

NOTICE OF MEETING



Snowdonia National Park Authority

Emyr Williams

Chief Executive

Snowdonia National Park Authority

Penrhyndeudraeth

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Meeting: Snowdonia National Park Authority
Date: Wednesday 8 February 2023
Time: 10.00 a.m.
Location: The Oakeley Room, Plas Tan y Bwlch,
Maentwrog and via Zoom

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 Luhde – Thompson, Ms. Delyth Lloyd.*

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

A G E N D A

- | | Page No's. |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Apologies for absence and Chairman's Announcements | |
| 2. Corporate Update
To receive an oral update from the Chief Executive. | |
| 3. Public Question Time
The Authority has allocated up to 20 minutes at the start of its meeting to allow members of the public the opportunity to ask specific questions that relate to the work of the Authority (apart from planning applications) that is relevant to the Park's duties and purposes.

Questions must be submitted in writing (by post or e-mail) to the Head of Legal and Corporate Services at least 7 days prior to the meeting. | |
| 4. Declaration of Interest
To receive any disclosure of interest by members or officers in respect of any item of business. | |
| 5. Minutes
The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the Authority meeting held on the 16 th November 2022 be signed as a true record. (Copy herewith) | 4 - 10 |
| 6. Matters for Information arising from the minutes | |
| 7. Action Log
To submit the Action Log for information and decision. (Copy herewith) | 11 - 16 |
| 8. Final Accounts 2021/22
To receive an oral report by the Chief Finance Officer. | |
| 9. Authority Budget and Levy on Constituent Authorities 2023/2024
To submit a report by the Chief Finance Officer. (Copy herewith) | 17 - 30 |
| 10. Capital Strategy 2023/2024
To submit a report by the Chief Finance Officer. (Copy herewith) | 31 - 38 |
| 11. Report of Interview Panel for Independent Members of the Standards Committee
To submit a report by the Director of Corporate Services. (Copy herewith) | 39 |
| 12. Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy – Strategic Plan
To submit a report by the Partnerships Manager. (Copy herewith) | 40 - 84 |
| 13. Working Group Reports
To submit the reports. (Copies herewith) | |
| (1) Members' Working Group held on 19th October and 7th December 2022. | 85 - 89 |
| (2) Local Joint Working Group held on the 18th November 2022. | 90 - 92 |

14. Meetings of other Organisations

To receive oral reports from Members on any recent meetings which they have attended as representatives of the Authority.

15. Terms and Conditions of Service

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SNPA Senior Management Team: Directors

Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972: Exemption from disclosure of documents

To submit a report by the Director of Corporate Services. (Copy herewith)

PART II

16. Terms and Conditions of Service

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SNPA Senior Management Team: Directors

To submit a report by the Chief Executive. (Copy herewith)

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
WEDNESDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2022**

Councillor Annwen Hughes (Gwynedd) (Chair)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, June Jones, Kim Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts;

Member appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillor Jo Nuttall;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones, Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Ms. Delyth Lloyd;

Officers

Mr. E. Williams, Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. J. Cawley, Mr. D. Edwards, Ms. Nia Murray, Ms. Naomi Jones, Ms. Helen Pye, Ms. A. Gaffey.

In attendance

Ms. Rachel Freitag - Audit Wales.

Apologies

Councillors Louise Hughes, Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Dilwyn Owain Roberts; Ms. Sarah Hattle.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that as the meeting was being held remotely, the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes and would be made available online at a later date.

1. Chair's Announcements

- (1) the Chair thanked the Members who had attended the recent Member Development Day on the 14th October which started at Yr Ysgwrn and finished at Benar Boardwalk, Dyffryn Ardudwy.
- (2) the Chair reported upon the success of the recent Annual Meetings with the Community and Town Councils on the 25th and 27th October 2022.
- (3) the Chair reported on recent meetings attended:-
 - a meeting of the three Welsh National Park Authorities and Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change.
 - Caru Eryri Award Ceremony, Bethesda
 - a meeting with Snowdonia Transport
- (4) the Chair confirmed that the next meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee on the 30th November 2022 would be a hybrid meeting and will be held at Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog.
- (5) the Chairman referred to the recent indisposition of Councillor Louise Hughes and expressed the Authority's best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

2. Corporate Update

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

- (1) the Chief Executive welcomed the successful outcome of the Hillside judgment and advised that the Director of Planning and Land Management would be presenting a report on the judgment to the next meeting of the Planning and Access Committee.

- (2) a report on the recent changes to planning legislation and policy for second homes, short-term lets and the potential use of Article 4 Direction would be presented to the next meeting of the Members' Working Group on the 7th December 2022.
- (3) the two main topics of discussion at the meeting between the three Welsh National Park Authorities and the Minister had been the work programme, set for the National Parks by Welsh Government, and the proposed budget settlement, which is to remain flat over the next 3 years. The Minister had agreed to ask her officers to look at the possibility of increasing the budget for the next and the following financial year but had also suggested that the Authority should consider what it could do less of over the next two years. The Welsh Government will be advised of its budget allocation by the UK Government on the 13th December 2022. The Chief Executive advised that in the short-term, recruitment for posts funded from the baseline would now be temporarily frozen, with only grant funded posts being filled. Once the Chief Executive was aware of the challenge ahead, he will meet with senior Members and the Management Team, prior to presenting a scrutiny report to a meeting of the Members Working Group. A detailed report would then be presented to the Authority for formal decision, although the Chief Executive advised there was no immediate urgency.
- (4) the Chief Executive, alongside the Partnerships Manager and the Head of Engagement, had recently presented evidence on traffic in the North of the National Park to the Traffic Commissioner, who was satisfied with the information presented.
- (5) Natural Resources Wales were proceeding to set up the new Clwydian Range National Park with a technical note being released before Christmas. A report will be presented to Members in due course.
- (6) Ms. Sian Owen, the Authority's Head of Finance, would shortly be starting a period of parental leave and Mr. David Williams, Finance Officer with Gwynedd Council will step in to cover her absence. The Chief Executive took the opportunity to thank the Chief Finance Officer for assisting with these arrangements.

3. **Public Question Time**

Members were informed that no public questions had been received.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of personal interest were made in respect of any item.

5. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Authority meeting held on 12th October 2022 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

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

Item No. 9 – Draft Statement of Accounts 2021/22

The Chief Finance Officer advised that Audit Wales had been unable to certify the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts in time for the Performance and Resources Committee on the 30th November due to insufficient evidence from the asset valuers. The report would now be presented to the Authority meeting on the 9th February 2023.

Arising thereon, Rachel Freitag of Audit Wales confirmed they were awaiting more information from the asset valuers and that there would be no sanctions for not meeting the deadline, set for the end of January 2023, as this was only an expectation by the Welsh Government.

7. **Action Log**

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

Authority Meeting 27.04.22

Action Item 11 – Yr Ysgwrn Annual Report

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

RESOLVED to note the updates to the Action Log.

