	4	80%
Property	4	4	100%
Legal	1	1	100%
Engagement	25	25	100%
Plas Tan y Bwlch	13	12	92%
Wardens	24	24	100%

Number and % of staff within the service, by post grades, which are able to speak Welsh			
Section	No. of Staff	No. of Welsh Speakers	%
Chief Executive	1	1	100%
Director	1	1	100%
Heads of Service	7	7	100%
Grade 7+	30	29	97%
Up to Grade 6	53	52	98%

Planning and Land Management

The number and % of staff within the service which are able to speak Welsh			
Section	No. of Staff	No. of Welsh Speakers	%
Director	1	1	100%
Planning	17	14	82%
Cultural Heritage	15	15	100%
Conservation, Trees and Agriculture	16	15	94%

Number and % of staff within the service, by post grades, which are able to speak Welsh			
Section	No. of Staff	No. of Welsh Speakers	%
Director	1	1	100%
Heads of Service	3	2	67%
Grade 7+	27	24	89%
Up to Grade 6	18	18	100%

3. Staff Skill Levels – Reception

The number and % of posts in the main reception areas that have been designated 'Welsh essential' and that were filled by bilingual staff.			
Section	No. of Staff	No. of Welsh Speakers	%
Head Office	7	7	100%
Plas Tan y Bwlch	4	4	100%
Information Centres	10	10	100%

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	15 th June 2022
TITLE	CYNLLUN ERYRI ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2020-21
REPORT BY	Partnerships Manager
PURPOSE	To report on the first year of implementation of the National Park Management Plan from 2020-21

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The National Park Authority is required by law to prepare a plan to provide effective management involving all those concerned with the future of Snowdonia. The plan sets out how we will all work together to look after Snowdonia National Park.
- 1.2 In order to engage partners in the development and delivery of the Plan, Fforwm Eryri meets on a quarterly basis and is an opportunity for all those involved in shaping Snowdonia's future to galvanise their approach to joint working in the region and beyond. Through this purpose, the Forum provides a new way of working with relevant partners in delivery of Section 62 duties of the Environment Act of 1995.
- 1.3 Cynllun Eryri - the new Management Plan - was developed over an extensive period of consultation and engagement from 2016-2019.
- 1.4 With the advent of the global pandemic in early 2020, the adoption of Cynllun Eryri was delayed to ensure that proofing for new circumstances was able to take place.
- 1.5 In October 2020 members adopted Cynllun Eryri as the new National Park (Partnership) Management Plan for the period 2020-25.
- 1.6 Cynllun Eryri was officially launched in an online event in November 2020.
- 1.7 Since then, Partners have been implementing the Action Plan and reporting back to the Partnerships Manager and at quarterly online meetings of Fforwm Eryri.

- 1.8 The Action Plan has been divided into themes and is in three sections - relating to the two statutory purposes and duty of the National Park Authority.
- 1.9 The enclosed Annual Monitoring Report (Annex 1) is the first of its kind and covers the period from **October 2020 – December 2021**.

2. PROGRESS REPORT

- 2.1 In its first year of implementation, a significant degree of progress has been made on the Action Plan of Cynllun Eryri, especially considering the unforeseen impacts of Covid-19 and remote working as a necessity.
- 2.2 Fforwm Eryri adapted quickly to online, bi-lingual meetings and has amended its Terms of Reference to ensure that this the preferred mode of operation for at least 3 of its 4 annual meetings. This has facilitated attendance and has avoided the need for all to travel significant distances to meet face to face.
- 2.3 Whilst gathering evidence from Partners for this report, it became obvious that there are outstanding examples of delivery of the Action Plan being progressed across the region. It was decided that a new and appropriate way to convey this information would be through the production of a micro-site for the Plan which can be updated by Partners. This is now available at www.cynlluneryri.org
- 2.4 The Report begins with an Introduction and Executive Summary.
- 2.5 A full report follows where each Outcome is assessed in relation to the Measurements of Success as agreed by all Partners in the original Action Plan of Cynllun Eryri.
- 2.6 Each Outcome begins with an overall assessment, which is coloured according to a traffic light system. Consideration is given as to whether the original timeline is still relevant, and what (if anything) could prevent the Action from being achieved by 2025.
- 2.7 A detailed reminder of the Action Plan relating to this Outcome and an update on progress by all relevant partners follows.

3. KEY POINTS TO NOTE

- 3.1 It is fair to conclude that following one year of delivery – in challenging circumstances – progress has been achieved in all Outcomes on the Action Plan of Cynllun Eryri.
- 3.2 Only one action (*Action 2.1 Co-ordinate an ambitious public goods scheme that focuses on maintaining, restoring and expanding habitats, species, historic environment features and wider public goods*) has been assessed as Red = Not progressed/at risk. This is currently out of our control as we are awaiting the introduction of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill. This Action will be reassessed by all Partners once we have greater understanding of the future situation.

- 3.3 Nevertheless, the impacts of Covid-19 and staffing changes have meant that timelines have - and will need to be - reassessed for the following Actions A1.1; A1.5; A2.2; A3.3; A6.3; A7.1; B1.1; B2.2; B3.1; B3.2; B3.3; B5.1; B5.2; C3.2; C4.1. These will be included in the next Annual Progress Report (2021-22).
- 3.4 Action A3.3 and B1.3 will also need to be revised to reflect changing circumstances. Here work which has already been done, has superseded these activities. These changes will also be reflected in the next Annual Progress Report with input from all Partners.
- 3.4 The 2021-2022 Annual Progress Report will therefore detail reassessed timelines and will continue to consider any risks posed which could influence the delivery of the full Action Plan by 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

For members to:

1. Note the progress made to date regarding the delivery of Cynllun Eryri; and
2. Provide further recommendations regarding the format of the Annual Monitoring Report for 2021-2022

Annex 1: Cynllun Eryri Annual Monitoring Report 2020-8

CYNLLUN

ERYRI

THE SNOWDONIA NATIONAL
PARK PARTNERSHIP PLAN

CYNLLUN ERYRI – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2020-21

CYNLLUN ERYRI — ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2020-21

Cynllun Eryri was adopted by Snowdonia National Park Authority as its statutory (Partnership) Management Plan in October 2020 and officially launched in November 2020. This is the first report of annual progress capturing input from all Partners up to the end of 2021. This period has been an exceptional one for all, and the move to on-line meeting and reporting has encouraged a re-think of methods and approaches. Whilst gathering evidence from Partners, it became obvious that there are outstanding examples of work towards Cynllun Eryri's goals being progressed across the region. It was decided that a new and appropriate way to convey this information would be through the production of micro-website for the Plan, which can be updated by Partners on an annual basis. This is still being refined, but can be viewed here: www.cynlluneryri.org

Partnerships

Within the delivery of Cynllun Eryri, as well as Fforwm Eryri, there are several other Partnerships in existence which are working towards the set objectives, those being:

Partneriaeth Yr Wyddfa/Snowdon Partnership, lead partner SNPA: Tourism Association Betws y Coed; NRW; CESS; FUW; CLA; Partneriaeth Awyr Agored; Cyngor Gwynedd; Cyngor Conwy; NT; Tourism Association Beddgelert; Eryri Bywiol; Hwb Eryri; Rheilffordd Yr Wyddfa; Tîm Achyb Mynydd; NFU; Bukeley Estates; YHA Pen y Pass.

Carneddau Landscape Partnership 2020 - 2025, lead partner SNPA: Core Partners: Cadw, National Trust, Natural Resources Wales, Snowdonia Society. Delivery partners: Abergwyngregyn Regeneration Company; Bangor University (Henfaes Research Centre, University Farm); British Mountaineering Council; Conwy Borough County Council (Conwy Culture Centre); Cyngor Gwynedd; Cymdeithas Enwau Lleoedd / Welsh Place-name Society; Gwynedd Archaeological Trust; Outdoor Partnership; Partneriaeth Ogwen; Penmaenmawr Museum and Historical Society; Plantlife Cymru; PONT Cymru; RSPB; Snowdonia Active; University of Sheffield (Department of Archaeology); Carneddau Pony Association; Farmers' Union Wales; National Farming Union Wales.

Cwm Idwal Partnership, lead partner NT: SNPA & NRW

EU LIFE Celtic Rainforest Project 2020-2025 lead partner SNPA: Welsh Government, RSPB, Woodland Trust.

Local Nature Partnership, Lead Partner SNPA: YNGC/ NWWT; Llais y Goedwig; Cadw Cymru'n Daclus / Keep Wales Tidy; Y Dref Werdd; Cymdeithas Eryri / Snowdonia Society; LNP Cymru; GIG / NHS; BTO; WCVA; Hafal; Cyngor Gwynedd / Gwynedd Council; CNC / NRW; RSPB; Snowdonia Active; Plant Life; Bywyd Gwyllt Glaslyn; Woodland Trust / Coed Cadw; FSC / Rhyd y Creuau; Baileys and Partners; Red Squirrel Survival Trust; Cofnod; HGC / NWP; Coed Lleol Small Woods Wales; Butterfly Conservation; CADW; Mantell Gwynedd; LNP Conwy.

2020-21 was a difficult year for progressing on-the-ground work outlined in the Action Plan of Cynllun Eryri due to the restrictions initiated by the Covid-19 pandemic – therefore several timelines have been reassessed accordingly. The traffic light measurements below reflect this and whether each objective is on track to be delivered within the timeline of the overall plan i.e. by 2025.

Status:  Progressed, within original timelines

 Progressing with reassessed timelines

 Not progressed and/or at risk

Executive summary

In its first year of implementation, a significant degree of progress has been made on the Action Plan of Cynllun Eryri, especially considering the unforeseen impacts of COVID-19 and remote working as a necessity. Fforwm Eryri adapted quickly to online, bi-lingual meetings and has amended its Terms of Reference to ensure that this the preferred mode of operation for at least 3 of its 4 annual meetings. This has facilitated attendance and has avoided the need for all to travel significant distances to meet face to face.

The report details progress by all delivery partners, however in short, from October 2020 – December 2021 the following can be concluded:

Section A Eryri's Environment: We are successfully caring for our natural and historic assets and stunning surroundings.

- Outcome A1: Sustainable Tourism principles are achieved - 3 actions are progressed and are within the original timelines set and 2 are progressing with reassessed timelines.
- Outcome A2: Biodiversity is being maintained and enhanced, whilst the resilience of ecosystems is increased - 3 actions are progressed and are within the original timelines set, 1 is progressing with reassessed timelines and 1 has not been progressed and is at risk.
- Outcome A3: We are prepared for the impacts of climate change and are reducing our carbon footprint - 1 action is progressed and is within the original timeline set and 2 are progressing with reassessed timelines.
- Outcome A4: Snowdonia is at the forefront internationally in successfully tackling invasive species, pests and diseases that impact on native species -1 action is progressed and is within the original timeline set and 2 are progressing with reassessed timelines.
- Outcome A5: Communities, businesses and visitors play an active role in caring for the National Park's landscapes, habitats, wildlife and cultural heritage - 1 action is progressed and is within the original timeline set and 1 is progressing with reassessed timelines.
- Outcome A6: Snowdonia is a leading example in Wales of how to care for and champion cultural heritage and the historic environment - 2 actions are progressed and are within the original timelines set and 1 is progressing with reassessed timelines.
- Outcome A7: Our Special Qualities are well protected - 3 actions are progressed and are within the original timelines set and 3 are progressing with reassessed timelines.

Section B: Eryri's Health and Well-being: Opportunities to learn and discover, and at the same time improve our well-being.

- Outcome B1: The National Park is having a positive impact on Well-Being - 1 action is progressing within the original timelines set and 2 are progressing with reassessed timelines.
- Outcome B2: Residents and visitors can access a variety of routes in the National Park aimed to improve physical and mental health - 1 action is progressed and is within the original timeline set and 2 are progressing with reassessed timelines.
- Outcome B3: Our Special Qualities are widely recognised all 3 actions are progressing with reassessed timelines.
- Outcome B4: Sustainable options for parking and transport are achieved - both actions are progressing with reassessed timelines
- Outcome B5: Our visitor facilities are high quality and landscape sensitive - 1 action is progressing within the original timelines set and 2 are progressing with reassessed timelines.

Section C: Eryri's Communities and Economy: A great place to develop, live and work

- Outcome C1: The language, culture and heritage of Snowdonia is being celebrated, supported and strengthened - all 3 actions are progressing and are within the original timelines set.
- Outcome C2: Jobs and opportunities encourage people to remain in the area – all 3 actions are progressing with reassessed timelines
- Outcome C3: We are implementing solutions for affordable housing to buy and rent – 2 actions are progressing within the original timelines set and 1 is progressing with reassessed timelines.
- Outcome C4: Local communities are supported to thrive in all aspects of well-being – both actions are progressing with reassessed timelines

It is fair to conclude that following 1 year of delivery – in challenging circumstances – progress has been achieved in all areas of the Action Plan of Cynllun Eryri.

However, there has been significant reassessing of timelines and in some cases actions will need to be revised to reflect changing circumstances.

The 2021-2022 review will detail reassessed timelines and will continue to consider any risks posed which could influence the delivery of the full Action Plan by 2025.

Full Report

In this full report, each Outcome is assessed in relation to the Measurements of Success as agreed by all Partners in the original Action Plan of Cynllun Eryri.

Each Outcome begins with an overall assessment, which is coloured according to the traffic light system below.

A detailed reminder of the Action Plan relating to this Outcome and Progress by all Partners follows.

Please note that progress is relating to the time period October 2020-December 2021.

Acronyms used for delivery partners:

Snowdonia National Park Authority: SNPA

Natural Resources Wales: NRW

North Wales Wildlife Trusts: NWWT

Woodland Trust: WT

Coleg Glynllifon: CoG

National Farming Union Wales: NFU Cymru

Country Land and Business Association: CLA Cymru

Snowdonia Active: SA

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau: PLAS

Conwy County Borough Council: CCBC

Public Health Wales: PHW


Outdoor Partnership: OP

Gwynedd Council: CG

John Muir Trust: JMT

Cymdeithas Eryri / Snowdonia Society: CESS

National Trust: NT

Status:  Progressed, within original timelines

 Progressing with reassessed timelines

 Not progressed and/or at risk

Eryri's Environment: We are successfully caring for our natural and historic assets and stunning surroundings.

OUTCOME A1

Sustainable Tourism principles are achieved.

Are we within our timeline? Yes


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

- SNPA/Gwynedd Council MOU has been signed with an end date of 2035 – assessment on progress of this work to take place annually against action points noted in Cynllun Eryri.
- Ongoing investment from WG/TfW and partnership agreements will be needed to maintain the Parking and Transport Strategy roll out – annual assessment of this situation.
- Yr Wyddfa NNR: the lapsed lease means that NRW are unable to undertake or commission works on the Baron Hill compartment.
- The Covid pandemic has had some impact on path improvement works – timeline still achievable at this stage.

Conclusion:

There has been clear progress against all measurements of success within Cynllun Eryri's Action Plan for Outcome A1. The objective remains on track to be achieved by 2025.


Detailed 2020/21 progress report

Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
A1.1		<p>Develop guiding principles and thresholds in relation to visitor impacts on the environment and landscape. The principles will define where further action in the form of area-based management plan is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a heat map • Look at best practice examples from other areas • Define thresholds and principles • Select trial areas to pilot the approach • Where there is environmental capacity and community led desire for an increase in visitors, explore options of redistribution of visitors from areas suffering from overcapacity 	<p>By the end of 2021 a heat map will be produced, thresholds and principles will be defined.</p> <p>A rationale, methodology and results will be presented in a findings report. Strategies will be established based on agreed guiding principles.</p>	<p>SNPA NRW Fforwm Eryri Gwynedd Council Conwy CBC</p>

Progress report: SNPA and Gwynedd Council have signed a MOU to develop and embed Sustainable Tourism principles across the region and begin a programme of work together. New measurements of the impact of Tourism are being developed by SNPA and CG which will feed into heat maps for the region. Timelines for this work will need to be extended as the scope of work has widened and now focuses on developing an holistic set of measurements.