8. **Treasury Management – Interim Report 2022/23**

Submitted – An oral report by the Chief Finance Officer, for information.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer advised that the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Code of Practice for Treasury Management (i.e. CIPFA's Treasury Management Code) requires authorities to report on treasury management performance at least twice a year. Members were advised that the Authority had approved its Treasury Management Strategy for 2022-23 on the 9th of February 2022 and investments had been made in accordance with the parties approved in the Treasury Management Strategy, namely, the Bank of Scotland, Barclays, HSBC, Nationwide, and Santander. The Chief Finance Officer confirmed that the Authority's funds continued to be secure, and he estimated that interest income was expected to be £12k higher than projected in the 2022/23 budget.

RESOLVED to note the oral report, for information.

9. **Base Revenue Budget 2023/24**

Submitted – The Chief Finance Officer's report for Members to note the Base Budget as estimated for 2023/24 and projected funding position.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented the report and background. He advised that discussions on the budget settlement were continuing with Welsh Government and Members agreed it would be reasonable to consider use of the reserves to meet any projected deficit when the Welsh Government Settlement for 2023/24 was known.

RESOLVED to note the report and the planned baseline budget for 2023/24, as outlined.

10. **2022/23 Budget Update**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Finance to inform members of the revised budgets for 2022/23 and report on significant virements. The report also provided Members with an update on progress against revenue and capital budgets and the projected final position for the financial year.

Reported - The Chief Finance Officer presented the report, summarising the revised revenue and capital budgets for the first seven months of the financial year, and provided further information on the detailed figures.

Arising thereon, the Director of Corporate Services advised that he hoped to reclaim a percentage of the Authority's costs following the successful Hillside

judgment, and in response to a question from a Member, he confirmed that the estimated £20,000 overspend in Plas Tan y Bwlch (para. 4.3) was from the revenue budget.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the contents of the report.**
- 2. to confirm the transfers to/from reserves as outlined in paragraph 1.2 and the 'New Transfers' column, as outlined in the table under paragraph 2.1 of the report.**

11. Standing Orders Relating to Contracts

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to adopt a revised version of the Authority's Standing Orders relating to Contracts.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and revised Standing Orders relating to Contracts (Appendix 1).

Members considered the report in detail. In response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services reassured Members that the revised Standing Orders relating to Contracts provided a framework for the Authority to build their policies upon. They will provide a foundation for the Authority to incorporate environmental considerations into its green procurement policy etc.

RESOLVED to adopt the Standing Orders relating to Contracts as submitted. (Appendix 1 of the report)

12. Draft Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to discuss the Independent Remuneration Panel's draft Annual Report and accompanying questionnaire, and to determine what response was required.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and questionnaire and outlined the proposed changes for 2023/24. Members had no additional observations and agreed that the Director of Corporate Services should complete the questionnaire on their behalf.

RESOLVED

- 1. to accept the report, as submitted.**
- 2. to authorise the Director of Corporate Services to respond to the questionnaire on behalf of the Authority.**

13. The Authority's Risk Profile

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to provide an annual summary of the Authority's Risk Profile.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and the risk register and Members discussed the following:-

- Risk Ref 5 – Risk (publicity) as a result of the Traffic Scheme / Snowdonia Green Key Policy
Officers agreed the risk should not be raised from a medium risk to a high risk and agreed to review the left-hand column.
- Risk Ref 7 – Risks to the HLF Landscape Partnership project on the Carneddau
In response to a concern raised about staffing levels, the Director of Planning and Land Management and the Head of Cultural Heritage assured Members that with the support of partners, namely the National Trust and the Lottery Heritage Fund,

the Authority had been able to increase capacity and the situation was now under control.

- Risk Ref 17 – Securing the long-term future of Plas Tan y Bwlch

A Member asked whether the risk should be increased following the recently commissioned carbon report which states that Plas Tan y Bwlch contributes to almost half of the Authority's carbon budget. There will be costs to secure carbon improvements, as well as the large financial investment to bring the fabric of the building up to the necessary standard. The Chief Executive advised that an additional column will be included in the Asset Management Register to provide Members with an overview of the Authority's carbon commitments. The Director of Corporate Services advised that Risk Ref. 17 referred to the risk to the Authority of continuing to manage Plas Tan y Bwlch. If the decision was not to continue, it would not have a big financial impact on the Authority.

RESOLVED

1. to note the contents of the report, for information.
2. to review the left-hand column of Risk Ref 5, as outlined above.

14. **Snowdonia National Park Place Names**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Cultural Heritage to update Members on the progress of the Place Names Steering Group and present draft principles for topographical place names in the Snowdonia National Park (Appendix 1).

Reported – The Head of Cultural Heritage presented the report and background and outlined in detail the work of the Task and Finish Group, the draft principles, and the proposed work programme of the Steering Group. A further report will be presented to Members in Spring 2023 and will include a proposed standardised list of lake names in the National Park.

Members were asked to look specifically at the use of 'Yr Wyddfa' and 'Eryri' at the meeting, and following a full discussion made the following observations:-

- Members welcomed the comprehensive report which provided an explanation of a complex issue and outlined the expanse of history and the evolution of language.
- to note that the petition, calling on the Authority to formalise the use of the Welsh names *Eryri* and *Yr Wyddfa*, had now reached 7000 names.
- some Members maintained that the Authority should use the Welsh words *Eryri* and *Yr Wyddfa* only. Members noted that Cyngor Gwynedd have adopted a reformed policy to ensure that the Welsh language continues to be prioritised in every aspect of their work.
- the economic context was also a consideration and Members felt that the Authority should be flexible and sensitive in its approach.
- in response to a question, the Head of Cultural Heritage assured Members that as part of the process, use of the English names in brackets would last for an approximate period of 2 years, with the intention to use Welsh names in every context as the Authority's publications and interpretation materials are updated.
- a Member noted that the Welsh Government were also looking to change the legislation at a future date.
- a Member agreed that a change in attitude would not happen overnight and noted that many businesses use Snowdonia for their branding, was there an opportunity here to keep "Eryri" special for the area?
- Members discussed names associated with mountaineering and climbing and their origins. A Member suggested that as these names were created by non-Welsh speaking individuals through their own skills, it would be disrespectful to change them. The niche element should be recognised and hopefully climbing groups would be willing to discuss with the community.

- the Head of Engagement provided members with details of the technical aspects of their decision. Google, Facebook, and Twitter use algorithms, and continued use of Snowdonia in brackets will maintain the National Park's position at the top of the page which is critical for traffic to the website, until increased awareness of the name Eryri only, achieves the same result over time.
- Officers would issue a press release to inform the public of the Authority's decision.

RESOLVED

1. to adopt the Place Names Principles in Appendix 1 as a guide for the Authority's use of place names.
2. to approve the use of the names *Yr Wyddfa* and *Eryri* in the Welsh and English languages, giving officers the discretion to use the terms, *Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon)* and *Eryri (Snowdonia)* in English, should the context require this for education and engagement purposes. It is foreseen that *Yr Wyddfa* and *Eryri* will be the usual and common forms and that over time, as awareness increases, will be the only forms used by the Authority. The change to occur over time, as Authority publications and interpretation are updated.