SNPA Comprehensive visitor and residents survey taking place during 2021 results expected early 2022.


**Suggested timeline change to end of 2023.

A1.2		<p>Ensure that uplands paths are well maintained to manage the impacts of erosion and prioritise work based on the number of footpath users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a multi-organisation working group to coordinate management • Maintain funding and explore new sources (e.g. donations) • Increase the use of volunteers for maintenance work • Build a local contractor base for more skilled work 	<p>Annual assessments of progress will occur, baselines will be established, and sources of funding will be quantified.</p>	<p>SNPA; National Trust; NRW; Snowdonia Society; Conwy County Borough Council; Gwynedd Council; Volunteer Groups; Ramblers Cymru</p>
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Progress report: NRW have agreed priority sections of Mynydd Moel path on Cader Idris with SNPA access team for the first phase of a big path project. Other works include: Rhinogydd NNR minor path works in wet section east of Bwlch Drws Ardudwy; Cwm Idwal NNR: small scale works by the NT team; New access gates installed at the NNR entrance on Llwybr Watkin. New NNR sign in prep.

CESS: have developed and accredited footpath maintenance unit – entry level. Have established an agreement in the south of the Parc – but no funding is attached to this as yet. Also have an annual programme on Snowdon paths, Slate Trail, Lon Gwyrfai, Llwybr Mawddach and Carneddau/Glyderau with NT Staff.

NT: Full time 4-member team prioritising work around Ogwen and Nant Gwynant.

A1.3		<p>Take pragmatic and proactive action to reduce litter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research a move towards use of more sustainable packaging in our retail outlets • Research a move to 'plastic free zones' in Snowdonia and identify feasible alternatives • Explore the possibility of developing the first free water-refill village/ region in the National Park • Work with existing litter reduction campaigns and implement messages on a local scale • Continue to work in partnership and with volunteers to keep the National Park free of litter • See also A1.5 	<p>Feasibility studies will identify barriers and procedures necessary for far-reaching behavioural change approaches.</p> <p>Throughout the term of the Plan, local litter reduction campaigns will be successfully launched and their effects will be monitored.</p> <p>Carry out perception studies to measure people's opinion of litter in the area</p>	<p>SNPA; Snowdonia Society; Gwynedd Council; Conwy County Borough Council; NRW; Keep Wales Tidy; National Trust; Plas y Brenin</p>
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Progress report: SNPA programme with Bangor University Behavioural Change Unit & CESS to develop impactful messages regarding litter.


Plastic free Yr Wyddfa scoping study has taken place with recommendations for trialling a plastic-free zone in 2022.

SNPA, CESS, NT and OP developed successful Caru Eryri volunteer programme who have led on litter collection and education over the 2021 season.

CESS: Pioneered use of heatmaps and litter surveys.


CCBC: currently working up schedules for a 3-year programme with Keep Wales Tidy/Welsh Government on the Caru Cymru project which will add value to taking a pragmatic and proactive action to reduce litter. LEADER funding has supported several communities in the SNPA area with Litter Pickers etc so to encourage local people to take pride in their communities and also the social interaction and wellbeing element.

John Muir Trust: conserve Audit of those completing the John Muir Award to feed into measurements from 2022 onwards

<p>A1.4</p>		<p>Reduce the impacts of parking and transport on the environment and landscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review public transport and parking in the Snowdon and Ogwen areas to provide and implement recommendations • Establish and agree terms of reference for a transport and parking working group for Snowdonia • Work with Partners to trial greener solutions to public transport • Work with landowners to identify landscape sensitive overflow car parking, in line with LDP policies and as part of traffic management plans • Improve information on sustainable transport options for visitors 	<p>A working group will be established by 2022.</p> <p>Recommendations from the Snowdon Partnership's comprehensive Review of Parking and Transport will be implemented, will be widened to cover the entire National Park area.</p>	<p>SNPA; Gwynedd Council; Conwy County Borough Council; Transport for Wales; North Wales Economic Ambition Board</p>
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Progress report: SNPA - Recommendations from the Snowdon Partnership's comprehensive Review of Parking and Transport are being developed and implemented incrementally in the Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen areas. Investment from Transport for Wales has ensured initial projects are being implemented to align with the North Wales Metro programme in partnership with Gwynedd and Conwy councils. Working group in development.

Fflecsi Dyffryn Conwy a Demand responsive public transport service which replaced 6 poorly supported regular bus services in rural Conwy including Ysbyty Ifan, Penmachno, Nebo, Capel Garmon and Woodbank area of Trefriw late 2020. It integrates with the Sherpa service, the Traws Cymru T10/T3/T19 and the Conwy Valley Railway for onward journeys. A staycation leaflet was produced for Summer 2021 to encourage visitors to take the bus to visitor attractions and walks. The service is also part of the 1Busticket initiative. Regular dialogue continues with TFW to maximise opportunities to work together with mainline transport services to reduce impacts of parking & transport on the environment.

<p>A1.5</p>		<p>Reduce any negative impacts of recreational activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with relevant partners to ensure a co-ordinated approach for sustainable management of organised events • Work within national partnerships to share good practice • Maintain and implement a Recreation Strategy to sustainably manage any potential conflict between users • Address illegal or damaging off-roading activities by working with legitimate user groups and North Wales Police and Rural Crimes Unit, to encourage sustainable use of the network • Unauthorised access and camping is being addressed to prevent deterioration of protected areas • Facilitate good working relationships between users and land managers e.g. highlight the dangers of dogs off leads and other inappropriate activities • Promotion of Marine Code, and monitor effectiveness. 	<p>By the end of 2021 an update of the 'Guidance for Organised, Competitive, Recreational and Charitable events in the Snowdonia National Park' will be available on SNPA website, with input of relevant partners.</p> <p>Partners are working together to address illegal activities and processes will have been triggered to consider options for SAC sites with qualifying features recorded as 'unfavourable' due to impacts of recreation.</p>	<p>SNPA; NRW; Gwynedd Council; Conwy County Borough Council; National Trust; Snowdonia Society; SAC Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau (PLAS); Conwy & Gwynedd Safety Advisory Groups; John Muir Trust</p>
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Progress report: SNPA Recreation Strategy is in draft form - timeline to be extended to 2022 for uploading to the website. Ongoing communication and engagement as well as seasonal campaigns regarding fly camping and keeping dogs on leads

Trial of large-scale events registration in the Yr Wyddfa area is being developed in partnership between SNPA and Gwynedd Council

SA: sharing best practice and upskilling outdoor providers via site guides for key venues and iSee guides for different habitat. Delivering the Train the Trainer project for the Carneddau Partnership

SA working with NRW and other stakeholders to establish sustainable recreation within North Wales Gorges (Code of Conduct developed in 2020)

CCBC: 'Sheep grazing' signage has been installed at all access points to try and combat sheep worrying issues and an event has been run with local dog walkers to raise awareness and promote behavioural change.

PLAS SAC: have done a lot of work on the marine code this year. Including: Produce a report on the effectiveness of marine codes of conduct; Generate and install a panel for the code; Collaboration across the counties of north and mid Wales; Commence work on a code leaflet and material to help promote the code; Begin work on producing a new app to promote codes of conduct across Wales; Begin work on identifying opportunities to raise awareness of the code with visitors; Promotional work through social media, website, O Dan y Don magazine, talking to consumers and businesses.

JMT: responsible recreational access is part of John Muir Award leader training

OUTCOME A2

Biodiversity is being maintained and enhanced, whilst the resilience of ecosystems is increased.

Are we within our timeline? Timings will need to be realigned according to developments from Welsh Government, the impact of Covid-19 on practical projects and the recruitment of a new Biodiversity Officer.


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

- Action A2.1. is still awaiting strategic guidance from Welsh Government and may need to be revised according to updated Government policy – to reassess in 2021-2
- The Covid-19 Pandemic has had an impact upon delivery of project work, currently being realigned to new timescales.
- Currently advertising for a Biodiversity Officer for Partneriaeth Natur Eryri to fill the empty post as of October 2021. This will have an impact on the timeline proposed in Cynllun Eryri for creating an NRAP for the region. At this point it is still achievable by 2025 but timings in Action Plan will need to be adjusted to reflect this.

Conclusion:

There has been some progress against all measurements of success within Cynllun Eryri's Action Plan for Outcome A2. The objective remains on track to be achieved by 2025.

Detailed 2020/21 progress report

Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
A2.1		<p>A2.1. Co-ordinate an ambitious public goods scheme that focuses on maintaining, restoring and expanding habitats, species, historic environment features and wider public goods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring stakeholders together to build a consensus • Define the public goods of Snowdonia • Produce an ambition statement • Carry out a major land mapping process for the current picture of all habitats within the National Park • Research land-use and patterns of change in order to better improve decision making • Assess what has and hasn't worked in previous land management schemes • Create and refine a public goods scheme • Define the role of partners in implementing the scheme • Up-skill the local workforce in order to successfully deliver the scheme 	<p>By 2025 we aim to create a forum and shared ambition statement.</p> <p>We will have produced an asset register of public goods, with land mapping.</p> <p>We will consider current and previous land management practices, assessing their strengths to create and refine a public goods scheme that the Partnership are confident delivering.</p>	<p>Welsh Government and all Partners</p> <p><i>Dependent upon outcomes of Sustainable Farming and Our Land consultation and Brexit negotiations</i></p>

Progress report: Currently out of our control as awaiting of Agriculture Bill (Wales) All relevant partners have responded to Welsh Government Consultations on these issues.


SNPA: Sustainable Farming Scheme early development underway and NP is represented at strategic level for input. Request made to Welsh Gov on support for Feasibility Study into Welsh based Carbon market.

CCBC: responded to the Welsh Government's consultation on the Agricultural White Paper (Wales) in August 2021 which was focussed on Public Goods. Given the impact of COVID19 on supply chains and the integrity of production standards, would like Welsh Government to recognise food security, food safety and maintaining high animal health and welfare standards as key 'public goods' that warrant recognition and support as part of the future farm support scheme. CCBC are responding to a call for evidence on the economic and cultural impacts of trade and environmental policy on family farms in Wales. The Welsh Affairs Committee is conducting a short inquiry to explore the impact of major policy changes (particularly, but not exclusively, international trade and climate change) on family farms in Wales. By 'family farms' the Committee is referring to small and medium sized farms, for example hill farmers, rather than large, industrial size farms. The inquiry will examine the impact of UK Government policies in areas such as international trade and climate change on the societal connections and traditions in these culturally significant farming communities, and question what, if anything, the UK government can do to support these communities, their unique culture and protect this heritage.

FUW has been lobbying and responding to the consultations that have taken place so far. Concerns for the agriculture sector for the future.

UK - Australia agreement likely to be a threat to rural communities.

CLA Cymru as above.

<p>A2.2</p>		<p>Biodiversity decline is being addressed through maintenance, restoration, expansion and connectivity activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding opportunities are maximised to ensure investment reaches Local Biodiversity Action Plan, and Section 7 habitats and species targets • Work in Partnership to agree appropriate grazing regimes where they are essential to maintain / restore qualifying features of SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites to a favourable conservation status e.g. Eryri SAC as a priority area • Co-ordinate the production of a • Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) for Eryri to include the most recent data and specific biodiversity targets. • Interpretation activities encourage the understanding and safeguarding of biodiversity amongst local communities and visitors • Establish a Local Nature Partnership to lead on Biodiversity issues for Eryri 	<p>Throughout the Plan designated projects will be seen through to completion and reported upon as appropriate, targeting the management requirements of protected sites and Section 7 species and habitats.</p> <p>Where possible, Land Management Agreements will be in place by 2025.</p> <p>The recruitment of a Biodiversity officer will have occurred by 2020 as a focal point for interpretation activities, working alongside specific project officers.</p> <p>By 2022 a Local Nature Partnership will have been established and an NRAP will have been produced through a Park wide Partnership.</p>	<p>SNPA NRW Welsh Government All relevant Partners</p>
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Progress report: SNPA: Delivery of several proactive projects with biodiversity restoration at their core e.g. SMS projects Eden, Uwch Gwyrfai, Dinas Mawddwy, Fferm Ifan; ENRAW projects; peat restoration work; woodland restoration through SLSP funded projects; Project LIFE.

Position of Biodiversity Officer has been re-advertised and work on a Local Nature Partnership will continue. Partnership is established, but will need development.

NWWT actively manage reserves both within and on borders of the Park, which are stepping stones for habitat connectivity.

NRW: Purchase of key land at Bronaber for biodiversity management including freshwater pearl mussel.

WT: collaboration on SMS projects and work on encouraging woodland establishment and natural regeneration. Landscape scale visualisation projects as a prompt to discuss biodiversity decline.


CESS: Volunteer work on wetlands, peatlands, woodlands and other habitats plus INNS.

NT: Extensive work including river restoration, wildflower meadows, invasives control, PAWS restoration, tree planting.

CCBC: last year of a 3yr partnership habitat enhancement project which incorporated 40 grazing sites across North Wales (Denbighshire CC led). The project has funded contractors to control bracken, *Rhodendron ponticum* and birch on the site.


FUW/NFU: Member of Partneriaeth Natur Eryri / Nature Partnership.

Gwynedd Council has established a new Nature Partnership

<p>A2.3</p>		<p>Ensure that water quality and the marine environment are maintained and enhanced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve water quality through monitoring, enforcement, education and improved land management practices • Use the planning system to protect water quality • Support local groups working to improve water quality e.g. Tir Afon project and the work of Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation • Continue to support and advise LIFE and HLF projects improving fresh water and marine sites within the National Park 	<p>Afon Eden project is seen through to completion and the Water Framework Directive (WFD) status is maintained and improved across the Park.</p> <p>By end of 2020 the LDP will contain text relating to water quality in new developments.</p>	<p>NRW Dwr Cymru Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC (PLAS) SNPA Welsh Government</p>
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Progress report Eden SMS now complete, with follow up actions being considered with NRW. Proactive projects on several water bodies contributing to address WFD issues.

PLAS SAC: are running a water quality project within the Land and Sea SMS project. Working closely with NRW to increase the number of monitoring locations along the Daron catchment and run workshops with landowners to go through the results and recommendations.

<p>A2.4</p>		<p>Restore, expand and improve the resilience and species mixture of native tree species and woodlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map ancient trees and woodlands • Continue to develop appropriate planting plans in the Park • Reconnect fragmented areas of woodland • Expand native tree cover on National Park owned land • Explore the viability of establishing a native arboretum • Encourage optimal management of existing woodland to safeguard its ecological condition 	<p>Through a variety of planned projects over the next five years, the eligibility and suitability of sites will be scrutinized and reported upon.</p> <p>Planting plans will be developed.</p> <p>LIFE Celtic Rainforests project will lead on many of these goals until 2025.</p> <p>A review to critically analyse methods will take place by end of 2025.</p>	<p>SNPA Woodland Trust Coed Cymru Farming Unions NRW Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council RSPB Welsh Water Welsh Government</p>
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Progress report: SNPA LIFE Celtic Rainforest project is delivering well in difficult circumstances. Additional funding for PAWS survey and capital works underway.


CESS: controlling conifer regen at sites across Eryri with NRW, NWWT, SNPA, NT.

NWWT: controlling conifer regen at Bodgynydd, controlling rhododendron on and off local reserves, tree nursery at Gwaith Powdwr.

NRW: through national Woodland Creation Program able to expand more native woodland and help reconnect woodland areas

WT: Production of *The Roots to a Green Recovery in Wales 2021*; subsidised schemes for woodland creation; Webinars for Ancient Woodland restoration and new guidance created; upsurge in requests for assistance since lock-down. Increasing data collection on ancient and veteran trees across the region.

NT: PAWS restoration in Aberglaslyn. New 8ha woodland planted in Hafod Garegog.

A2.5		<p>Ensure that any management related proposals have no adverse effect on the integrity of European site(s), SSSIs, and protected features of other areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects - either alone or in combination with other plans and projects - are subject to assessment in light of the relevant legislative framework which applies 	<p>Any potential for adverse characteristics and impacts upon protected areas within the National Park from generic management related activities will be subject to a full assessment once details are available and before any work commences.</p>	All Partners
<p><i>Progress report: Ongoing HRA's as standard across all protected areas.</i></p>				

OUTCOME A3

We are prepared for the impacts of climate change and are reducing our carbon footprint.

Are we within our timeline?

CVI methodology is on hold whilst the Carbon scoping work is completed, and capacity is sourced to carry the most appropriate solution forward for SNPA.


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

- It is essential for SNPA as a public body to have achieved this Outcome by 2025.

Conclusion:

Some progress has been made against the measurements of success outlined in Cynllun Eryri, but greater understanding and priority is needed to achieve this Outcome by 2025.

Detailed 2020/21 progress report


Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s/responsible
A3.1		<p>Reduce the carbon emissions of Snowdonia National Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute proactively towards the WG emission reduction delivery plan • Install electric vehicle charging points at strategic locations within the National Park • Implement greener transport and travel measures to reduce carbon emissions. • Encourage community-based solutions. • Promote and support improving the energy efficiency in new and traditional buildings in line with planning policy • Partners to assess the sustainability of major buildings within the National Park • Continue to support appropriately scaled and located community owned green energy schemes - in line with the LDP • Establish baselines for future emission target setting 	<p>Baselines for future carbon emission measurements will be established by 2023, based on target setting advice from Welsh Government.</p> <p>By the end of the Plan we will have successfully contributed to the Welsh Government emission reduction plan, have installed further electric charging points and monitored the number of homes upgrading to renewable alternatives through Planning applications.</p>	<p>SNPA Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council Community Energy Cyd Ynni National Trust Snowdonia Society Menter Mon Grwp Cynefin Adra Datblygiadau Egni Gwledig (DEG) Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) Aberystwyth University</p>

Progress report: SNPA: A Carbon Scrutiny group has been established with NPA members to evaluate strategic policies including Cynllun Eryri. In conjunction with other Welsh NPAs a system for establishing Carbon emission baselines is being implemented and a Carbon Strategy is planned to emerge from this baseline work.

NWWT: installed an off-grid solar system at Gwaith Powdwr, and starting a tree nursery to supply more local provenance stock to projects in the area.

NT: off grid solar powered tree nursery established in Hafod Garegog.

CG: the Council has established a Climate Change Board and recently appointed a Program Manager to lead the work. Work on drawing up a climate change plan for the Council is currently underway with a view to its adoption in the coming months.

A3.2		<p>Safeguard and increase the amount of carbon stored in Snowdonia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to utilise and enhance natural carbon sinks within the National Park • Reduce, and where possible reverse, the erosion and degradation of peatlands, including by grip blocking in the uplands and restoration of lowland agricultural peats • Ensure a long term commitment to well managed and diverse woodland • Explore carbon offsetting and opportunities for financial support for carbon offsetting • Encourage the maintenance of permanent grassland and avoid soil disturbance 	<p>By the end of 2022, we will have increased the number of Peatland Code and trees and woodland Carbon Code projects supported.</p> <p>Throughout the Plan, SNPA will monitor peatland restoration actions, ensure woodland planting in appropriate sites and the condition of existing woodland is monitored and hedgerow habitats enhanced, as well as working in Partnership to advise on appropriate grazing regimes.</p>	<p>SNPA NRW National Trust CLA NFU FUW</p>
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Progress report: SNPA: evidence informs us that the current Peatland Carbon Code is not effective to the Welsh scenario, hence an application for feasibility for an all-Wales approach and solution. Continued work through the national Peatland Action Programme on survey and restorative works.

CESS programme of volunteer work on peatlands and woodlands.

NWWT: improved peatland management at Cors Bodgynydd, expanding woodland cover at Coed Crafnant.

NRW: FRP's maintain a balance between planned deep peat restoration sites where suitable for restoration and maintain carbon sequestration through tree cover and changes in forest management through more planned Continuous Cover Forestry and less clear felling in the long-term.

NFU/FUW/CLA: National campaigning and support for Carbon sequestration projects on behalf of members.

A3.3		<p>Implement climate change mitigation measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the feasibility of implementing a Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) approach to natural and cultural heritage assets of the National Park • Ensure that upland paths are maintained to a sufficient standard to withstand the increased frequency of storm events through Policy A1.2 	<p>By the end of 2021 we will work with other Designated Landscapes already using a CVI approach, to map assets and produce a feasibility study within the National Park.</p> <p>Our upland paths will be consistently monitored for new or upgraded specifications</p>	<p>All relevant partners</p>
<p><i>SNPA: Initial work has begun on scoping the CVI methodology, which may be overtaken by developments amongst 3 Welsh National Parks Carbon baselines are currently being established and a working group has been set up to monitor progress - this action will be re-assessed for relevance in 2021-2.</i></p>				

OUTCOME A4

Snowdonia is at the forefront internationally in successfully tackling invasive species, pests and diseases that impact on native species.

Are we within our timeline? Timelines have slipped due to the impact of Covid-19 on practical work projects


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

Request for a potential extension is being discussed by the Project LIFE Celtic Rainforests team, to ensure that the Phase 3 programme of treatment is delivered to its full effect.

Conclusion:

Although Covid-19 has had an impact on practical actions, the measurements of success are still achievable by 2025.

Detailed 2020/21 progress report

Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/sresponsible
A4.1		<p>Raise awareness with the public on how they can take action to prevent the establishment and spread of invasive species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute proactively towards the WG emission reduction delivery plan • Ensure that volunteer and community activities that tackle invasive species understand the varying nature of problems, fostering meaningful action • Monitor and record the location and expanse of invasive species • Raise public awareness of terrestrial, freshwater and marine invasive non native species (INNS) and their impacts • Establish baselines for future emission target setting 	<p>A reduction in the number and geographical coverage of invasive species is recorded.</p> <p>Educational events will have taken place with identified groups and feedback surveys will be monitored for improvements in delivery.</p>	<p>SNPA NRW National Trust Snowdonia Society Prifysgol Bangor PLAS Coed Cadw North Wales Wildlife Trust Aberystwyth University Cofnod Wales Working Group on Invasive Non-native Species John Muir Trust</p>


Progress report: SNPA: lead delivery of Project LIFE Celtic Rainforests.

CESS: Extensive work with vols including on conifers. Him Bals leaflet and resources produced. Carneddau project HB work with communities – model for future way of working.

NRW: Conifer regeneration work undertaken on NNRs adjacent to plantations

WT: Talks presented and guidance for contractors as core part of LIFE project.


PLAS SAC have an INNS project underway creating a marine biosecurity plan.

<p>A4.2</p>		<p>Continue to expand current Partnership actions to control and reduce the extent of invasive species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the Rhododendron ponticum Partnership work by implementing the Partnership Plan • Work with partners in tackling the spread of Rhododendron, Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed as well as others which are prioritised and/or arise • Ensure that reporting mechanisms for any potential threats are clear and robust 	<p>Throughout the term of the Plan we will sustain our Partnership approaches and ensure that coverage of invasive species are reduced.</p> <p>Guidance from Management measures for widely spread Invasive Alien Species by DEFRA will be closely followed, as well as updating the public through website and educational campaigns if/and when cases arise.</p> <p>A review to critically analyse methods will take place by end of 2025.</p>	<p>SNPA NRW National Trust Snowdonia Society Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council CLA NFU FUW Welsh Government Woodland Trust</p>
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Progress report: NRW: Programme of non-native spp control in Meirionnydd PAWS sites started winter 20/21. Managed ash in public access areas.

WT: Working closely with landowners to identify species and habitats, ongoing partnership work through LIFE project.

CLA/NFU/FUW: Continued partnership work on behalf of members.

A4.3		<p>Expand on actions to tackle pests and diseases that impact on native species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau marine biosecurity plan • Support Natural Resources Wales in their work to prevent the spread of diseases which are present or arise 	<p>By working in Partnership we will see reduced outbreaks/ plant health notices issued.</p> <p>A review to critically analyse methods will take place by end of 2025.</p>	<p>ACA PLAS NRW Welsh Government SNPA Coed Cymru Woodland Trust Farming Unions</p>
<p>SNPA: Continue to support the objectives through various project work or core funding where possible.</p>				

OUTCOME A5

Communities, businesses and visitors play an active role in caring for the National Park's landscapes, habitats, wildlife and cultural heritage.

Are we within our timeline? Yes


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

- Further lock downs periods or future restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Conclusion:

There has been clear progress against all measurements of success within Cynllun Eryri's Action Plan for Outcome A5. The objective remains on track to be achieved by 2025.

Detailed 2020/21 progress report

Out-come no.	Prog-ress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
A5.1		<p>Seek opportunities for local communities, schools, hard to reach and disadvantaged groups to engage with, and learn about, Eryri's environment and cultural heritage, and how they can help care for it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the opportunities we have for local communities, schools, hard to reach and disadvantaged groups and expand the offer Raise awareness of the impacts of erosion and what walkers can do to help Engage with businesses and communities on how they can help reduce the impact of lighting on the night sky and biodiversity 	<p>By the end of 2021 we will have established a baseline of engagement with each group and worked with our Volunteer Co-ordinator and Dark Skies Officer to expand the reach of the National Park in each area.</p> <p>A review will take place before 2025 to evaluate success.</p>	<p>SNPA National Trust Outdoor Partnership NRW Snowdonia Society Ramblers Cymru Conwy County Borough Council Gwynedd Council Welsh Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) County Voluntary Councils (CVC) Betsi Cadwaladar University Health Board (BCUHB) John Muir Trust</p>

Progress report: SNPA: Volunteer Co-ordinator is in place. Volunteer Strategy has been produced and adopted by SNPA (April 2021). Dark Skies Volunteer programme has been established for Winter 2021/2.

SNPA, CESS, NT, OP Caru Eryri scheme has been successfully established (April 2021) and targeted at local communities – sharing good practice with other National Park's in Wales.


NWWT: as part of LNP will be working with 8 community groups who look after churchyards in the NP to encourage wildlife friendly management including areas to be managed as meadows.

Cwm Idwal Partnership delivery NRW, SNP, NT

Carneddau Partnership in 2020-1 have engaged with 1857 people including 6 school engagement days; 11 volunteering events; 26 in person events and 26 on-line talks – this is to be extended further in 2022-25.

CESS: Yr Wyddfa wildlife leaflet has been produced.

CCBC: Conwy County Borough Council are currently working up schedules for a 3 year programme with Keep Wales Tidy /Welsh Government on the Caru Cymru project which will add value to deliver volunteering opportunities that help protect and enhance the environment and cultural heritage.

A5.2		<p>Support, promote and deliver volunteering opportunities that help protect and enhance the environment and cultural heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop and expand the Young Rangers scheme • Investigate links with schools locally to offer Welsh Bacallaureate opportunities for Key Stages 4 & 5 and volunteering elements of DoE Award Scheme • Investigate links with return to work schemes to further increase opportunities for residents' contact with the Park 	<p>SNPA's Wardens and Volunteer Co-ordinator will lead on these elements reporting back to our Authority on an annual basis to measure progress.</p> <p>A rise in volunteer numbers will be recorded.</p>	<p>SNPA The Outdoor Partnership National Trust NRW Snowdonia Society</p>
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Progress report: SNPA: Covid restrictions regarding travel have impacted on developing volunteering opportunities in return-to-work schemes. Huge increase in Volunteering in response to Covid pandemic and the Croeso Nôl scheme 2020 and Caru Eryri 2021. See also progress from Carneddau Partnership in A5.1.

CESS Programme of volunteering across whole of Eryri – provide many opportunities per year.

NWWT: regular volunteering opportunities at all of our reserves and on projects

OP: Young Trainee and volunteer programme for residents of SNP

OUTCOME A6

Snowdonia is a leading example in Wales of how to care for and champion cultural heritage and the historic environment.

Are we within our timeline? Yes



Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?


- Lack of funding if opportunities outlined above are not successful.
- Covid-19 further lockdowns may prevent work on the ground being achieved in some areas.

Conclusion:

There has been clear progress against all measurements of success within Cynllun Eryri's Action Plan for Outcome A6. The objective remains on track to be achieved by 2025.

Detailed 2020/21 progress report

Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/sresponsible
A6.1		<p>Support the repair and restoration of listed buildings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research available sources of funding that support repair and restoration, historical character & local history • Use Cadw's 5-yearly condition survey of listed buildings to provide targeted funding for buildings at risk • Work with partners to support and develop traditional skills locally, which in turn will help improve the condition of historic buildings • The Carneddau Partnership will deliver on its nine main project themes encompassing the natural and cultural heritage of the region • Explore the feasibility of implementing a Climate Vulnerability Index methodology to natural and cultural heritage assets of the National Park as per policy A3.2 	<p>We will ensure that there is a reduction in the number of listed buildings at risk based on Cadw's condition survey, whilst working with our Partners to develop a strategy for traditional skills workshops.</p> <p>Specific projects will consider the sympathetic reuse and interpretation of designated sections of our historic environment.</p>	<p>SNPA Cadw National Trust National Slate Museum Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council Local history and archaeological groups North West Wales Slate Landscape World Heritage Nomination Partnership Steering Group and related partners</p>
<p>Progress report: SNPA: In 2020-21 and 2021-22, three listed buildings at risk are receiving grant support for capital improvements: Ty Uchaf (Llandderfel), Ty Cerrig (Rhydymain) and Wern (Llanfrothen). An opportunity for further grant support for buildings in the Harlech Conservation Area in 2021-22 and 2022-23 has just been announced.</p>				
A6.2		<p>Support owners of Scheduled Monuments to better safeguard them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to ensure suitable sources of funding are available • Using Cadw's database on the state of scheduled monuments, work with partners to establish prioritised work programmes to improve condition (and where appropriate) access and interpretation of scheduled monuments. 	<p>Throughout the Plan we will ensure that the existing database has been utilised to prioritise funding and dedicated work programmes</p>	<p>SNPA Cadw National Trust Gwynedd Council Local history and archaeological groups</p>
<p>Progress report: SNPA: Maintenance work on the Ynyspandy Slate Mill was completed in October 2020, prior to the visit of the Slate Landscape of North West Wales World Heritage Nomination assessor.</p>				

<p>A6.3</p>		<p>Develop and implement landscape scale projects which benefit the historic environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop projects that improve access to the historic environment, sense of place and designated conservation areas within the National Park • Continue to develop projects that enhance urban character within the National Park • Collaborate on key priorities and joint projects relating to Harlech in the 'Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd' World Heritage site Management Plan • Collaborate on key priorities relating to the National Park in the nomination of the 'Slate Industry of North Wales Cultural Landscape' to the World Heritage List 	<p>By 2021 we will have established a Cultural Heritage Strategy Monitoring Framework, and completed the second phase of the Dolgellau Townscape Heritage Initiative.</p> <p>We will also ensure that we are collaborating on key priorities relating to World Heritage within the National Park and on its borders.</p> <p>Carneddau Partnership will deliver on its nine main project themes encompassing the natural and cultural heritage of the region.</p>	<p>SNPA National Trust Cadw Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council Local history and archaeological groups</p>
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Progress report SNPA: is embarking on a new project to manage and enhance Snowdonia's 14 Conservation Areas. Funded by the Welsh Government's Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places fund, the project, led by Chambers Conservation, will ensure that sustainable conservation can enhance Conservation Areas to the future. We continue to collaborate on the nomination of the Slate Landscape of North West Wales on the World Heritage List. Initial improvements to some of the features of CP4 (Cwm Pennant and Cwmystradllyn) have been completed and management plans have been adopted for the individual sites within CP4 and CP5 relevant to the National Park, including Plas Tan y Bwlch and Cei Newydd. This work will feed into an interpretation plan for the area in due course. Continue to deliver the Dolgellau Townscape Heritage Initiative scheme, to be completed by December 2022 (timeline to be amended). The team and governance of the Carneddau Landscape Partnership Scheme have been established and has reached the implementation phase.