15. **Members' Working Group Report**

Submitted – Report of the Members' Working Group held on 7th September 2022, for information.

RESOLVED to note the report.

16. **Meetings of other Organisations**

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

17. **Minutes**

The following minutes were submitted for information:-

- (1) Minutes of National Parks Wales Executive Meeting held on 25th April 2022.

Arising thereon,

Para. 7 – Member Support

in response to a question, the Chief Executive confirmed that the meeting to discuss Member support had not yet been held. He advised that other training opportunities have been provided, such as the New Member Induction Course in Northumberland and the Welsh National Parks Members' Seminar being arranged and hosted by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority in May 2023. He further advised that Anna Jones had been appointed to one of the three Welsh Government funded Strategic posts, hosted by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, her role included Member development and the strategic work of developing members was now on the agenda.

- (2) Minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 13th July 2022.

RESOLVED to note the minutes.

18. **Europarc Conference 2022**

Received – A slide presentation from Mr. Tim Jones and Mr. Brian Angell, Welsh Government Appointed Members who had attended the Europarc 2022 Conference in Argelès-sur-Mer, France. The Conference theme was 'Climate Change: Resilient Parks' and the emphasis of the Conference was on Adaptation or Mitigation? Members were also provided with a short film titled 'Tribute to our Landscape'.

Reported – Mr. Brian Angell and Mr. Tim Jones thanked the Authority for the opportunity to attend the Europarc Conference, which had been exceptional. He gave particular thanks to Judith Orritt, the Chief Executive's Personal Assistant, for

the itinerary and travel arrangements. At the Conference, Eryri was presented with an award for being a member of the Europarc Federation for 25 years.

Next year's Conference will be held in Leeuwarden – Friesland Netherlands from the 3rd to 6th October 2023 and the theme will be 'A tribute to our landscape, where nature and people meet in harmony' and Members were encouraged to take up the invitation to attend if they were given the opportunity.

RESOLVED to thank Members and welcome the presentation.

The meeting ended at 12.10



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 Subgroup 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. A detailed update has been circulated to the Members of the Assets Subgroup with the aim of convening a further meeting in the Autumn. UPDATE: The Asset Subgroup met on the 30.11.22 and the work is ongoing.</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	Authority Meeting 10.04.19 Action Item 12 – Europarc Youth Manifesto	To progress this action as a matter of urgency.	AD	<p>UPDATE: Appointment made, and officer will be in post shortly.</p> <p>UPDATE: Officer started in post on 4th April 2022. The officer has started discussions with the Outdoor Partnership regarding the Young Rangers Scheme and has visited Pembrokeshire NP to learn about their work.</p> <p>After the election and once the Authority members are in post, a meeting of the 'Youth Manifesto task and finish group' will be arranged. A progress report can be presented to the AGM in June if required.</p> <p>UPDATE: The Youth Manifesto Task and Finish Group met on the 19th December 2022 and will meet as necessary in future.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>	YES



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 and submitted for discussion to the September Working Group. If Members are satisfied with this, it will then be presented to a subsequent Authority meeting.</p> <p>This report will also include ways that place names can be celebrated and promoted.</p> <p>UPDATE: A report was presented to the Authority on 16th November 2022 for approval.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>	YES



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	<p>Initial meeting held on 30th 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.</p> <p>Update - The Authority in June 2022 confirmed that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority, Chair of both Planning and Performance and Resources Committee and Mr. Tim Jones and Ms Sarah Hattle will undertake the review and for a meeting to be convened after the summer break. It was reported that this will be a two-stage process firstly the terms and conditions/capacity of Directors would be considered and thereafter the panel to consider if a review is required to the terms and conditions/capacity of the Chief Executive.</p> <p>UPDATE: A report is being presented to the Authority today. (08.02.2023)</p>	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	<p>To be progressed in the Autumn once new Authority established, and new members have familiarised themselves with the working of the Authority.</p> <p>UPDATE: A report to revise Standing Orders on Contracts was presented to the Authority on 16th November 2022 for approval.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>	YES



TAFLEN WEITHREDU – ACTION SHEET

AUTHORITY MEETING – 15.06.2022

ITEM NO. AND TITLE	DECISIONS / OBSERVATIONS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE or COMPLETION DATE	REMOVE FROM ACTION LOG
10. Sustainable Tourism Snowdonia National Park Authority	RESOLVED: - to await a summary of the outcome of the research by Bangor University into litter in the National Park to a future meeting of the Members' Working Group.	To present the report as requested.	AJ	Report will be presented to the Members' Working Group meeting on the 19 th October 2022. UPDATE: The report was presented to the Members' Working Group on 25th January 2023. COMPLETED	YES
22. Meetings of other Organisations	RESOLVED - to extend an invitation to Cwmni Egnio to a future meeting of the Members' Working Group when definite proposals are available.	To invite Cwmni Egnio in due course.	JC	Invite sent on 4 th September 2022. Officers will report back when there is progress.	NO

ITEM NO. 9

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	8 February 2023
TITLE	THE AUTHORITY'S BUDGET & LEVY ON CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES 2023/24
REPORT BY	Chief Finance Officer
PURPOSE	To approve the 2023/24 revenue and capital budget and the levies on constituent authorities on the basis of the Welsh Government draft grant allocation figure for the Authority.

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report details the Authority's revenue budget for 2023/24 based on the draft National Park Grant settlement for 2023/24. The final grant settlement will be confirmed in March 2023, so there is potential for change in the meantime.
- 1.2 This report also contains details of the levy apportioned between the two constituent authorities of Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council on the basis of the indicative grant figure.
- 1.3 The budgets presented in this report are based on a standstill budget. That is, an unavoidable level of expenditure to continue with the current level of services in 2023/24, with no developmental additions.

2. Revenue Budget 2022/23

- 2.1 Information on the draft settlement was received late in December 2022 with an unofficial update in January 2023. Despite the continued increase in inflation, there will be no increase in the Welsh Government's National Park Grant settlement for 2023/24.
- 2.2 Information in the report on the Basic Revenue Budget 2023/24 presented to the Authority's meeting on 16th November 2022 needs to be updated, and an amended version of the budget change details is presented in Appendix 1.