OUTCOME A7

Our Special Qualities are well protected.

Are we within our timeline? Timelines to be amended for A7.1


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

- SNPA: Appointment of Landscape Architect currently on hold.

Conclusion:


There has been some progress against all measurements of success within Cynllun Eryri's Action Plan for Outcome A7. The objective remains on track to be achieved by 2025.

Detailed 2021/22 progress report

Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
A7.1		<p>Through the Local Development Plan improve the appropriate setting and location of development in the landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the nature, location and siting, height, form and scale of the development is compatible with the capacity and character of the site and locality within which it is located • Protect designated and proposed World Heritage sites e.g. North West Wales Slate Landscape • Use Supplementary Planning Guidance: Landscapes and Seascapes of Eryri, Supplementary Planning Guidance: Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment and the LANDMAP resource to assess the landscape impact of planning applications • Appoint a Landscape Architect to assist Development Management officers in assessing landscape impact of planning applications 	<p>A Landscape Architect will be appointed by the end of 2020.</p> <p>Guidelines will be in the LDP and monitored annually, being used to assess planning applications</p>	SNPA


Progress report: SNPA: Appointment of Landscape Architect currently on hold - timeline to be amended to end of Plan.



NRW: DPAS consulted on appropriate developments and planning proposals regarding designated sites, environmental impact etc


A7.2		<p>Through the Local Development Plan, ensure that major new developments safeguard views into and out of the National Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that any major development proposals are subject to rigorous examination and include an assessment of the impact on National Park purposes• Consider the landscape and visual impact of proposals close to the National Park boundary and how these may impact on National Park purposes, including views into, and out of, the National Park	Guidelines will be in the LDP and SNPA will be working in partnership with neighbouring authorities to ensure these are being implemented	SNPA
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Progress report: SNPA: ELDP states that 'Major development will not be permitted within the National Park other than in exceptional circumstances where there is demonstrated to be an overriding public need'. The policy goes on to state the criteria for which a major development would even considered to be remotely acceptable.

NRW: as above

<p>A7.3</p>		<p>The Local Development Plan contains clear guidance for inappropriate major infrastructure development such as above ground power cables within the boundary, and where possible encourages the undergrounding of inappropriately located existing lines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LDP includes a policy which resists inappropriate major development within the National Park • Encourage the undergrounding of overhead lines • Continue to work in partnership with the National Grid to reduce the visual impact of overhead lines within the National Park • The Authority will permit telecommunications developments provided that they do not significantly harm the visual amenity and landscape character of the area • Encourage telecommunications operators to mitigate and/or reduce impacts of existing transmission lines - use landscape sensitive communication infrastructure • The Authority encourages: the use of environmentally acceptable sites, sharing an existing site, mast, tower or other structures and • sharing an existing or planned underground channel with another utility • The mast, antennae and any ancillary structures are expected to be well designed and represent the best practicable environmental option 	<p>Guidelines will be in the LDP for landscape improvement of existing and new developments</p>	<p>SNPA</p>
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Progress report: SNPA: the Authority works closely with National Grid / SPEN on projects to 'underground' existing 'overground' power cables with projects either ongoing or having been completed in many areas of the park. They also invite any ideas on future projects/areas for this work to be undertaken.				
A7.4		<p>Through the Local Development Plan, ensure that lighting in new developments takes account of the International Dark Sky Reserve status and Protect and enhance Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphic Sites (RIGS) and general geodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the LDP and Supplementary Planning Guidance on obtrusive lighting, ensure that proposals do not adversely affect the Dark Sky Reserve • Implement LDP policies that ensure development proposals do not adversely affect RIGS 	Guidelines are within the LDP.	SNPA
Progress report: SNPA: Development Policy 2: Development and the Landscape was revised to include 'The Snowdonia Dark Skies Reserve, in particular Core areas', within the new revised ELDP 2016-2031. It is also now monitored annually to ensure that no inappropriate development occurs within these core areas.				
A7.5		<p>Foster greater understanding of the Special Quality of tranquillity and solitude</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and apply a new methodology of measuring tranquillity within the National Park • Define tranquillity as applied to Snowdonia National Park by including in visitor and residents survey to ascertain the experience of tranquillity in Eryri. • Continue to liaise with the MOD to encourage reductions in the number of low flying activities taking place over Snowdonia 	<p>New methodologies will have been considered and included in the mapping and protection of this Special Quality.</p> <p>A definition of tranquillity and an understanding of users experience of this Special Quality will be achieved through a user survey.</p> <p>Liaison meetings with the MOD will have occurred regularly</p>	SNPA
Progress report: SNPA A new methodology for measuring Tranquillity within the National Park boundary is being developed in collaboration with the University of Winchester				

A7.6		<p>Establish a risk register for the tangible and intangible assets of the National Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a risk register exercise cross-referencing with Policy A3.3, ensuring preparedness and mitigation measures are anticipated. • With input from key partners consider learnings from the COVID 19 pandemic. 	By 2022 a risk register for tangible and intangible heritage assets of the National Park will have been produced.	SNPA
<p><i>Progress report: SNPA: An update to the Asset Register is currently underway by Head of Property Section which will form the basis of this future work.</i></p>				

Eryri's Health and Well-being: Opportunities to learn and discover, and at the same time improve our well-being.

OUTCOME B1

The National Park is having a positive impact on Well-Being.

Are we within our timeline?

B1.1 timeline should be adjusted to reflect the impact of Covid-19. B1.3 was delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions however has been overtaken by the 70th birthday celebrations which included many of the same elements – reassess this action point to see if it has been achieved in a different format.


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?


- Any further restrictions on movement due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Conclusion:

There has been some progress against all measurements of success within Cynllun Eryri's Action Plan for Outcome B1. The objective remains on track to be achieved by 2025.

Detailed 2020/21 progress report

Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
B1.1		<p>Expand work with partners, health services and Public Service Boards through social prescribing schemes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify target audiences Gather data on the barriers these audiences face and opportunities to address these barriers in a lasting way Identify and promote existing schemes within the National Park Establish new social prescribing schemes (along with a referral system) within and around the National Park for the target audiences, based on best practice and research results 	<p>By the end of 2020 we will have completed the necessary research and identified schemes to promote widely across the Park. By the end of the Plan we intend to have established social prescribing schemes on a trial basis, with the National Park as a partner to at least one major scheme working towards a formal well being strategy</p>	<p>SNPA Let's Get Moving North Wales Public Health Wales Outdoor Partnership National Trust NRW Sports Wales Ramblers Cymru Bangor University CESS</p>
<p>Progress report: SNPA: Pilot social prescribing schemes have been established on a trial basis (Wellbeing Wednesdays) through Eventbrite – summer 2021 in partnership with Public Health Wales. Timelines to be amended to reflect the impact of Covid 19 here.</p> <p>PHW: Social Prescribing and Green Health strategy to begin in October 2021 allowing all relevant providers to log activities in a shared register for GPs to access across North Wales.</p> <p>OP: Healthy and Active Fund has developed Social Prescribing schemes with direct referral for those with on-going mental health difficulties with clear success – to be developed in 2022 with input from other members of Fforwm Eryri.</p>				

B1.2		<p>Promote and enable a diverse range of activities that improve people's well-being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an online resource relating to activities and routes within the National Park targeted and tailored to the audiences identified under Policy B1.1 • Ensure adequate provision for access to inland waters for water based activities, particularly in light of future legislative changes • Continue to expand volunteer opportunities within the National Park that include both physical and cultural activities (see also policy A5.2) • Develop volunteering opportunities for disabled people • Facilitate activities within the National Park that enhance understanding of the Special Qualities for disabled people and disadvantaged groups • Encourage opportunities for socialising in the natural environment 	<p>By the end of 2021, resources will be available through the National Park website.</p> <p>By 2025 SNPA's Volunteer Co-ordinator will report on the increased provision of volunteer opportunities and evidence of relevant schemes and projects will exist.</p>	<p>SNPA NRW National Trust Outdoor Partnership WCVA Public Health Wales Outdoor Partnership Gwynedd Council Art Council Wales Menter Iaiith National Slate Museum Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Sports Wales CESS John Muir Trust</p>
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Progress report: SNPA: Volunteer activities have been significantly expanded in 2020-21, these clearly have a positive impact on the Wellbeing of those who take part (see SNPA Volunteer Strategy). Working with local businesses, two Trampers are available for use throughout the National Park which are especially designed, all-terrain mobility scooters and can be used off road and even on rough ground, mud and grass area - a third Trampler is currently on pre-order. Carneddau Partnership have been delivering Walking for Well-being sessions in partnership with Mind Conwy.

PHW: Also working in partnership with Bangor University to identify specific audiences and messaging to be delivered to specific groups to encourage those who do not usually engage with activities in the area.

CESS: Working in Partnership on Caru Eryri programme as well as many opportunities which are varied in nature and location, with capacity to deliver bespoke opportunities for people with health barriers etc.

SA: Ongoing delivery of Babi Actif project, including sessions (buggyfit, forest schools, nature walks etc) for mums to be and new parents encouraging them to be active outdoors

OP: working in partnership with Caru Eryri; inclusive adventure programme improving access for disabled people and women; young trainee scheme; health and wellbeing programmes in partnership with social prescribers, GP clusters and CMHTs; volunteering programme; supporting 100+ community outdoor clubs in and around SNP; pathways to employment and employability programme.

B1.3		<p>Plan a community-based project exploring the long, reciprocal relationship between the people of Eryri and the land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather a group of experts in the field to mind map possible ways to approach this project • Build upon the work of the Carneddau Landscape Partnership's Oral History Project • Facilitate workshops with a variety of community representatives to consider the best ways to express these inherent connections • Support and advise (as required) in the development of the project to its conclusion, as decided by local residents 	<p>By 2021 we will ensure that a mind mapping session has occurred and connections have been made with relevant community representatives.</p> <p>For the 70th anniversary of the designation of Snowdonia National Park, workshops will have occurred and the project will have been launched and is being facilitated to its conclusion.</p>	<p>SNPA</p> <p>All relevant partners and community members</p>
<p><i>Progress report: Delayed due to restrictions of COVID-19 and to be revised in light of work completed for Eryri 70 celebrations & Ffermydd Goll Ardudwy project.</i></p>				

OUTCOME B2

Residents and visitors can access a variety of routes in the National Park aimed to improve physical and mental health.

Are we within our timeline? Covid-19 pandemic has delayed the timelines


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?


- Any further restrictions on movement due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Conclusion:

There has been some progress against all measurements of success within Cynllun Eryri's Action Plan for Outcome B2. The objective remains on track to be achieved by 2025.

Detailed 2020/21 progress report


Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
B2.1		<p>Create a plan and focus resources on promoting, developing and maintaining well-marked long-distance trails, accessible trails, multi user trails (particularly cycling trails and mountain bike routes), promoted routes and links and loops between towns and villages Identify target audiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the target audiences for routes and trails in line with policy B1.1 Review the Recreation Strategy for the National Park and ensure that it delivers on Outcome B2 and includes national standards for signage, furniture and accessibility Increase the total length of accessible trails by removing barriers to enable access for all wherever possible, and provide least restrictive options in relation to furniture Survey local people, stakeholders and visitors to assess their needs and demands in relation to access in their local area, along with any barriers they face to accessing the outdoors Based on the results, create a map plan for the development of trails, including exploring options across the National Park in areas such as Bala-Traws, Bala - Dolgellau (subject to compliance with action A2.5) and identify how access for disabled people can be improved at the most popular sites within the National Park Identify and pursue funding to deliver on the plan Support long distance routes already in existence such as Snowdonia Slate Trail, Cambrian Way, Taith Ardudwy, Pilgrims Way, Snowdon Circular, North Wales path, Wales Coast path etc 	<p>The action plan in 'Overview of actions' column will be implemented over the next 5 years so that all actions are complete by 2025.</p>	<p>SNPA Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council National Trust NRW Local Access Forums Snowdonia Society BHS</p>
<p>Progress report: SNPA: Recreation Strategy is in draft form to be presented to Management Team (September 2021)</p> <p>RoW improvement plans in draft form Conwy/Gwynedd with input of SNPA and LAFs. Parking and Transport Strategy is developing active travel/leisure Routes through PyW</p> <p>CCBC: promote trails (walking, cycling etc.) via its tourism website and Tourism Ambassador programme, so as to increase awareness.</p>				

B2.2		<p>Ensure that Right of Way work is effectively prioritised and that responsibilities and standards are clear, with the SNPA focusing its resources and funding on multi-user trails and upland paths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a priorities and maintenance plan to ensure that resources are effectively managed and targeted to deliver • Continue to implement and regularly review the Service Level Agreement with Conwy Council. Agree and implement a MOU with Gwynedd Council • Ensure that all partners delivering RoW work within the National Park are signed up to the standards set out in the access strategy under Policy B2.1 	<p>By the end of 2021, the Maintenance Plan will be produced and implemented. Agreements will be in place with Gwynedd Council.</p> <p>By the end of 2022, the standards document will be in place and signed by identified partners.</p> <p>GIS surveys will provide measurable data for the Conwy RoW network.</p>	<p>SNPA Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council National Trust NRW Ramblers Cymru</p>
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Progress report: SNPA: SLA in place with Conwy Council. MOU in draft form with Gwynedd Council (delayed due to impacts of COVID-19) timeline to be adjusted to 2023 to reflect the work to be done.

GIS surveys are ongoing with SNPA Warden Service input.

CESS in partnership with SNPA have annual maintenance programmes on Snowdon, Lon Gwyrfai, Llwybr Mawddach, Slate trail and CESS/NT Glyderau/Carneddau NRW: started a long-term programme of clearing overgrown PRow in Meirionnydd forest

B2.3		<p>Improve access opportunities for disabled people and socially excluded groups - See also policy B2.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather research on the barriers faced by the public, including disabled people, those of lower socio economic backgrounds and other excluded groups in accessing the National Park • Develop actions under Policy B2.1 to improve access opportunities for disabled people and excluded groups • Work with target groups and relevant charities in the early design phase of major access projects 	<p>By the end of 2025, the research will have been completed.</p> <p>We will ensure measurable increases in available provisions by the term end of the Plan.</p>	<p>SNPA NRW National Trust Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council Sport Wales</p>
<p>Progress report: SNPA: A series of informative videos are being developed to promote access for all routes. An additional tramper is located in Beddgelert along with one in Dolgellau and a third is currently on order. Consultation is ongoing with BHS/Mountain bike communities and the Ramblers regarding any new developments.</p> <p>NRW: principles of least restrictive access by any reasonable means guides actions. Tramper mobility service to be offered in Coed y Brenin from October, 2021.</p> <p>OP: Inclusive Adventure programme working with communities across the NP to improve access for disabled people in outdoor activities.</p>				

OUTCOME B3

Our Special Qualities are widely recognised.

Are we within our timeline? Timelines in B3.1, B3.2 and B3.3 will be reassessed to reflect the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the visitor economy.


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

Priorities of various organisations have been affected by the need to respond to Covid 19, discussions with Partners will occur in 2022 to confirm the Measurements of Success as relevant or needing to be adapted.


Conclusion

There has been clear progress against all measurements of success within Cynllun Eryri's Action Plan for Outcome B3. The objective remains on track to be achieved by 2025.

Detailed 2020/21 progress report

Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
B3.1		<p>Develop a brand marketing strategy for Snowdonia based on the Special Qualities that is consistently implemented across the public and private sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using local understanding and knowledge, build a strong and clear picture of the National Park’s cultural and historic identity Following the development of principles for Visitor Management (see Policy A1.1), develop a marketing/brand strategy for Snowdonia based on promotion and protection of its Special Qualities. The strategy should consider: Visit Wales’ ‘Wales brand’; target audiences and emerging markets; addressing overcapacity and environmental impact at popular locations; emphasising eco and green credentials, quiet enjoyment; benefits of the environment to well-being; and promotion of local culture, Welsh language, food and drink Create a Cultural Heritage and Interpretation Plan for the National Park in line with marketing brand (above) Develop opportunities for enhancing the visitor experience by linking with historic and cultural aspects e.g. World Heritage sites, slate trails, mountaineering history and promoting Welsh place names and the Welsh language Develop information and resources that celebrate sites notable in Welsh literature and culture, and encourage respect and understanding for the Welsh language Explore the possibility of launching an annual competition for ‘Snowdonia Culture Capital’ (using lessons from the City of Culture model). The winning town/village will receive funding to promote and organise cultural activities for the year SNPA to improve and modernise its website in line with the new marketing and brand strategy Commission new photos of the area to reflect the principles of the new marketing and branding strategy: rich media videos; drone footage; gpx files of trails etc. 	<p>By the end of 2021, we will have worked with our partners to create a new marketing and brand strategy based on local knowledge, and will develop a new interpretation strategy based on this.</p> <p>Using a newly designed website and images, a number of projects will be undertaken to strengthen historic, cultural and literary aspects of the area.</p> <p>A review of the new brand will take place by 2025.</p>	<p>SNPA National Trust Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council National Trust Cadw Arts Council Menter Iaith National Slate Museum Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT)</p>


Progress update: SNPA: Cultural Heritage Interpretation Plan is being drafted. Extensive input from local experts into the business Ambassador Scheme. A company to develop new website have been appointed and are beginning scoping work. Communications and Engagement Strategy has been developed and is being implemented that integrates the principles outlined above. Partneriaeth Yr Wyddfa are working with MSPARC to develop a Visitor App based on recommendations from Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen Parking and Transport Review 2020. Branding part of joint working between Cyngor Gwynedd SNPA towards Sustainable Tourism. Timelines to be amended to reflect this.

<p>B3.2</p>		<p>Encourage visitors to come at different times of year and to different areas in order to ease pressure during the peak season and help businesses with seasonality issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote winter season and 'autumn colours' season. Use seasonal images on websites • Work with partners to develop opportunities in relation to the "Wales Way" • Use existing examples to consider a thematic itinerary approach to promote the Special Qualities of Snowdonia 	<p>These innovative ideas will be in place by the end of 2021</p>	<p>SNPA Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council Visit Wales NRW National Trust Visit Wales Plas y Brenin Snowdonia Active</p>
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Progress report: SNPA: The design of Cynllun Eryri specifically reflected the Autumn Colours approach. New SNPA website being launched in 2022 will utilize seasonal imagery
Itinerary planning is currently being developed by our Sustainable Tourism Officer. Facts and Special Places sections of Cynllun Eryri is being used as a basis for this.

SA: Curious Cymru project worked with businesses to develop new tourism experiences which offer exciting and unique ways to discover Snowdonia.

CCBC: have specific marketing campaigns focused upon the Autumn, Winter, Spring. - timelines will be extended to reflect the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on tourism.

<p>B3.3</p>		<p>Using the brand marketing strategy as a foundation, develop a shared plan with partners on the information we provide to visitors, with an emphasis on the Special Qualities and behavioural change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the target audiences for information and behaviour change • Identify what type and format of information is most effective, as well as what languages are most in demand • Develop a shared plan to include how we deliver information pre, during and post visit, as well as a rationalisation of the mix and use of modern and traditional means of providing information • Improve information on recreation opportunities targeted at specific groups in line with the brand strategy and information plan, and fill any pre-existing gaps in information • Work with tourism businesses to promote information and understanding about the Park in line with the brand strategy and information plan e.g. through an ambassador scheme 	<p>By the end of 2020, target audiences will have been identified as part of the new website production.</p> <p>A pilot ambassador scheme will have been established and lessons learned will be applied across the National Park.</p> <p>The branding strategy will inform the shared Plan and improvement of information provision by the end of 2022.</p> <p>A review of the new brand will take place by 2025.</p>	<p>SNPA National Trust Visit Wales Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council Outdoor Partnership Sports Wales Snowdonia Active GAT NRW All partners</p>
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Progress report: SNPA: Visitor Survey 2021 will influence the development of the branding strategy. Ambassador Scheme has been successfully launched in line with all local Authorities. New website design will be based around the requirements outlined here. Communication and Engagement Strategy outlines detailed approach to the above.

NRW: will deliver 4 major recreational events with partners in the low season from Coed y Brenin.

WT: Piloting walking routes in 2021, which consider less popular routes and sustainable travel.

SA: Ongoing promotion of AdventureSmart campaign in Snowdonia to encourage safe enjoyment of Snowdonia (especially relevant with the push towards off peak tourism)

CCBC: Ambassador Scheme has been successfully launched in line with all local Authorities

CG: Are developing an Ambassador Scheme in line with all local Authorities

Timelines will be extended to reflect the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on tourism.

OUTCOME B4

Sustainable options for parking and transport are achieved.

Are we within our timeline? Timelines will be adjusted to reflect complex nature of delivery


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

- Lack of funding / investment
- Partners not contributing to the Parking and Transport Strategy
- Wider developments overtaking the original vision and strategy


Conclusion:

There has been major progress against all measurements of success within Cynllun Eryri's Action Plan for Outcome B4. The objective currently remains on track to be achieved by 2025.

Detailed 2020/21 progress report

Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
B4.1		<p>Improve the sustainability and availability of transport for visitors and residents and address parking problems Using local understanding and knowledge, build a strong and clear picture of the National Park’s cultural and historic identity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review public transport systems in popular areas to ensure it meets the demands and needs of residents and visitors • Establish committed partnerships to ensure that there is adequate revenue to sustain the public transport requirement • Use public transport as a means of delivering information to visitors • Improve working relationships with businesses, social enterprises, communities and landowners, encouraging community based solutions • Ensure that public transport routes are clearly linked with promoted trails and routes • Support Active Travel measures as detailed in Welsh Government legislation 	<p>By the end of 2021, we will work with all recommendations from the 2020 Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen parking and transport review to implement measures across the National Park. Review and adapt measures as necessary by 2025.</p>	<p>SNPA Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council Transport for Wales All landowning partners North Wales Economic Ambition Board Welsh Government</p>

Progress report: SNPA: Recommendations from the 2020 Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen parking and transport review are being implemented with support from Welsh Government through Transport for Wales. Working with Cyngor Gwynedd and Cyngor Conwy these developments are tying into the wider North Wales Metro ambitions which will impact the whole of the National Park region. Timeline will need to be extended to reflect the rate of progress.

B4.2		<p>Explore and implement opportunities to encourage greener transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the environmental impacts of visitors in relation to carbon emissions to encourage a move towards greener technologies for travel such as electric cars, buses and bikes • Improve information and marketing in relation to how people get to the park and travel around, ensuring that the most sustainable options are promoted and highlighted • Utilise smart technology to encourage behaviour change (e.g. Enterprise Scheme) • As per Policy A3.1 install EV charging points at strategic travel and visitor points in the National Park 	<p>Work with all recommendations from the 2020 Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen parking and transport review to implement measures across the National Park. Review and adapt measures as necessary by 2025.</p> <p>A new way of measuring visitor contribution and impact on the area will be in place by 2021 and will assess environmental factors.</p>	<p>SNPA NRW National Trust Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council Visit Wales Partneriaeth Ogwen</p>
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Progress Report: SNPA: Recommendations from the 2020 Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen parking and transport review are being implemented with support from Welsh Government through Transport for Wales. New ways of measuring visitor impacts in the region are being developed by the Sustainable Tourism Officer. timeline should be extended to reflect the difficulties of achieving this with data from 2020-21.

CG: Plan in place to introduce electric car charging points in car park in Llanberis

OUTCOME B5

Our visitor facilities are high quality and landscape sensitive.

Are we within our timeline?

Feasibility study into expanding the role of visitor centres will be completed in 2022 due to delays regarding Covid-19

Cultural Heritage and Interpretation Strategy timeline to be adjusted.



Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

Not at present – timelines have been adapted to reflect disruption in 2020-21 but all elements are still set to be achieved.


Conclusion:

There has been clear progress against all measurements of success within Cynllun Eryri's Action Plan for Outcome B5. The objective currently remains on track to be achieved by 2025.

Detailed 2020/21 progress report

Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
B5.1		<p>Visitor facilities are sufficiently funded and invested in to achieve and exceed the expectations of visitors Review public transport systems in popular areas to ensure it meets the demands and needs of residents and visitors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the visitor facilities (centres, toilets etc) within the National Park and identify priorities for improvement Through a visitor survey, monitor opinions on facilities and act on any recommendations Assess the possibility and sustainability of expanding Information and Visitor Centres to be community/well-being hubs 	<p>By the end of 2021, the results of the facilities assessment will have been produced, and a feasibility study into expanding the role of visitor centres will be complete.</p> <p>Results of the visitor survey will influence future priorities.</p>	<p>SNPA NRW National Trust Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council Visit Wales North Wales Economic Ambition Board Snowdonia Society</p>
<p><i>Progress report: SNPA: Visitor survey is being completed in 2021 to report back in early 2022. Sustainable Tourism team are carrying out the work on Visitor Centres -timeline to be extended to reflect impact of Covid-19. CCBC takes the lead on bringing together the staff who work in visitor centres, so as to improve knowledge and to share best practice.</i></p>				
B5.2		<p>Support activities that complement the Special Qualities of Snowdonia - in particular tranquillity - and that encourage visitors to switch to visiting during the autumn and winter in order to address seasonality and pressures in high season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and promote activities and initiatives relating to the Dark Skies Reserve status Support and promote initiatives relating to winter tourism Improve and promote opportunities for access to the historic environment and wider cultural heritage 	<p>Our Dark Skies Officer works to promote understanding of this important element of Snowdonia, reporting on an annual basis.</p> <p>By the end of 2021, our Cultural Heritage and Interpretation Strategy will include promotion of the historic environment linked to seasonality (see also policy B3.1)</p>	<p>SNPA Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council National Trust Visit Wales NRW Cadw John Muir Trust</p>

Progress report: SNPA Dark Skies Officer has produced an annual report outlining incredible success through adapting to online engagement during the lock down periods. Officer has been successful in promoting understanding and interest in a number of innovative ways which are being celebrated nationally and internationally. Timeline of Cultural Heritage and Interpretation Strategy has been extended to 2023.

B5.3		<p>High quality, landscape appropriate accommodation, meets the expectations and demand of visitors and is helping increase spend per head</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out research into the demand and gaps in relation to high quality visitor accommodation including that of affordable accommodation • Work in partnership with Gwynedd Council to develop the Council's Destination Management Plan • Via the Local Development Plan, support the development and promotion of high quality, landscape appropriate, visitor accommodation to meet the demands of the market 	<p>By the end of 2020 research will have been carried out and the LDP will contain this guidance</p>	<p>SNPA Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council</p>
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Progress report: SNPA: Chapter 6 of the ELDP ('Supporting a Sustainable Rural Economy') highlight the policies designed to ensure that economic development is encouraged but in a manner which protects the environment and in line with the National Park purposes. New policies were included in the revised ELDP 2016-2031 which were;

Development Policy 27: Snowdonia Enterprise Zone

Development Policy 28: New build serviced accommodation

Development Policy 29: Alternative holiday accommodation

These policies furthered the economic development potential within the National Park and gave opportunities for suitable new accommodation services (provided they aligned to the criteria designed to protect the National Park's special qualities).

In order to protect the National Park, policy 22 and 23 note that no new static caravan, chalet sites, touring sites or camping sites will be permitted.

Eryri's Communities and Economy: A great place to develop, live and work

OUTCOME C1

The language, culture and heritage of Snowdonia is being celebrated, supported and strengthened.


Are we within our timeline? Yes

Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

Nothing which is currently affecting delivery of objectives.

Conclusion:

There has been clear progress against all measurements of success within Cynllun Eryri's Action Plan for Outcome C1. The objective currently remains on track to be achieved by 2025.

Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
C1.1		<p>Promote understanding, enjoyment and protection of the Welsh language and culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and promote local community events, groups and creative projects that have links to the Welsh language and culture • Create opportunities for young people to be ambassadors for the language and culture of the area • Lead by example in ensuring that the Welsh language, culture and heritage is promoted and used in events, activities and information • Implement measures in the Local Development Plan and related Supplementary Planning Guidance which encourages new developments to maintain or enhance the development of the Welsh language • Develop and implement a communication plan to improve visitor awareness of the Welsh language and culture • Ensure that the Welsh language plays a leading role in any projects, activities or schemes arising from policy A5.1, A5.2, A6.1, B1.1, B1.2, B1.3, C4.1 and C4.2, whether through teaching about the language, leading by example and/ or promoting use through providing opportunities to socialise in Welsh. 	<p>We will ensure that these groups are feeding into policy B3.1 when it is established, that a Communication Plan is implemented by the end of 2021 and that guidelines are in the LDP and are monitored annually.</p> <p>An evaluation of these actions will take place by 2025.</p>	<p>SNPA Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council John Muir Trust</p>

SNPA: Development Policy 18: The Welsh Language and the social and cultural fabric of communities (18) – as the language is fundamental to the culture of Snowdonia, this policy ensures that in determining all planning applications within the Park, the needs and interests of the Welsh language is taken into account. In addition a revised supplementary planning guidance document, 'Planning and the Welsh Language' was published on the Authority's website during July 2021. New communication strategy for the Authority has been developed and launched.

Yr Ysgwrn continues to offer opportunities for socializing through the Welsh language, through volunteering, attending events and taking part in activities. This included various virtual activities for people of all ages during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Yr Ysgwrn has commissioned the Yr Ysgwrn Curriculum for adoption in the spring of 2022 which will enable schools to use Yr Ysgwrn to teach the Curriculum for Wales to children and young people aged 7-14 based on 6 themes covering the 6 areas of learning.


Welsh language and the promotion of Welsh culture are integral to the projects and engagement programs of the Dolgellau Townscape Heritage Initiative, Carneddau and Harlech Landscape Partnership and Arudwy schemes

NRW: article on place-names of Cader Idris in the Spring 2021 bulletin of Cymdeithas Enwau Lleoedd Cymru.

CCBC: supports Welsh Language and Culture via our website, social media and Tourism Ambassador programme, which has specific modules on these important elements.

SNPA, CCBC & CG are all leading on the North Wales Ambassador programme, promoting core messages and the special qualities of each region.


John Muir Award is available bi-lingually and in use by Carneddau Partnership

C1.2		<p>Provide opportunities for Welsh learners in the area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and support initiatives to encourage people moving to the area to learn Welsh • Create opportunities for Welsh learners and speakers to socialise and use the language, particularly through volunteer opportunities as in Policies A5.2 and B1.2 • As part of Policy B3.1 and B3.3 provide training for businesses in the Welsh language and culture 	<p>By the end of 2020 a pilot Ambassador scheme will have been established for the Snowdon Partnership Plan. We aim to develop this to encompass the entire National Park area by 2021.</p> <p>We will monitor the uptake of Welsh learners in volunteer activities offered by all Partners to measure progress.</p>	<p>SNPA Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council NRW Public Health Wales Outdoor Partnership Sports Wales</p>
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Progress report SNPA: Ambassador Scheme has been launched and developed across the entire National Park region. Yr Wyddfa volunteers are paired according to language ability to ensure learners can practice their language skills. Yr Ysgwrn engages with Welsh learners to participate in site activities including volunteering.

SNPA, CCBC & CG are all leading on the North Wales Ambassador programme, promoting core messages and the special qualities of each region.

CESS: provide several opportunities complementary to Ambassador scheme, training units etc.

C1.3		<p>Protect Welsh place names</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement measures in the Local Development Plan that encourage the use of Welsh place names for new or renovated businesses, developments, houses and street names • Implement measures in the Local Development Plan that encourage the use of bilingual signs • Link to UNESCO's Indigenous Languages programme to promote the local names of the National Park and its most recognisable assets 	<p>We will ensure that guidelines are in the LDP and that Supplementary Planning Guidance exists to promote these elements.</p>	<p>Welsh Language Commissioner and the Future Generations Commissioner</p> <p>Menter Iaith</p> <p>SNPA</p> <p>NRW</p> <p>Cadw</p> <p>Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)</p>
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Progress report: SNPA: Development Policy 18 the following criteria are noted;

Encouraging all signage by public bodies and by commercial and business companies to be bilingual or in Welsh only to protect and promote the distinctive cultural identity of the National Park

Encourage the use of Welsh place names for new developments, house and street names.