- 2.3 In the context of increasing inflation and uncertainty of any movement in the coming year, it is difficult predict what effect inflation will have on salary negotiations by the Unions. In the 2022/23 budget a provision of 4% was set but the final settlement of an increase of £1,925 to every sacle point was the equivalent to an increase of over 6% for the authority. In light of this and the lack of any confirmed information to date regarding the April 2023 pay deal, a salary provision of 5% has been allocated for 23/24 (£231,600). Despite this increase, there is a saving as a result of the adjustment to employer pension contributions and also the change in the National Insurance threshold and contribution percentage which both alleviate part of the burden as a result of the significant pay increase.
- 2.4 Inflation has also had an effect on utility prices during the year with forecasts suggesting further significant increases. This has been reflected n appendix 1. The effect on the budget reflects in particular the situation at Plas Tan Y Bwlch. The original budget for 2022/23 is insignificant with the increased budget for 23/24 reflecting this as well as the estimate Gas and Electricity prices where an increase of 100% is expected.
- 2.5 Another significant increase comes as a result of the decision to evaluate and review the rateable value of the authority's property. It is expected that this will result in an increase of over £50,000 when realised. It was determined that this increase will be realised over a period of 3 years with a transitional relief meaning only 33% of the increase will need to be met in 2023/24. In addition to this transition, some of the properties are also expected to be eligible for a 'one time' 75% Retail, Hospitality and Leisure discount. As a result of these reliefs/discounts – no negative effects are expected for the 2023/24 budget however the budget for 2024/25 and beyond will need to account for these increases.
- 2.6 During 2022/23, a payment was received for the Celtic Rainforests (LIFE) project with the intention for any surplus at the end of 2022/23 to be transferred to the reserves. Another payment is not expected until the project has been completed and audited. The current projected end date for the project is October 2025, however an application to extend until October 2027 has been submitted. Despite a possible extension to the project, the arrangement to delay any further payment until project completion will remain unless a decision will be made in the meantime to award an interim payment. This will require the authority to utilise reserves to fund the project in 2023/24 and until the final payment is received.

3. Revenue Budget Analysis 2023/24

- 3.1 Based on the draft grant figure, Appendices 2 and 3 contain information on the Authority's budget for 2023/24, analysing the net revenue budget at key service area level (Appendix 2) and based on headings standard subjective (Appendix 3).
- 3.2 Appendix 4 contains a more detailed breakdown of the revenue budget at a level relating to each individual department in each key service area. The analysis and net cost of services also include estimates for estimated capital costs.

4. Capital Budget 2023/24

- 4.1 Gross capital expenditure is estimated at £1,418,970 funded from capital grants, together with contributions from the Authority's revenue budget and reserves. (see Appendix 5 for details).

The £1,418,970 is funded from:

Welsh Government capital grants received in advance	£1,145,000
The Authority's Baseline and Reserves	<u>£273,970</u>
	<u>£1,418,970</u>

5. Use of Reserves

- 5.1 At the time of writing it is anticipated that the 2023/24 budget will comprise a net contribution of £2,850,754 from the Authority's funds. This figure includes £1,272,020 of Welsh Government grants received in advance and transferred to a reserve. As outlined below, full details are in Appendices 6 and 7.

The above £2,850,754 includes:

	£	£	
Welsh Government grants - revenue	127,020		
SNPA - revenue	1,423,104		
		<u>1,550,124</u>	(Appendix 6)
Welsh Government Grants – capital	1,145,000		
APCE – capital	<u>155,630</u>		
		<u>1,300,630</u>	(Appendix 7)
		<u>£2,850,754</u>	

6. Levy on Constituent Authorities

- 6.1 Section 71 of the Environment Act 1995 and the National Park Authorities Levy (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations prescribe the method of levy setting, and the Authority is required to approve the levies before they can be claimed by the relevant constituent authorities.
- 6.2 The levies are awarded on the basis of one third of the National Park Grant received by the Welsh Government. The levy is apportioned between the constituent authorities in accordance with the “relevant proportions” set out in Regulation 5 and the Schedule to the above Act.
- 6.3 The table below shows the distribution of the levy based on the grant figure received from the Welsh Government and the “relevant proportions” of the Schedule to the Act.

2023/24	(£)	Proportions	(£)
Government Grant	4,119,789		
Total Levies	1,373,262		
Funding Total	5,493,051		
Levy Apportionment:	Gwynedd Council	77.1%	1,058,785
	Conwy County Borough Council	22.9%	314,477
	Total	100%	1,373,262

6.4 How the budget of £8,343,805 is funded (see appendices 2-4) is summarised as follows:

Government Grant	£4,119,789
Total Levies	£1,373,262
Contribution (net) from Reserves	<u>£2,850,754</u>
Budget 2023/24	<u>£8,343,805</u>

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 To approve the Snowdonia National Park Authority's revenue and capital budget for 2023/24, as set out in the following Appendices.
- 7.2 To approve the levies on billing authorities, as set out in section 6.3 above.

Appendix 1

	(£)	(£)
Base Budget 2022/23		6,393,279
Reversal of 2022/23 items		
Additional Covid 19 Costs - Premises	-	6,750
Additional Covid 19 Costs - Wardens	-	69,020
Additional Supplies (Disinfectants etc)	-	55,630
		- 131,400
1 Base Budget 2022/23		6,261,879
2 Change in staff costs		
Comuplsory Changes		
2022/23 Salary Provision Reversal	-	195,627
2022/23 Pay Award (£1,925 on each scale point)		277,650
Incremental Pay Increase		13,632
Inflation Provision		231,601
<i>Employer Pension Contribution - Baseline posts before contribution adjustment</i>		74,576
<i>Employer National Insurance Contribution - Baseline Posts on 2022/23 threshold and %</i>		38,515
<i>Employer Pension Contribution Baseline Posts - Saving from contribution adjustment</i>	-	74,576
<i>Employer National Insurance - Saving due to threshold and % contribution adjustment</i>	-	38,515
		327,256
Discretionary Changes		
Minor changes to staff/structure		70,529
Salaries finance from reserves/slippage		127,164
		197,693
3 Changes in Expenditure		
Increase		
Electric		109,590
Gas		76,500
Water		17,130
		203,220
Increase in CJC Levy		10,060
Increase in External Audit Fees - Wales Audit Office		6,000
		16,060
GIS Assistant- Service provided by a contractor rather than part time post		4,500
Minor changes to project budgets		6,353
		10,853
Additional Capital Projects financed from Grants/Reserves		1,020,350
		1,020,350
Changes in Rateable Value		51,592
Reversal of (2022/23) Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Discount (50%) and other adjustments		10,561
Decrease		
Transitional Rate Relief 23/24	-	25,205
Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Discount - 75%	-	41,148
		- 4,200
Maentwrog East National Grid Project	-	110,000
		- 110,000

4 Changes in Income			
Increase			
Bank Interest	-	20,000	
Plas Tan y Bwlch	-	38,250	
Hafod Eryri Rent	-	50,000	
			- 108,250
Decrease			
Adjustment to LIFE project (Expenditure and Income) - Next contribution due in October 2025 or 2027		498,944	
			498,944
5 General Inflation Provision			30,000
6 Base Budget 2023/24			8,343,805
7 National Park Grant and levy 2022/23			- 5,493,051
8 Net contribution from reserve			
Ecologist B10 (WG Revenue Grant)	-	15,543	
Website Manager (WG Revenue Grant)	-	35,400	
Wellbeing Paths - Reserve	-	40,000	
Young People's Manifesto - Reserve	-	36,080	
A23 Ysgwrn - Contribution from Reserves - Baseline required to show £17k	-	50,790	
Snowdon Interpretation Plan	-	25,000	
Snowdon Partnership Plan	-	15,000	
Carneddau - Lidar Data	-	15,630	
Carneddau - Paths	-	35,000	
Betws Y Coed Information Centre	-	72,000	
Penmaen Brith (Circular Route)	-	25,000	
Llyn Cynwch, Dolgellau (Circular Route)	-	70,000	
Canolfan Ogwen - Developing Information for Walking groups	-	15,000	
Nant Gwynant - Crossing Point	-	38,000	
Cader Idris - Upland Paths	-	75,000	
Research Officer - Planning (2022/23 Slippage)	-	34,070	
Property Service Officer - Funded from SLSP Administration	-	45,339	
Communities SLSP	-	155,000	
Decarbonisation SLSP	-	175,000	
Nature SLSP	-	165,000	
Tourism SLSP	-	355,000	
BMW Nature Restoration Project	-	65,000	
LIFE Revenue Grants Reserve	-	513,949	
Contribution from unspecified reserves and slippage to account for 2023/24 deficit	-	778,953	
			- 2,850,754
9 Surplus			0

Atodiad 2 / Appendix 2

CRYNODEB O'R GYLLIDEB REFENIW 2023/24
REVENUE BUDGET SUMMARY 2023/24

PRIF FEYSYDD GWASANAETH / KEY SERVICE AREAS

	Cyllideb Net Net Budget 2023/24	
	£	%
<u>Gwasanaeth / Service :</u>		
Cynllunio a'r Dreftadaeth Ddiwylliannol a Rheolaeth Tir/ Planning and Cultural Heritage and Land Management	2,244,191	29.7
Corfforaethol / Corporate	5,038,093	66.8
Balansau, Arian Wrth Gefn a Darpariaethau / Balances, Reserves & Provisions	261,601	3.5
Cyllideb Net Gwasanaethau / Net Services Budget	7,543,885	100.0
Llog ar Arian Dros Ben / Interest Earned on Surplus Funds	-28,000	
Cyllido Gwariant Cyfalaf / Financing of Capital Expenditure	1,418,970	
Addasiad Taliadau Cyfalaf / Capital Charges Adjustment	-591,050	
Cyfanswm Cyllideb Cyfrif Refeniw / Total Revenue Account Budget	8,343,805	
 <u>Daw'r Arian O / Financed by :-</u>		
Cronfeydd wrth gefn / Reserves (prosiectau/projects)	2,850,754	34.2
Cronfeydd wrth gefn / Reserves (gwarged / surplus)	0	
Grant y Parc Cenedlaethol / National Park Grant	4,119,789	49.4
Dyraniad Lefi Rhwng Cynghorau Lleol / Levy Allocation between Constituent Authorities -		
Cyngor Gwynedd Council	1,058,785	12.7
Cyngor Conwy Council	314,477	3.8
	8,343,805	100.0

Atodiad 3 / Appendix 3

CRYNODEB O'R GYLLIDEB REFENIW 2023/24 REVENUE BUDGET SUMMARY 2023/24

LEFEL ODDRYCHOL / SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS

	Cyllideb Budget	
	2023/24	%
	£	
Gweithwyr / Employees	5,672,281	56.6
Tir ag Adeiladau / Premises & Grounds	1,536,880	15.3
Cludiant / Transport	155,440	1.6
Cyflenwadau a Gwasanaethau / Supplies & Services	1,799,256	18.0
Taliadau Cyfalaf / Capital Charges	591,050	5.9
Arian Wrth Gefn a Darpariaethau / Reserves & Provisions	261,601	2.6
Cyllideb Gros Gwasanaethau / Gross Services Budget	10,016,508	100.0
Incwm / Income	-2,472,623	
Cyllideb Net Gwasanaethau / Net Services Budget	7,543,885	
Llog ar Arian Dros Ben / Interest Earned on Surplus Funds	-28,000	
Cyllido Gwariant Cyfalaf / Financing of Capital Expenditure	1,418,970	
Addasiad Taliadau Cyfalaf / Capital Charges Adjustment	-591,050	
Cyfanswm Cyllideb Cyfrif Refeniw / Total Revenue Account Budget	8,343,805	

CYLLIDEB REFENIW 2023/24

REVENUE BUDGET 2023/24

Costau Gweithwyr a Chostau Rhedeg	Costau Cyfalaf	Cyllideb Gros 2023/24	Gwerthu, Ffioedd ac Incwm Grant	Cyllideb Net 2023/24
Employee Costs & Running Expenses	Capital Charges	Gross Budget 2023/24	Sales Fees & Grant Income	Net Budget 2023/24
£	£	£	£	£

Cynllunio a Threftadaeth Diwylliannol a Rheolaeth Tir / Planning and Cultural Heritage and Land Management

Archeoleg / Archaeology	65,005	-	65,005	-	65,005
Treftadaeth Diwylliannol / Cultural Heritage	75,778	-	75,778	-	75,778
Cynllun Treftadaeth Treflun Dolgellau / Dolgellau Townscape Heritage Scheme	45,812	-	45,812	21,180	24,632
Harlech ac Ardudwy	53,883	-	53,883	-	53,883
Ysgwrn	127,978	45,250	173,228	60,190	113,038
Cynllun Partneriaeth Tirwedd Carnedau / Carneddau Landscape Partnership Scheme	570,831	-	570,831	545,831	25,000
Cynllunio/ Planning	926,386	3,320	929,706	206,500	723,206
Cadwraeth ac Amaethyddiaeth / Conservation and Agriculture	581,263	10,580	591,843	71,433	520,410
LIFE-Coedwigoedd Celtaidd / LIFE - Celtic Rainforests	633,891	-	633,891	45,083	588,808
Awyr Dywyll / Dark Skies	54,430	-	54,430	-	54,430
Adfer Natur a Dal a Storio Carbon / Nature Recovery and Carbon Sequestration	64,016	-	64,016	64,016	0
	3,199,274	59,150	3,258,424	1,014,233	2,244,191

Corfforaethol / Corporate

Costau Gweithwyr a Chostau Rhedeg	Costau Cyfalaf	Cyllideb Gros 2023/24	Gwerthu, Ffioedd ac Incwm Grant	Cyllideb Net 2023/24
Employee Costs & Running Expenses	Capital Charges	Gross Budget 2023/24	Sales Fees & Grant Income	Net Budget 2023/24
£	£	£	£	£