SNPA's Place-names Task and Finish Group was established in October 2020 to develop a methodology for promoting and promoting place-names. The Group is collaborating on this work with the Welsh Language Commissioner, Cadw and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, as well as individual experts.

The Harlech and Arduwy Schemes record historic place names in the project area and work with local communities and volunteers to raise awareness and wider interpretation.

The Carneddau Voices and Names project aims to record and raise awareness of place names through community recording sessions in conjunction with the Place Names Society

OUTCOME C2

Jobs and opportunities encourage people to remain in the area.

Are we within our timeline? Yes

Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

Any lack of investment in digital infrastructure in the region.


Potential further and more severe Covid restrictions.

Outcomes of Welsh Government's decisions for the Agricultural Sector.

Conclusion:

There has been some progress against all measurements of success within Cynllun Eryri's Action Plan for Outcome C2. The objective remains on track to be achieved by 2025.

Detailed 2020/21 progress report


Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
C2.1		<p>Communication infrastructure in the area is being improved for businesses and communities in a way that does not compromise the landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support partners to deliver innovative and landscape sensitive initiatives to improve broadband, mobile data and internet infrastructure in rural areas • Support initiatives within the regional growth strategies that improve digital connectivity whilst protecting the landscape • Work with Gwynedd Council to develop further proposals for creating high value jobs across a range of areas. 	<p>Digital connectivity across Eryri is significantly improved.</p> <p>Free Wi Fi offerings linked to community centres and hubs will be available</p>	<p>SNPA</p> <p>Local Action Groups Conwy and Gwynedd</p> <p>Gwynedd Council</p> <p>Conwy County Borough Council</p> <p>North Wales Economic Ambition Board</p> <p>Creative North Wales</p> <p>Mantell Gwynedd</p> <p>Conwy and Denbighshire PSB</p>

Progress report: SNPA: Localised projects are in place e.g. Wi Fi at Bwthyn Ogwen, LORAWAN connections at other car parks and hubs

SPG on Telecommunication has completed consultation process and will be reported back to committee September 2021.

Within the ELDP, Development Policy 26: Telecommunication outlines the criteria that telecommunication developments will need to adhere to in order to be permitted. Development Policy 2 also underlines how the landscape will be protected from inappropriate development.

CCBC: Funding obtained to develop Smart Towns initiative in Betws y Coed by way of additional free wifi access points to collect data to better understand footfall, visitor patterns and dwell locations, where visitors are from, how long they stay etc.


C2.2		<p>Support and promote training, employment and business opportunities related to - or complementing - the National Parks 1st purpose and Special Qualities including environment related sectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and promote opportunities for land managers to take part in public goods schemes as set out in policy A2.1 • Encourage and support the development of businesses and skills relating to delivery of public-goods schemes • Support environment and Special Quality related initiatives with the regional growth strategies • Work with the economic development departments within the local councils to develop opportunities through the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone, the Welsh Slate Landscape World Heritage nomination or other employment creation and high-quality jobs • Support projects that aim to shorten the local food supply chain • Work with our partners to support farmers responding to the changes brought about by Brexit, both in terms of market change and the payment regimes • Support the development of resources and skills for the repair and maintenance of historic buildings and features, including capacity building programmes as per Policy A6.1 • Explore opportunities for developing a framework for collaboration in the development of whole-estate plans, by researching successful implementation in other protected areas 	<p>We aim to see the number of businesses related to the public goods scheme rising. Through promotion and sharing of good practice, this will have a cumulative impact.</p> <p>The number of initiatives supported by our various Partners will have increased and new potential frameworks have been evaluated and reported upon.</p> <p>Our core partnerships will include greater representation from the business and tourism sectors</p>	<p>SNPA Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council Menter Mon Grwp Cynefin Gwynedd Archaeological Trust National Slate Museum Menter Iaith Gwynedd Employment and Skills group Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig All relevant Partners</p>
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Progress report: NRW: Coed y Brenin provides direct employment to 15 FTE

CCBC: via its Business and Tourism team support and work with local businesses, assisting them to grow. We assist on both the skills agenda and recruitment issues, the recently launched Tourism Ambassador Programme is now being used by many tourism businesses as part of their staff induction programme.

Coleg Glynllifon in the process of starting an Apprenticeship Framework in Environmental Conservation Level 2, this is expected to start September 2021. There are 3 options within the apprenticeship: -Environmental Conservation, Access and Recreation or Rivers, Coasts and Waterways. Projects within the Park have shown interest in placing employees on the apprenticeship.

OP: running employability projects for residents living in the SNP.

C2.3		<p>Support and promote training, employment and business opportunities relating or complementing the National Park's second purpose and Special Qualities, and the health and well-being theme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support public goods schemes as set out in policy A2.1 • Work with the economic development departments within the local authorities to develop opportunities through Snowdonia Enterprise Zone and strategies creating other employment • Support opportunities in the tourism sector that are high value, high quality and considerate of protecting the National Parks environment • Increase the number of Welsh speaking outdoor instructors in the sector • Support outdoor recreation initiatives linked to improving people's well-being • Develop a campaign to encourage IT and tech businesses to establish in the area 	<p>Throughout the Plan we will ensure that: meetings are set and attended to develop new opportunities, that relevant guidelines are in the LDP and that schemes and projects exist. A campaign for further attracting IT and tech business to the area will have begun, and the number of Welsh speaking outdoor instructors will rise from 20 to 30%.</p> <p>Our core partnerships will include greater representation from the business and tourism sectors.</p>	<p>SNPA Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council Outdoor Partnership Menter Mon Grwp Cynefin Menter Iaith Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig Mantell Gwynedd All relevant Partners</p>
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Progress report: SNPA, CCBC & CG are all leading on the North Wales Ambassador programme, providing training opportunities, promoting core messages and the special qualities of each region.

CCBC via its Business and Tourism team support and work with local businesses, assisting them to grow. We assist on both the skills agenda and recruitment issues, the recently launched Tourism Ambassador Programme is now being used by many tourism businesses as part of their staff induction programme.

OUTCOME C3

We are implementing solutions for affordable housing to buy and rent.

Are we within our timeline? Yes


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

See C3.2 Progress Report for likely change needed in actions set – to be revised to reflect true situation in 2022 review of Cynllun Eryri.

Conclusion:

There has been clear progress against all measurements of success within Cynllun Eryri's Action Plan for Outcome C3. The objective remains on track to be achieved by 2025.

Detailed 2020/21 progress report

Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
C3.1		<p>Work with partners to address underlying issues and develop innovative solutions to delivering affordable housing that meets local needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with rural housing enablers to identify affordable housing needs within our communities • Work to influence changes to legislation so that change of use of a dwelling into a holiday home requires planning permission • Lobby mortgage lenders to ensure that finance for affordable homes is readily available • Work with partners to ensure the best use of affordable housing financial contributions, to assist in the delivery of affordable housing • A detailed analysis of availability of affordable homes within the National Park has influenced planning policies in the LDP • Support work to identify empty premises to be developed for business or housing use • Encourage mixed tenure housing 	By the end of 2020 details will be included in the LDP and evaluated regularly in the annual monitoring of the LDP report.	<p>SNPA</p> <p>Gwynedd Council</p> <p>Conwy County Borough Council</p> <p>Grwp Cynefin</p>

Progress report: Rural Housing Enablers have undertaken housing needs surveys for several communities, assisting provision of affordable housing by private developers and Housing Associations. Motion passed by SNP Authority supporting calls for change to legislation so that change of use of a dwelling into a holiday home requires planning permission; letter sent to Welsh Government.


The Authority has in conjunction with Cyngor Gwynedd and Tai Teg, sent a briefing note to advise Mortgage Brokers/Financial Advisors on the availability of mortgages for affordable housing sites with Section 106 Agreements. It is hoped the note will raise awareness and assist brokers to find mortgages for affordable dwellings with S106's. SNPA have funded a grant scheme with commuted sum financial contributions from S.106 agreements. The scheme is run by CCBC and is for the renovation of empty homes by first time buyers.

SNPA discuss regularly with two Housing Authorities and RSL's to ensure affordable housing is provided where it is needed.


SNPA in discussions with several partners on funding a new Community Led Housing Officer post.

SNPA attended meetings with other partners and community representatives to discuss concerns of housing availability.

The Annual Monitoring Report for the ELDP 2016-2031 is in the second year of reporting. Research also being undertaken to assess impact of rising house prices and second homes/holiday accommodation. Research will steer policy formation for the next ELDP review.

C3.2		<p>Through the LDP create policies that encourage affordable housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To meet the affordable housing target of 375 (average 25 affordable housing units per annum) over the LDP period of 2016-2031 	<p>The LDP annual monitoring report will measure progress throughout the term of the Plan.</p> <p>The LDP undergoes annual monitoring and policies and targets are reviewed every four years</p>	<p>SNPA Welsh Government Conwy County Borough Council Gwynedd Council Grwp Cynefin Adra Local Rural Housing Enabler services</p>
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Progress report: SNPA: 1st two years of monitoring the EDLP 2016-2031 have not met the target of 25 affordable units per year - 2 affordable housing units permitted in first year, 14 affordable units in 2nd year, with 3 affordable housing units completed in 1st year and 19 affordable units completed in 2nd year. This is due to a number of reasons, including fewer houses being built within the Park (high dependency on RSL delivery of affordable housing and private development delivery being low). The low numbers might also be related to the overall housing market condition and borrowing environment, with developers and small builders being much more risk averse in the current economic climate. It is likely that this action point will be revised to reflect the true situation in the new Local Development Plan revision of which will begin in late 2022/early 2023 and for adoption in 2026/27.

C3.3		<p>Through the LDP create policies that encourage sustainable homes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies encourage sustainable design and sustainable development of housing 	<p>The LDP annual monitoring report will measure progress throughout the term of the Plan.</p>	<p>SNPA Conwy County Borough Council Gwynedd Council</p>
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Progress report: SNPA: ELDP policies are being implemented to ensure sustainable development

OUTCOME C4

Local communities are supported to thrive in all aspects of well-being.

Are we within our timeline?

Delayed on establishing Community Charter due to personnel/capacity implications.



Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

Capacity issues with restructuring of Community Officer role/Engagement Team SNPA

Conclusion:

There has been some progress against all measurements of success within Cynllun Eryri's Action Plan for Outcome C4. The objective currently remains on track to be achieved by 2025.

Detailed 2020/21 progress report

Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
C4.1		<p>Increase opportunities for dialogue between the National Park and community-based organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a charter that sets out the arrangements between the SNPA and Community and Town Councils, in relation to how we work together to develop activities of mutual benefit • Explore the idea of appointing National Park Ambassadors in each community council, beginning with the area covered by the pilot Ambassador Scheme in Policy B3.3 	<p>By the end of 2021, a Charter will be established and the lessons from the pilot Ambassador scheme will be implemented.</p> <p>We will review these actions by 2025.</p>	<p>SNPA Community and Town Councils Un Llais Cymru</p>
<p>Progress report: SNPA: Initial work on crafting a Community Charter has begun - timeline to be extended to reflect restructuring of role. To discuss the possibilities of local Ambassadors with Community Councils</p>				
C4.2		<p>Work with communities to further enhance understanding of the Special Qualities of the National Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the main communities affected by the National Park designation but that fall outside the boundary, and work closely with these communities to achieve National Park objectives • Support the upskilling of communities wishing to develop projects which protect and enhance Snowdonia's special qualities as per Outcome B3 • Work with community-based organisations to develop Warden Area Plans, based on local needs and priorities • Work with Conwy and Gwynedd councils to identify further opportunities for joint working 	<p>Throughout the Plan we will ensure that schemes are supported through the Community and Volunteer Fund.</p> <p>Warden Area Plans are co-produced with community input.</p> <p>We will review these actions by 2025.</p>	<p>SNPA Gwynedd and Conwy LAG groups Community and Town Councils on periphery of the National Park Mantell Gwynedd Un Llais Cymru</p>
<p>Progress report: SNPA has adopted the Placemaking Charter in October 2021. Cronfa Cymunedol Eryri has supported 13 community projects focussed on Decarbonising, Sustainable Tourism and Covid Recovery in 2021-2.</p> <p>NRW: took part in three public consultations on FRPs in Meirionnydd.</p>				

REPORT OF THE MEMBERS' WORKING GROUP HELD ON 6th APRIL 2022

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

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

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

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

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

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

Officers

Emyr Williams, G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Dafydd Edwards, Bethan Hughes, Helen Pye, Anwen Gaffey;

Apologies

Councillor Elfed Roberts; Mr. Tim Jones.

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**
Subject to noting that the word 'Mr' which appears in the apologies section of the Welsh minutes was a typographical error, the minutes of the Members' Working Group meeting held on 2nd March 2022 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.
4. **Report on the work of the Governance Review Task and Finish Group**
Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services for Members to discuss the Governance Task and Finish Group's recommendations for future formal adoption by the Authority.

Reported – Mr. Owain Wyn, as Chair of the Governance Task and Finish Group, presented his foreword and thanked both staff and Members for their work.

The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and background and advised that as this was an extremely broad topic, he had split the report into different headings. He presented a summary of the Task and Finish Group's main recommendations (paragraph 3), and Members were asked to consider each section separately:-

- 3.1 The Code of Corporate Governance: Members were advised that following consideration of several different models, the Authority's Code of Corporate Governance had now been prepared to reflect the current CIPFA framework, which was the Task and Finish Group's preferred model (Appendix 2).

- 3.2 Review of Performance (Appendix 3): Members approved the mechanism for reviewing performance in relation to the Authority's Well-being Statement and Corporate Work Programme, as presented.
- 3.3 The Strategic Role of Members (Appendix 4): The Director of Corporate Services advised that the Standards Committee had considered the findings of the Governance Task and Finish Working Group at their meeting on the 1st April 2022 and were in support of the package of measures proposed. Arising thereon, the Standards Committee had asked whether it would be beneficial to include a list of training requirements which were mandatory for members, such as ethical standards, the code of conduct etc. They also supported the reintroduction of a formal annual review process for all Members, as well as establishing a new Member mentoring programme. Members noted that Sarah Hattle had experience in this area and was happy to take the lead on Member mentoring.
- para 3.3.2: a Member proposed that the Training and Development Programme should apply to all new Members whether appointed by their Local Authority or by the Welsh Government. He asked whether a Members' Working Group could further develop the training programme, to include issues such as the need to find a balance between national and community priorities in a National Park context. Arising thereon, it was noted that occasional tensions arise when taking decisions at the Planning and Access Committee which could be addressed as part of planning training. The Director of Planning and Land Management agreed that planning training could be strengthened to explore the relationship between national and community interests in a National Park, and that training will be arranged following the Local Government election, possibly in September 2022.
- para 3.3.2.5: Members discussed the formal annual review procedure for Independent Members and the subsequent request from Welsh Government that reviews should be applicable to all Members. Some Members felt this was a political issue and as such was a matter for the appointing authorities. It was agreed that further work was needed and the Director of Corporate Services, whilst noting that past efforts had been unsuccessful, felt that annual appraisals could be a two-way process for Members to raise any issues they might have.
- a Member noted concerns that the current membership was making recommendations, prior to the Local Government election, that new Members will be required to action. The Director of Corporate Services noted that the paper was being presented at this time to benefit from the expertise of the current membership who have experience of the process.
- in response to a request from a Member, the Director of Corporate Services provided assurance that the Authority would not duplicate training already being provided by the Unitary Authorities but would focus on National Park related issues. The Authority was also happy to work collaboratively with its partners.
- para. 3.3.2.2: the Section 151 Officer thanked Members for their dedication to the work of the Authority and offered to provide a short general training session on finance once the new membership had been established. The Chair welcomed the offer on behalf of Members.
- para. 3.4.1: Members were in support of continuing with the current Committee structure. Members noted that the Task and Finish Group had considered several other models, including the structures of the other two National Parks in Wales, and had concluded that the Authority's current structure worked well and was fit for purpose.
- para. 3.4.2: in response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services advised that the Authority would review the Performance and Resources Committee's terms of reference and broaden its role to ensure it can take decisions on financial and other reports, unless Authority approval is specifically required, rather than arranging an additional special

Authority meeting for one item. It was noted that all Authority Members are members of the Performance and Resources Committee.

- para. 3.4.4: the Director of Corporate Services explained that Task and Finish Groups will now be required to agree their terms of reference at the outset to ensure there is no overlap. He confirmed that individual Task and Finish Groups would be made up of staff and Members initially and additional experts invited to contribute where appropriate. It was also agreed that para. 3.4.4 should read “People with expertise or *interest in the subjects should be appointed.*”
- para. 3.4.7: the Chief Executive advised that the final remit letter was still awaited from the Minister.
- para. 3.5.4: to clarify, the Director of Corporate Services reported that staff would investigate the best location for hybrid committees and make recommendations ‘*to the Authority.*’ Members discussed hybrid meetings in general and noted that officers would be trialing the system before going live. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that some Members had asked for the hybrid option to be considered, whilst other Members welcomed the opportunity to meet in person. The final decision had not yet been taken, and whilst hybrid meetings should provide flexibility for all, if they proved problematic, there would be a need to reassess. Members noted that it was important to conduct some face-to-face meetings with the new membership.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the report.**
- 2. subject to including the amendments as outlined, to approve the report for formal adoption by the Authority at its meeting on the 27th April 2022.**

5. Supporting the Revival of the Welsh Language

Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive for Members to discuss how to progress a Notice of Motion by Mr. Owain Wyn who requested that the Authority should consider how to support the revival of the Welsh language and increase the number of people able to speak Welsh in their everyday lives in Eryri, and for the Authority and its partners to respond positively to the challenges.

Reported – Mr. Owain Wyn provided Members with a brief introduction. He asked Members to agree the Authority’s direction of travel and discuss how to contribute to the linguistic revival. Whilst noting that the Snowdonia National Park, with a population of only 26,000, would not have a significant impact, he felt that the Authority’s strength was to encourage and influence its partners and others to achieve this aim.

The Chief Executive presented his report and outlined the main considerations. Members were asked to develop a clear vision and strategy, to note the importance of the data and intelligence, to agree which partnerships to establish and their roles, and how broad to set the geographical area. Members were also asked to note that the Authority’s Strategy for Promoting the Welsh Language was currently being reviewed.

Members and officers discussed the following:-

- in response to a question, the Director of Planning and Land Management stated that the upcoming review of the Local Development Plan will allow Members to amend the policy which currently asks applicants/developers to provide a “Community and Linguistic Statement.” This could be revised to require an independent linguistic report to accompany the planning application. This is currently the case where developments are on a larger scale, for example the upcoming Llyn Tegid Railway application, where a more detailed

assessment is needed, which will then be forwarded for scrutiny by external linguistic experts.

- the Chief Executive confirmed that Members will have further opportunity to scrutinise the Local Development Plan, Cynllun Eryri, the Corporate Plan and the Welsh Language Strategy.
- a Member stated that the Authority should continue to lobby Welsh Government to protect the Welsh language and noted that both the Wylfa and Trawsfynydd Nuclear Power Station projects were back on the Agenda which could have an impact on the language. The Member asked whether a sub-group should be established to lead on this matter.
- a Member recommended that the vision should read “the Welsh language is viewed more favorably than the English language,” and whilst Snowdonia does not have a large population it has the mandate to lead by example.
- a Member felt that the Welsh language should be a planning condition for the future and referred to a recent report by Dr. Simon Brook ‘Second homes: Developing new policies in Wales’, which had made twelve recommendations, of which only three were adopted by Gwynedd Council and the Welsh Government.
- a Member felt that the process to agree a vision for Cynllun Eryri and the Local Development Plan had worked well with external facilitation.
- a Members suggested considering other data sets such as that collated by local schools e.g., the language used at home etc., although this information can also be imprecise.
- in response to a concern raised by a Member over the length of time taken by the Place-names Task and Finish Group, the Chief Executive stated that in future, a final reporting date will be identified to ensure the groups remain focused. The Director of Planning and Land Management noted that this work, carried out with the University of Cardiff, had been complex. He took the opportunity to thank Naomi Jones, the Head of Cultural Heritage for her work, and advised that a background paper and guidelines will be presented to the Authority’s meeting in September 2022.
- both Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council have established Welsh Language Forums which could be included as partners, or the Authority could establish a general forum of its own.

In conclusion, Members recommended:-

- **that as the upcoming review of the Strategy for Promoting the Welsh Language will encompass much of this work, a steering group should be established at the Authority’s AGM in June led by the Head of Administration and Customer Care.**
- **the vision should be agreed as part of the Welsh Promotion Strategy and the Authority should consider if there should be positive discrimination in its policies towards the Welsh language: “the Welsh language is viewed more favourably than the English language.”**
- **Members agreed the importance of working in partnership and the need to define which partners should be included.**
- **the work to commence once the census data is available.**
- **to align the Authority’s 4 main corporate documents, Cynllun Eryri, National Park Management Plan, Eryri Local Development Plan, and the Strategy for Promoting the Welsh Language with this vision at the appropriate time.**

The Chairman conveyed best wishes to all the Local Authority Members with contested seats at the upcoming Local Government election and also thanked those Members who were attending their final meeting of the Members’ Working Group and wished them well.

The meeting ended at 11.50

MEETING:	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE:	15 th June, 2022
TITLE:	<p>EUROPARC CONFERENCE, 5 – 7 OCTOBER 2022</p> <p>“CLIMATE IS CHANGING! HOW CAN PROTECTED AREAS ADAPT?”</p> <p>Hosted by Fédération des Réserves Naturelles Catalanes (FRNC) and located at Argelès-sur-Mer, Pyrénées Orientales, France</p>
AUTHOR:	Chief Executive
PURPOSE:	To inform Members of the Conference and to nominate attendance

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1. EUROPARC Federation was formed nearly 40 years ago and is the representative body of Europe’s Protected Areas. The Federation has a membership of 378 responsible authorities in over 36 countries and facilitates international co-operation in all aspects of Protected Area Management to improve and conserve our natural inheritance. The Federation is recognised worldwide as a professional network of European Protected Areas providing a forum to share professional experiences, collaborate on technical projects and progress common aims.
- 1.2. Snowdonia National Park Authority has been a member of the EUROPARC Federation for over 25 years and hosted the EUROPARC Conference in Eryri in 2006.

2. EUROPARC FEDERATION CONFERENCE, 2022

- 2.1 For the past two years a virtual EUROPARC Conference has been held but this year the Conference is returning to its usual format of being held at a host National Park.

The host for the October Conference is Fédération des Réserves Naturelles Catalanes (FRNC) and located at **Argelès-sur-Mer, Pyrénées Orientales, France**, 5 – 7th October (travelling on 4th October).

- 2.2 The theme for the Conference is “**Climate is changing! How can Protected Areas adapt?**”
- 2.3 The Conference will focus on Climate Change Adaptation in and around Protected Areas. Throughout the programme and with the help of experienced practitioners, experts and researchers the conference will discuss and seek to better understand:
- How climate change will affect Protected Areas and their surroundings?
 - How to assess vulnerability?
 - How to prepare collectively to adapt for the future

3. ATTENDANCE AT EUROPARC CONFERENCE, 2022

- 3.1 Snowdonia National Park has historically nominated two delegates to attend the Conference. In recent years delegates have been selected on their particular professional discipline taking regard of the Conference theme.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 4.1 **Members are requested to decide if SNPA should be represented at the 2022 EUROPARC Conference in France and if so, approve the number of delegates.**
- 4.2 **Subject to 4.1 above, request nominations (member/staff) from Snowdonia to attend the EUROPARC Conference in 2022 and for the Chair and Chief Executive to approve the delegation.**

5. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Conference Website and further details on the programme, workshops and site visits:

<https://europarcconference.com/programme/>



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NATIONAL PARKS WALES EXECUTIVE MEETING FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2021 VIRTUAL MEETING, 1.30pm – 3.00pm

PRESENT:

(PH)	Cllr. Paul Harries	Chair, National Parks Wales (NPW) + Pembrokeshire Coast NPA (PCNPA)
(DC)	Cllr. Di Clements	Deputy Chair, PCNPA (joined the meeting after Item 1 below had been discussed)
(TJ)	Tegryn Jones	CEO, PCNPA (Secretariat NPW)
(WEJ)	Cllr. Wyn Ellis-Jones	Chair, Snowdonia NPA (SNPA) (joined the meeting during discussion of matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting [Item 2 below])
(AH)	Cllr. Annwen Hughes	Vice Chair, SNPA
(EW)	Myr Williams	CEO, SNPA
(GR)	Cllr. Gareth Ratcliffe	Chair, Brecon Beacons NPA (BBNPA)
(CMJ)	Catherine Mealing-Jones	CEO, BBNPA

In attendance:

Janet Evans PCNPA

I. CHAIR'S WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He updated everyone on meetings and/or events he had attended since the last meeting, most of which were attended remotely. These included:

- meeting with the other UK National Park Chairs to discuss the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) meeting;
- meetings of the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) Rural Forum, where the rural housing crisis, the abandonment of road schemes and a rural vision had been discussed. He added that interesting feedback had been received at the meetings about housing needs and RDF funding;



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- attending an event at Aberdyfi to celebrate SNPA's 70th anniversary, for which he thanked the Chair and CEO;
- Landscapes for Wales seminar with the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- Corporate Joint Committee meetings, at which GR was also present;
- the launch of Welsh Government's Net Zero for Wales Plan;
- a phosphates meeting with Janet Finch-Saunders, MS, and
- NPUK Chairs' Forum.

He added that he had sent a letter to Julie James, Minister for Climate Change, regarding COP26, for which a reply had been received. Finally, he announced that the 20 November 2021 was Universal Children's Day, and he would be interested to know how it fitted in with the youth in the other two NPA.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING, 19 March 2021

The minutes were noted as a true record.

Matters Arising

a) **Light touch review of valued and resilient (Minute 7)**

TJ reported that the review was yet to happen and he was currently unclear as to whether WG direction would be provided through this review or via the respective remit letters.

NOTED.

b) **COP26 (Minute 8)**

EW reported that the National Parks Partnership had delivered a presentation to the COP26 event and that the videos shared on the "net zero with nature" projects were well worth viewing.

NOTED.



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c) Meeting carbon targets 2030 (Minute 9)

TJ reported that two companies had been commissioned to work on this particular project and their reports were expected by the end of this financial year. He added that all concerned knew what the challenges were, but were waiting to see what options were available to mitigate against them.

NOTED.

d) Creating carbon neutral parks 2050 – SLSP commission (Minute 10)

It was noted that, in relation to the previous item and the two collaborative projects commissioned, methodology on developing a carbon baseline for designated landscapes had been developed in the Lake District with Lancaster University. Work had already started in BBNPA and SNPA, with PCNPA commencing in the New Year. The aim was to publish a report by March 2022, which all three NPA could then share with their respective communities.

e) Procurement – meeting new requirements – opportunities for joint working (Minute 13)

EW stated that he had etched a brief for a new procurement process, which would be shared with Geldards. He noted that the process had been more complicated than first envisaged, and a lot of changes needed to be made in relation to procurement standards. He would report further when the matter had been progressed.

NOTED.

f) National Park Partnership (Minute 14)

EW was currently covering the role of Welsh representative on the Partnership, but noted that CMJ was keen to take it over once her management team was in place. He added that proposals on the next 3-year business plan were due in the next month.

NOTED.



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3. NPW BUDGET 2020/21

The budget position as at November 2021 was presented. It was noted that expenditure had been low, but that a sum of £500 had been allocated to sponsor the Young Handler's competition at the Royal Welsh Show's Winter Fair. TJ added that an approach had been made by the RSPB to get the environmental sector involved in work with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people and they had specifically asked NPW to be part of the project. RSPB and NRW had contributed £10,000 each to the project and TJ had confirmed that the three NPA would collectively match that sum for 2022/23.

EW stated that it depended upon what was in the business plan, and that it might be necessary to reconsider the budget.

NOTED.

4. FEEDBACK FROM MEETING WITH MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

TJ noted that the key issues arising from the meeting with the Minister for Climate Change included:

- a) 2022/23 budget: no warning signs had been picked up from recent discussions with WG officials on the forthcoming budget. They were currently working on a 1% budgeting assumption. EW stated that WG officials were finally referring to a three year funding model, which was to be welcomed;
- b) National Park governance: the Minister had an interest in Member protocol and training and reviewing WG Members annually. She also seemed very keen on joint officers (e.g. Monitoring Officer). TJ suggested that the three NPA bring forward some suggestions themselves on this issue. PH reported that PCNPA had been informally notified that they had been awarded the Advanced Charter for Member Support and Development;
- c) second homes: an announcement was imminent which might feed into this matter, and
- d) corporate joint committees: TJ suggested that there was a need to mark up the potential cost burden on NPA. GR noted that BBNPA straddled three CJC and



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could be struggling on finance as a result. There was, therefore, a need to understand where the Minister stood on this matter.

PH raised the issue of National Park UK landscape reform, to which TJ reported that changes were likely in England as a result of the Glover Review and that a third purpose might be linked to biodiversity. This might filter down to Welsh NPA as well. EW noted that WG were prioritising the establishment of the fourth National Park in Wales, which would probably take up most of their scrutiny time.

GR referred to the recent COP26 summit and enquired whether WG had any expectations about national parks. CMJ stated that the Minister had spoken at a recent CLA Conference and, while national parks were mentioned, she didn't go into detail. The Minister had a lot of push back from the farming community about the fact that Wales was the only nation that hadn't got farming transition arrangements in place yet and CMJ wondered whether there was a need for NPW to look at this. WEJ suggested that the three NPA needed to work with the Minister to demonstrate that the Authorities were effective and in a good position so there was no need for change.

PH referred to WG's consultation on second homes and mentioned that there didn't seem much to add to the responses of One Voice Wales and the WLGA's Rural Forum. He was of the opinion that the multi-pronged solution put forward by WG was the best way. EW noted that the Minister was due to make a statement on second homes at 4.00p.m. on Tuesday, 23rd November 2021. GR asked if Air B&B could be included in any response as they appeared to find a way around current legislation. EW replied that planning legislation would have to be changed to accommodate Air B&B. WEJ suggested arranging a meeting to discuss a response to the second homes consultation and this was **AGREED**.

5. CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS THE DELIVERY OF THE PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT

EW referred to WG's Programme for Government, which set out the commitments that the government would deliver over the next five years. He highlighted the 10 objectives he considered to be relevant and/or of interest to NPW and/or Designated Landscapes Wales (DLW) and enquired whether some of them needed to be elevated into the NPW business plan.



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The report was noted, as was the need for the Authorities to align their work to where the most impact could be made.

NOTED.

6. NPW BUSINESS PLAN 2022

TJ reported that the current business plan was dated 2019-2021 therefore there was a need to develop a new one. His report centred on those objectives from the WG's Programme for Government which could impact on designated landscapes and identified possible key areas that could be prioritised, while also highlighting the limitations of staff and financial resources in doing so. There was also a need to consider which areas of work would sit under Tirweddau Cymru Landscapes Wales and which could sit under NPW.

CMJ highlighted the need to show value and to demonstrate to WG that NPA were delivering their objectives. Nature recovery and transport leapt out at her. EW noted that the Valued and Resilient document had been the focus for the current business plan, therefore he suggested that they should await the imminent Ministerial announcement and, possibly, the WG Remit Letter before agreeing what should be included. He also asked whether each NPA should push the Minister for a three year Remit Letter, considering that WG officials were looking at a three year funding programme in future. PH agreed with this.