Gweinyddol / Administration	219,288	-	219,288	-	300	218,988
Cyllid / Finance	292,984	1,250	294,234	-	-	294,234
Technoleg Gwybodaeth / Information Technology	330,365	24,980	355,345	-	-	355,345
Cyfreithiol / Legal	56,326	-	56,326	-	-	56,326
Personel / Personnel	149,911	-	149,911	-	-	149,911
Cyfiethu / Translation	104,562	1,430	105,992	-	-	105,992
Pencadlys / Headquarters	147,687	121,690	269,377	-	9,000	260,377
Cymorth i Aelodau a'r Awdurdod / Members & Authority Support	204,041	-	204,041	-	-	204,041
Rheoli Corfforaethol / Corporate Management	615,000	-	615,000	-	18,000	597,000
Plas Tan Y Bwch	545,817	225,540	771,357	-	309,260	462,097
Eiddo / Property	241,404	-	241,404	-	-	241,404
Cyfleusterau Ymwelwyr / Visitor Facilities	262,330	67,280	329,610	-	66,160	263,450
Meysydd Parcio / Car Parks	324,207	3,090	327,297	-	830,020	502,723
Llyn Tegid	27,680	2,030	29,710	-	56,120	26,410
Casglu Ysbwriel / Litter Collection	15,000	4,510	19,510	-	-	19,510
Ymgysylltu / Engagement	487,568	7,300	494,868	-	4,130	490,738
Prosiect Safle Gwe / Website project	15,543	-	15,543	-	-	15,543
Manifffesto Ieuenctid / Young People's Manifesto	36,080	-	36,080	-	-	36,080
Llwybrau Llesiant / Well Being Routes	40,000	-	40,000	-	-	40,000
Cynllun Rheolaeth a Phartneriaethau / Park Management Plan and Partnerships	345,762	-	345,762	-	-	345,762
Canolfannau Gwybodaeth / Information Centres	353,088	5,940	359,028	-	193,110	165,918
Mynediad i'r Cyhoedd / Public Access	121,298	4,640	125,938	-	2,000	123,938
Wardeiniaid, Gweithwyr Stad a Gwirfoddolwyr / Wardens, Estate Workers and Volunteers	1,060,851	62,220	1,123,071	-	7,500	1,115,571
Traffic a Thrafnidiaeth / Traffic and Transport	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
	6,001,793	531,900	6,533,693	-	1,495,600	5,038,093

Balansau, Arian wrth Gefn a Darpariaethau / Balances, Reserves & Provisions

Darpariaeth Chwyddiant Cyffredinol / General Prices Inflation - Provision	30,000	-	30,000	-	30,000
Darpariaeth Chwyddiant Cyflogau / Inflation Provision	231,601	-	231,601	-	231,601
	261,601	-	261,601	-	261,601
Cyfanswm Cyllid Gwasanaethau / Total Services Budget	9,462,668	591,050	10,053,718	-	2,509,833
Llog ar Arian Dros Ben / Interest Earned on Surplus Funds	-	-	-	-	28,000
Cyllido Gwariant Cyfalaf / Financing of Capital Spend	1,418,970	-	1,418,970	-	1,418,970
Addasiad Taliadau Cyfalaf / Capital Charges Adjustment	-	-	591,050	-	591,050
Cyfanswm Cyllid Cyfrif Refeniw / Revenue Account Budget	10,881,638	-	10,881,638	-	2,537,833
Total					8,343,805

Capital Expenditure 2023/24**Appendix 5**

Description	(£)	(£)
Information Technology	22,340	
Access Projects	10,000	
Warden Vehicles	14,000	
		<hr/> 46,340
Cultural Heritage Schemes	72,000	
		<hr/> 72,000
Betws y Coed Information Centre	72,000	
Carneddau - Paths	35,000	
Penmaen Brith (Circular Route)	25,000	
Llyn Cynwch, Dolgellau (Circular Route)	70,000	
Ogwen Centre - Information for walking groups	15,000	
Nant Gwynant - Crossing Point	38,000	
Snowdon Interpretation Plan	25,000	
Snowdon Partnership Plan	15,000	
		<hr/> 295,000
Carneddau - Lidar Data	15,630	
Cader Idris - Upland Paths	75,000	
BMW Nature Restoration Project	65,000	
		<hr/> 155,630
Communities SLSP	155,000	
Decarbonisation SLSP	175,000	
Nature SLSP	165,000	
Tourism SLSP	355,000	
		<hr/> 850,000
		<hr/> <u>1,418,970</u>

Revenue Reserves Utilised for 2023/24**Appendix 6**

Project	Reserve	(£)	(£)
Ecologist	Revenue Grants (Welsh Government)	35,397	
Young People's Manifesto	Revenue Grants (Welsh Government)	36,080	
Wellbeing Routes	Revenue Grants (Welsh Government)	40,000	
Website Project	Revenue Grants (Welsh Government)	15,543	
			127,020
Celtic Rainforests (LIFE)	Revenue Grants	513,949	
			513,949
Ysgwrn	Cronfa Arian Cyfatebol	50,790	
			50,790
Temporary Post (Planning - Policy)	Slippage 22/23	34,072	
			34,072
Property Service Officer	Projects Reserve	45,340	
			45,340
Deficit	Unspecified Reserves and Slippage	778,953	
			778,953
	Total		1,550,124

Capital Reserves Utilised for 2023/24**Appendix 7**

Project	Reserve	(£)	(£)
Betws y Coed Information Centre	Capital Grants (Welsh Government)	72,000	
Ogwen Centre	Capital Grants (Welsh Government)	15,000	
Penmaen Brith	Capital Grants (Welsh Government)	25,000	
Llyn Cynwch	Capital Grants (Welsh Government)	70,000	
Snowdon Interpretation Plan	Capital Grants (Welsh Government)	25,000	
Snowdon Partnership Plan	Capital Grants (Welsh Government)	15,000	
Carneddau (Paths)	Capital Grants (Welsh Government)	35,000	
Nant Gwynant	Capital Grants (Welsh Government)	38,000	
			<u>295,000</u>
Carneddau (Lidar Data)	Capital Grants	15,630	
Cader Idris	Capital Grants/SNPA	75,000	
BMW Nature Restoration Project	National Parks Partnership - Grant	65,000	
			<u>155,630</u>
			<u>450,630</u>

ITEM NO. 10

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	8 February 2023
TITLE	CAPITAL STRATEGY 2023/24
REPORT BY	Chief Finance Officer
PURPOSE	To approve the Capital Strategy for 2023/24 and the Chief Finance Officer's recommendations with reference to the Prudential Code.

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Capital Strategy 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.

1.2 The Strategy covers: -

- Capital Expenditure and Financing,
- Treasury Management including debt-free status,
- Investments for Service Purposes,
- Commercial Activities,
- Liabilities,
- Revenue Budget Implications, and
- Knowledge and Skills.

2 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCING

2.1 Capital expenditure is where the Authority spends money on assets, such as property or vehicles that will be used for more than one year. For the National Park Authority this includes spending on assets owned by other bodies, and grants to other bodies enabling them to renovate listed buildings. The Authority has some limited discretion on what counts as capital expenditure, for example assets costing below £10,000 are not capitalised and are charged to revenue in year.

2.2 In 2023/24 the Authority is planning capital expenditure of £1,419k as summarised below:

Table 1: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Expenditure in £ thousands

	2021/22 actual (£'000)	2022/23 forecast (£'000)	2023/24 budget (£'000)	2024/25 budget (£'000)	2025/26 budget (£'000)
General Fund (Corporate Services)	1,584	55	36	36	36
General Fund (External to the Authority)	79	343	1,382	893	350
Capital Investments	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,613	398	1,419	929	386

2.3 The general fund's Capital for 2023/24 include projects funded by Welsh Government for a total of £1,145,000. This includes £850,000 for Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places (SLSP) projects. These are part of a 3 year plan where £700k was allocated to 2022/23. This amount was unknown when writing last year's report and therefore not included in the forecast for 2022/23. The main contribution from the authority will be for Cultural Heritage Schemes where slippage of £72,000 is expected and also for annual contributions towards warden vehicles, IT equipment and access projects.

2.4 **GOVERNANCE:** The allocation from the annual revenue budget tends to stand unrevised and is usually supplemented by unspent budgets carried over from the previous financial year.

2.5 All capital expenditure must be financed, either from

- external sources (government grants and other contributions),
- the Authority's own resources (revenue, reserves and capital receipts) or
- debt (borrowing, leasing and Private Finance Initiative).

The planned financing of the above expenditure is as follows:

Table 2: Capital financing in £ thousands

	2021/22 actual (£'000)	2022/23 forecast (£'000)	2023/24 budget (£'000)	2024/25 budget (£'000)	2025/26 budget (£'000)
External sources	1,342	146	1,289	883	250
Own resources	271	253	130	46	136
Debt	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,613	398	1,419	929	386

The “external sources” noted in the table above represents grants and contributions. The Authority is “debt free” and at present there is no intention of incurring debt. The Celtic Rainforest (LIFE) project is likely to create a scenario where short-term borrowing will need to be considered. The outlined completion date for the project is October 2025, however this could be October 2027 following an application to extend the project. Despite a possible extension until October 2027, no further payment is expected before the project has been completed and audited. The current profile forecasts a negative cashflow of £513,949 for 2023/24. If this forecasted profile continues for 2024/25, there are adequate provisions within the reserves to account for the deficit until 2025 but an extension until 2027 would present an increase in risk if the authority were to rely on reserves.

2.6 The Authority has a capital receipts reserve which is forecasted to stand at £163,790 on 31/3/2023.

2.7 The Authority’s capital financing requirement therefore stands at zero and the Authority is expected to stay debt-free in 2023/24.

2.8 **ASSET MANAGEMENT:**

To ensure that capital assets continue to be of long-term use, the Authority has an asset management plan in place, and it is currently being reviewed to determine the level of financial commitment required over the coming years.

2.9 **ASSET DISPOSALS:**

No disposal of land and buildings is currently foreseen (however this may change as due to the need for a savings strategy for 2024/25). Otherwise, the proceeds from disposals of vehicles and heavy plant are ring-fenced for financing replacements.

3 TREASURY MANAGEMENT

3.1 Treasury management is concerned with keeping sufficient but not excessive

cash available to meet the Authority’s spending needs, while managing the risks involved. Surplus cash is invested until required, while a shortage of cash may be met by borrowing, to avoid excessive credit balances or overdrafts in the bank current account.

3.2 BORROWING STRATEGY:

It was agreed on discussing the Authority’s Policy on Borrowing in the Performance and Resources Committee (9/11/2016) that any future borrowing should be for a specific project with a sound business case. No significant changes have occurred since, hence that policy stands. **Therefore, the Authority will, commence the 2023/24 financial year with no outstanding debt and is regarded for treasury management purposes as being debt-free.**

3.3 AFFORDABLE BORROWING LIMIT:

The Authority is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year. In line with statutory guidance, a lower “operational boundary” is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.

Table 3: Prudential Indicators: Authorised limit and operational boundary in £ thousands

	2022/23 limit	2023/24 limit	2024/25 limit	2025/26 limit
Authorised limit - borrowing	500	500	500	500
Authorised limit - PFI and leases	0	0	0	0
Authorised limit - total external debt	500	500	500	500
Operational boundary - borrowing	100	100	100	100
Operational boundary - PFI and leases	0	0	0	0
Operational boundary - total external debt	100	100	100	100

While the recent improvement in the Authority’s funding position could suggest a reduced need for the ‘authorised borrowing limit’ and the ‘operational boundary’, no reduction is recommended, in order to retain flexibility, in the context of uncertainties relating to Covid 19 and increasing inflation.

3.4 INVESTMENT STRATEGY:

Treasury investments arise from receiving cash before it is paid out again. Investments made for service reasons or for pure financial gain are not generally considered to be part of treasury management.

3.5 The Authority’s policy on treasury investments is to prioritise security and liquidity over yield; that is to focus on minimising risk, rather than maximising returns.

Cash that is likely to be spent in the near term is invested securely, for example with the government, other local authorities, or selected high-quality banks, to minimise the risk of loss. The Authority at present, does not hold investments for longer terms (these would be invested more widely, including in bonds, shares and property, to balance the risk of loss against the risk of receiving returns below inflation).

3.6 The Authority's day to day cash flow will be monitored carefully throughout the year. Any surplus funds will be deposited with one or more of the following institutions:

- Bank of Scotland
- HSBC
- Santander UK
- Barclays Bank
- Lloyds Bank
- Nationwide Building Society
- UK Debt Management Office ("DMO")

3.7 Amounts invested will be dependent on the prevailing credit status and required minimum balances, whilst also maintaining sufficient balances to satisfy the Authority's cash flow requirements. The main emphasis is on safeguarding the Authority's monies and to this end finance officers arrange as even a spread as practically possible between the approved establishments (other than Barclays).

3.8 At the time of writing the banks noted above have the appropriate credit rating (Fitch short-term credit rating F1 or better for holding short term deposits).

3.9 An exception to the requirement for banks to have the appropriate credit rating may be Barclays Bank in respect of the Authority's current account, where (should credit ratings fall) the Authority may continue to deposit surplus cash overnight.

Credit or debit card payments made for parking and received through the pay and display machines are processed through Allied Irish Bank which has an F2 rating. The risk is mitigated by the fact that these monies transfer over to Barclays within 3 working days.

3.10 Also, the Authority deposits cash with unrated building societies e.g., Nationwide Building Society where independent credit analysis shows them to be suitably creditworthy.

3.11 Should the approved financial institutions' credit ratings fall generally, the Authority will consider depositing cash with the UK Debt Management Office ("DMO"), to ensure security, but minimal interest receivable.

3.12 The Authority's investments are for treasury management purposes only i.e., there is no investment property held and no investment to support services.

Table 4: Treasury management investments in £ thousands

	31.3.2022 actual (£'000)	31.3.2023 forecast (£'000)	31.3.2024 budget (£'000)	31.3.2025 budget (£'000)	31.3.2026 budget (£'000)
Near-term investments	5,985	5,087	4,532	4,082	4,082
Longer-term investments	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	5,985	5,087	4,532	4,082	4,082

The table above reflects the fact that significant sums of “one-off” grants have been paid to the Authority in recent years, and are in the process of being spent.

3.13 GOVERNANCE:

Decisions on treasury management investment and borrowing are made daily and are therefore delegated to the Head of Finance and Finance staff, as advised by, and in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer where necessary. The Head of Finance and Finance staff must act in line with the Treasury Management Strategy approved by the Authority in February each year. Reports on treasury management activity are presented to the Authority as follows:

- Reports concerning treasury management operation will be presented to the authority during the year (written or oral as deemed appropriate) and following the year (written).

4 INVESTMENTS FOR SERVICE PURPOSES

The Authority does not undertake such investments, rather it provides assistance by means of grants through e.g., the Commissioning Fund, small grants fund, listed buildings budget.