Whilst agreeing with EW, TJ didn't want to wait until the next NPW meeting in April 2022 before agreeing the new business plan. He suggested, therefore, that the three CEO work together and circulate a draft business plan in due course. This was **AGREED.**

7. CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEES

CMJ stated that BBNPA had held a Member/Officer meeting earlier that day to discuss the issue of CJC and the fact that they would be involved in three due to the geographical area involved. She felt there were some positives to be gathered from this and she would share their position with everyone in due course. LD suggested that all three NPA should collectively push for appropriate training and induction for those Members who would be sitting on the CJC. She also asked whether the CJC would put anybody's job at risk and would there be opportunities for NPA staff to be seconded to a CJC.



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PH was of the opinion that NPA had been put in an ancillary role, while TJ reported that PCNPA had pushed back a bit on the role of National Parks, arguing that they should also be able to have a say on governance and the budget. In response to LD's comments, TJ replied that the staffing issue was a valid point and wondered whether any officer(s) should be seconded to work on the CJC strategic development plan. It would be interesting to see how things developed.

EW reported that SNPA had heard nothing formally about CJC in north Wales. He was aware that heads of terms had been drafted by the six local authorities involved and that they intended to "go live" on the 30th June 2022 (later than in south Wales). However, the authorities involved had refused to share any papers, despite the fact that SNPA would be involved in the CJC. He was also worried about the additional workload on Members and wondered whether the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales would recognise this additional commitment.

NOTED.

8. NATIONAL PARKS WALES MEMBERS' SEMINAR 2022

CMJ reported that BBNPA were keen to host the Seminar and were thinking along the lines of the adoption of "doughnut economics" for their National Park Management Plan. However, the logistics of hosting it had yet to be thought through and she would bring further details to the next meeting.

Both PH and EWJ welcomed the news, as they felt that – as long as the topic was relevant and informative – the Seminars were of great benefit to those who attended and were a good way of networking informally as well. DC felt that it was important to host a face-to-face event if possible as there would be a new cohort of Members in each Authority by then and it was important to have a connection between the three NPA. Whether this would be possible, however, was another matter.

NOTED.



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9. NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARKS

Pembrokeshire Coast NPA

- The Authority had been notified unofficially that it had been awarded the Advanced Charter for Member Support and Development.
- The Authority's Coast to Coast publication had received a gold award at the recent CIPR Cymru Wales Pride awards for its Coast to Coast publication.
- The Authority was supporting the 2022 World Sea Rowing Championships, which were being held in Saundersfoot. Hannah Buck was trying to encourage the event organisers to be as sustainable as possible, with a view to the event becoming a model for the first ever to achieve an environmental sustainability standard.
- A re-prioritisation programme was under way in the Authority.
- Research was being undertaken on developing a volunteering strategy, with an "Experiences for All" project being commissioned to encourage wider access to the National Park. A report was expected in the near future.
- PH had completed the Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail in 13 consecutive days in September.
- TJ referenced changes to the Shoreline Management Plan, which would probably effect SNPA as well.

Snowdonia NPA

- The Authority had embarked on a recruitment drive to fill two WG Member vacancies in 2022. WG funding had been received for the recruitment process.
- Following a recent Audit Wales report, the Authority had commissioned a report from Gwynedd County Council. EW mentioned that their salaries were not competitive with the rest of North Wales, so a new Authority pay structure (excluding the Management Team) was being looked at.
- 2021 referenced the Authority's 70th anniversary, and staff had taken part in many events to celebrate the fact. S4C had also commissioned a programme on the people of Snowdonia.
- Hafod Eryri would not open again in 2022 as work was needed on the railway.
- The Authority would be signing a Memorandum of Understanding on sustainable tourism principles with Gwynedd County Council.



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Brecon Beacons NPA

- CMJ wished to thank TJ and EW for all their support since she started in post in late July.
- The Authority was recruiting for a new Senior Management Team of two Directors to look after the Authority's portfolio.
- A lot of community engagement was currently ongoing as part of the Authority's consultation on its National Park Management Plan.
- The Authority was looking at its accommodation needs in the longer term.
- The Authority had been shortlisted for a green fleet award.
- CMJ was rebooting the Authority's research partnership with Cardiff University.
- The Authority's first Dark Skies Festival had gone really well
- The Authority was looking at reorganisation as part of the corporate planning process.
- The Authority was helping establish an Usk Nutrient Management Board, together with a Brecon Partnership and Community Initiative Trust.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business.

11. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING:

It was **AGREED** that the next 'formal' meeting would be held in April, but that PCNPA would organise a date to discuss the WG consultation on second homes in the near future.



Parciau Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog, Arfordir Penfro ac Eryri yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth Brecon Beacons, Pembrokeshire Coast and Snowdonia National Parks, working in partnership



Rydym yn croesawu cael gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, a byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi. We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh, and will respond to any correspondence in Welsh. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.

Parciau Cenedlaethol Cymru National Parks Wales

Parc Llanion, Doc Penfro SA72 6DY
Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock SA72 6DY

Ffôn / Tel: 01646 624800

e-bost / e-mail:

gwasanaethauaelodau@arfordirpenfro.org.uk
memberservices@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk

**PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 23rd MARCH 2022**

Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd (Gwynedd) (Chairman)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

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

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillor Phil Capper, Wyn Ellis Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Ms. Tracey Evans, Mrs Sarah Hattle, Mr. Owain Wyn;

Officers

Mr. E. Williams, Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. J. Cawley, Mr. D. Edwards, Ms. S. Owen, Ms. B. Hughes, Mr. E. Jones, 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 Annwen Hughes, Gethin Glyn Williams; Mr. Brian Angell, Mr. Tim Jones.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

Mr. Emyr Williams, Mr. G. Iwan Jones and Mr. Jonathan Cawley declared an interest in item 10 on the Agenda and left the meeting while the matter was being discussed.

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 24th November 2021 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

4. **External Grant Funding Update Report**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive to provide an update on projects supported by the Authority and to approve due process for formally accepting projects/programmes in future years.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report and background. He advised that discussions with the Ministers Office on the complexities of delivering short term grants had resulted in Welsh Government seeking assurance of member involvement in the approval of grant funding. Members were asked to consider whether or not to review the current member grant funding approval procedure. (Appendix 3)

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

- Appendix 1: in response to a question, the Chief Executive advised that the risk of unsecured match funding for European grant funded projects was now reduced with a legally binding contract in place for the LIFE project.
- the Chief Executive agreed to provide a Member with further details of the location of the 'Adra' housing estate being built within the National Park.
- a Member asked whether there was an arrangement for the eight Designated Landscapes of Wales to consider collaborative projects for 2022/23?
- the Chief Executive advised that the list of future projects, outlined in paragraph 3, would be further considered once the Authority's new membership had been established.
- Members considered whether the status quo was sufficient to allow Members to provide a strategic overview and monitor the grant programme or whether to establish a financial threshold. Members concluded they were satisfied with the current process.
- the Chief Finance Officer was in support of officers continuing to develop and submit bids within the strategic areas agreed by Members, and to accept grant offers. Officers could then, if appropriate, seek member approval at the first opportunity following an offer of grant.
- to advise the Welsh Government of the decision to continue with the status quo. Should the Welsh Government continue to seek a change to the procedure, a further report will be submitted at that time.
- the Chief Executive, in response to a question, advised that the policy for purchasing land or property had been amended to provide more flexibility.

RESOLVED

1. to note that the 2021/22 SLSP projects have been completed.
2. to note progress on live projects (Appendix 1).
3. to confirm priority areas for future bids (Appendix 2).
4. to note potential scope for 2022/23 SLSP grant submission.
5. to advise Welsh Government that the Authority has resolved to retain the current arrangements for grant development and acceptance.

5. **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 as submitted.

6. **2021/22 Budget Update**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Finance to inform members of significant virements within the current financial year's budget and provide Members with updates on progress against the revenue and capital budgets.

Reported – The Head of Finance presented the report, which summarised the revised revenue and capital budgets for the first eleven months of 2021/22 and provided a projection of the Authority's position at the financial year-end. Members noted the forecasted year-end underspend of £100,500 which represents 1.25% of the total budget.

RESOLVED to note the report, for information.

7. **The Authority's Risk Profile**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to update Members on the Authority's Risk Profile.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and risk profile and outlined the 4 main changes to the register.

Arising thereon,

Risk Ref. 2 Income Generating Target (Plas Tan y Bwlch)

The Director of Corporate Services advised that whilst Plas Tan y Bwlch had achieved its income generating target, additional costs had been incurred, such as fuel and staff costs. The Head of Finance was currently preparing a detailed report and Plas' House Manager was in the process of preparing a Business Plan which will assist officers to provide improved forecasts for the year ahead.

Risk Ref. 4 – Reputational risk re. the Authority's management of Yr Ysgwrn

The Director of Planning and Land Management reported that the risk remains at medium (amber) and confirmed that a new Visitor Experience Manager was being appointed.

RESOLVED to note the report and the Risk Register as outlined.

8. **Corporate Work Programme 2021/22**

Submitted – A progress report by the Director of Corporate Services for the third quarter of the financial year. He further advised that where the work had been completed, quarter four updates were also included if the information was available.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and third quarter updates. Members and officers discussed some of the trends shown in red in more detail.

- Improving Management and Understanding of Cultural Heritage
the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the new website will detail all the walks being arranged by the Warden Service which hopefully will increase interest. The Head of Engagement confirmed that Cwmni Nod Glas had contacted the Authority and that it will be possible to provide information on behalf of 3rd parties, once the new website is launched.
- Supporting Young People
Members were advised that the Youth Officer would commence in post during April 2022. Work to support young people will be begun as a priority.
- Promoting and Actively Supporting the Welsh Language
in response to a question, the Head of Administration and Customer Care advised that the census data was due in May 2022. The new timescale should allow enough time for officers to present an initial report to Members outlining priority areas for the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy in July 2022.
- the Director of Planning and Land Management advised that the Place Names Scrutiny Panel had agreed upon the basis for officers to prepare a guidance note to be presented to the Authority either in July or September 2022.
- a Member welcomed the Authority's commitment to engage with hard to reach and disadvantaged groups and asked whether this could form part of the role of the Volunteer and Well-Being Officer?

RESOLVED to note the report.

9. **Revision of Llyn Tegid Fees**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Property Services seeking to revise the current Llyn Tegid Fees.

Reported – The Head of Property presented the report and background and confirmed that blue badge holders would still be allowed to park free of charge. He advised that the Authority had benefited from changing the fee collection method from manual to electronic. In response to a question, he confirmed that parking was allowed until midnight only and that illegal overnight parking was a matter to be addressed in consultation with Gwynedd Council. The Head of Property asked Members to notify officers of any roadside parking breaches which would then be raised with Gwynedd Highways Authority and the North Wales Police Authority.

RESOLVED to note the report and approve the fee review as outlined in paragraph 3.1 of the report, effective from 1st April 2022.

10. **Pay Policy Statement 2022/23 and Pay Policy Annual Report for 2021/22**

Submitted – A report by the Human Resource Service Manager, Gwynedd Council for Members to approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 and receive the Pay Policy Report for 2021/22.

Reported – The HR Service Manager presented the report and background and advised upon the National Pay Award of 1.75% for 2021/22.

RESOLVED

1. **to approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23.**
2. **to approve the Pay Policy Annual Report for 2021/22.**

11. **Freedom of Information**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care on information requests received by the Authority under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report, for information.

RESOLVED to note the report.

12. **Annual Report for Yr 2021: Communications and Engagement Strategy Performance Indicators**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Engagement together with the annual report on the Communication and Engagement Strategy performance indicators and progress on the action plan.

Reported – The Head of Engagement presented the report, the background and the 2021 Progress Report in detail.

Arising thereon, a Member asked, in the light of the priorities set out in the Welsh Government's Valued and Resilient statement, to what extent did the strategy focus on under-represented groups and how could this be improved for the future. Also, he asked to record the success of the Authority's staff in assisting Welsh Government in their recent recruitment drive for new Members, which had been very successful.

RESOLVED to note the Annual Report for Year 2021: Communications and Engagement Strategy Performance Indicators.

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

Submitted – The minutes of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board meeting held on 24th November 2021, for information.

In response to a question from a Member, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the surveyors report, which was extensive, had been received and officers were now awaiting the executive summary. The next steps would be to package and prioritise the work to make it affordable and the work would then start in the Summer of 2023. In the meantime, some temporary work will be undertaken as nothing needs immediate attention but needs addressing in the medium term.

RESOLVED to note the minutes.

The meeting ended at 11.50

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
FRIDAY 1st APRIL 2022**

PRESENT:

Member appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd;

Member appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillor Philip Capper;

Member appointed by the Welsh Government

Ms Sarah Hattle;

Independent Members

Ms Rachael L.J. Davies (Chair), Mr. Martin J. Hughes, Ms Sharon Warnes;

Officers

Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mrs Anwen Gaffey.

The Director of Corporate Services stated 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 for Absence**

No apologies were tendered.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

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

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the two Standards Committee meetings held on 3rd September 2021 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

Arising thereon,

Item 6 – Appeal Hearing

The Director of Corporate Services provided feedback following the Standards Committee's decision and also advised that he understood that communication channels at Plas Tan y Bwlch had now improved.

4. **Annual Report to the Authority's Annual General Meeting**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services for Members to agree the contents of the Annual Report.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and background. Members discussed the additional requirement for all standards committees to prepare annual reports to their "relevant authority" to promote and ensure high standards of conduct. Members and officers also discussed the key findings of the Governance Task and Finish Group in relation to the strategic role of Members.

Members considered the report and made the following observations:-

- the Standards Committee supported the package of measures proposed, as outlined in para. 4.2 of the report.
- a Member asked whether it would be beneficial to include a list of mandatory training requirements for members, such as ethical standards, code of conduct etc., to be undertaken over a period of time, either in person or by e-learning modules. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that GDPR and Cyber Security training was currently mandatory for all staff and Members.
- Members agreed that a formal annual review process for all Members should be reintroduced with a skills matrix to recognise individual skills gaps. The Director of Corporate Services reported upon the reason past efforts had been unsuccessful but agreed this was an opportunity to reset and start a new system and also to motivate current members to take part.
- Members agreed that establishing a new Member mentoring programme would be beneficial, especially as remote meetings were not helpful in this regard. It was agreed that the mentoring programme should be undertaken in tandem with training. Members noted that Sarah Hattle had experience in this area and may be interested in taking the lead on Member mentoring.
- para. 7.1 should include that the Standards Committee had recently met to determine an appeal hearing in accordance with the Authority's Grievance Procedure.
- a Member asked that the annual report should include background information on the Standards Committee for the benefit of new Members. Reference should also be made to the Standards Committee's contribution to the North Wales Standards Committee Forum during the review of the Code of Conduct in order to demonstrate that the Standards Committee has a broader reach than simply at a local level.
- a Member noted that a report template used by the Isle of Anglesey County Council's Standards Committee (16 June 2021) was available on their website and may be of assistance in preparing the Annual Report.
- it was agreed that the draft report should be prepared as outlined and circulated electronically to Standards Committee Members with a request that any comments should be presented by return. The Chair of the Standards Committee will then present the Annual Report to the Authority's Annual General Meeting on the 15th June 2022.

RESOLVED subject to noting the additions/amendments as outlined above, to agree the contents of the Annual Report to be presented to the Authority as set out in Section 6 of the report.

5. Declaration of Members' Interests

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services for the Standards Committee to monitor the operation of the code of conduct.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and background. Arising thereon, a Member drew attention to the fact that some Members had not completed the section which asks, “does the Personal Interest constitute a prejudicial interest.” The Director of Corporate Services agreed that in future, officers will ensure that the question is answered on the form, and in order that a clear record is kept the pro-forma will be amended to include tick-boxes for Members to tick either Yes or No. Also, so that a complete paper trail is available, officers will in future, print a copy of the Member's email together with the attached declaration.

RESOLVED to note the report, for information.

The meeting ended at 14.50