5 COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

5.1 The Authority currently does not have investments in property purely for financial gain.

5.2 The Authority does engage in other commercial activity, such as bed & breakfast at the Plas Tan y Bwlch Centre, sales in the three Information Centres and at the Ysgwrn property. The proceeds contribute to the costs of running the individual services. As noted in the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts - £2,479k generated from fees and other service-based income. The main components are as follows:

- *Car Park fee income* £1276k
- *Planning Fees* £227k
- *Information Centre sales* £189k
- *Rent* £56k

5.3 The risks involved are managed through the Plas Tan y Bwlch management board, Ysgwrn management board and budget monitoring reports to Authority members. Plas Tan y Bwlch and Ysgwrn are also included on the Corporate Risk Register.

6 LIABILITIES

6.1 Whilst the Authority is debt-free, it is committed to making future payments to cover its pension fund deficit (valued at £1,927k as at 31/3/2022). The Authority has received substantial amounts of “one-off” revenue and capital grants paid in advance over recent years – most of these have been transferred to the revenue and capital grants reserves whilst others (including grants relating to the LIFE scheme) have been recorded under creditors.

6.2 The Authority reviews its reserves annually.

6.3 **GOVERNANCE:** The pension fund position is reported annually to members as part of the Annual Statement of Accounts. The position regarding utilisation of grants and progress against profile is reviewed by the Head of Finance as part of the budget monitoring process which feeds into reports to members every September, November and March, and the Authority outturn report in June.

7 REVENUE BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 As the Authority is debt free, there are no debt interest charges to the revenue budget.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY:

The Chief Finance Officer is satisfied that the proposed capital programme is prudent, affordable and sustainable because it does not require external debt financing.

8 KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

8.1 The Authority employs professionally qualified and experienced staff in senior positions with responsibility for making capital expenditure, borrowing and investment decisions. For example, the Chief Finance Officer is a qualified accountant with 40 years’ relevant experience (18 years’ experience as a statutory finance officer) with daily access to specialist treasury management advice, while the temporary Head of Finance is also a part qualified accountant.

- 8.2 Where Authority staff do not have the knowledge and skills required, it is possible to use external advisers and consultants that are specialists in their field. Presently, the Authority's Treasury Management operations are comparatively straight forward, hence external expertise is not required, other than consultation as necessary with the Authority's Chief Finance Officer.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 **Note that there is no intention to borrow monies for capital purposes, but the limitations below are recommended on a prudent level as a precautionary measure in case of an emergency or need for expenditure at short notice.**
- 9.2 **To approve no change in:**
- (i) the Authorised Borrowing Limit of £500,000 for 2023/24, and an Operational Boundary of £100,000, and**
 - (ii) no limit on the proportion of interest payable at a variable rate.**
- 9.3 **To adopt the Capital Borrowing Strategy for 2023/24 as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report, and to note the content relating to the Prudential Code (see tables under paragraphs 2.2, 3.3 and 7.1).**
- 9.4 **To adopt the Investment Strategy for 2023/24 as outlined in paragraphs 3.5-3.14 of the report, and note the institutions listed in paragraph 3.7.**

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	8 February 2023
TITLE	REPORT OF INTERVIEW PANEL FOR INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
REPORT BY	Director of Corporate Services
PURPOSE	To appoint an Independent Member to the Standards Committee

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The role of the Standards Committee is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members and co-opted members of the Authority and to assist members and co-opted members of the Authority to observe the Authority's code of conduct. In order to comply with the rules that govern Standards Committees a balance must be maintained between Members of this Authority and Independent Members. In addition both the Chairman and Vice Chairman must be appointed from amongst the Independent Members. The Standards Committee of this Authority has six members namely two from Local Authority, one member appointed by the Assembly and three Independent Members.
- 1.2 Recently, the Chairman of the Standards Committee, Mrs Rachael Leah Jane Davies tendered her resignation as she has accepted a position that would make her ineligible to continue as an independent member of the Authority's Standards Committee.
- 1.3 An interview panel of no more than five but including one lay member now needs to be formed. The role of the panel is to interview the applicants and then to make a recommendation to the Authority, the Authority having the final decision in the matter as to who is to be appointed. On previous occasions the Panel has consisted the Chairman, Vice Chairman and myself as well as a lay member.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Authority appoints a Panel as set out in Paragraph 1.3 above for interviewing prospective independent members to the Standards Committee.**

ITEM NO. 12

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	8 th February 2023
TITLE	GWYNEDD AND ERYRI SUSTAINABLE VISITOR ECONOMY – STRATEGIC PLAN
REPORT BY	Angela Jones, Partnerships Manager, SNPA
PURPOSE	To formally adopt the Strategic Plan for a Sustainable Visitor Economy in Gwynedd and Eryri (2035)

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The following report was presented and accepted at the Members' Working Group in January 2023 and recommended to be presented for formal adoption at the next full Authority meeting.
- 1.2 The Strategic Plan can be found in **Annex 1** of this report
- 1.3 Since 2017, Cyngor Gwynedd (CG) and Snowdonia National Park Authority (SNPA) have been reviewing their priorities and plans for the visitor economy in the area.
- 1.4 The production of Cynllun Eryri and a review of the Destination Management Plan for Gwynedd, resulted in a series of workshops for the tourism sector and community representatives. A core theme emerging from these strategies and discussions was the need to find a greater balance between the impacts of tourism and the benefits to local communities.
- 1.5 COVID-19 has acted as a further catalyst to many of the issues raised by the sector and the communities of Eryri. It put significant pressure on communities across the region with unprecedented numbers of visitors to the area post lockdown and highlighted what needs to be addressed to support a sustainable visitor economy in the area.
- 1.6 In November 2021, Cyngor Gwynedd and the National Park Authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The Memorandum places a priority on:

- Agreeing on formal collaboration arrangements and structures between both bodies;
- Establishing collaboration arrangements with wider partners;
- Developing action plans;
- Developing appropriate measurements of success;
- Sharing good practice; and
- Agreeing on Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan 2035.

*For further information on the background to this work please see **Annex 1***

2. DEVELOPING A GWYNEDD AND ERYRI SUSTAINABLE VISITOR ECONOMY PLAN 2035

2.1 Since November 2021, CG and SNPA have carried out extensive consultation on the development of a Visitor Economy Plan. The resulting approach breaks new ground for the area, and responds directly to the views of many of our communities and the desire of our businesses to operate in a different way for the future.

2.2 This Plan is relevant to the CG and Eryri National Park area - including the Conwy County Borough Council area which is part of the Park.

2.3 Measuring Tourism

2.3.1 The value of tourism to the area has traditionally been measured by its economic worth, the number of jobs in the sector and the number of companies/attractions. Although this is undoubtedly important, the impact of tourism needs to be measured in a holistic way that takes into account its impact on communities, the environment, the Welsh language and the local culture.

2.3.2 In the development of this Plan, innovative ways of measuring these impacts are being introduced, building on the Sustainable STEAM report introduced in 2021 by our Sustainable Tourism Officer. *See **Annex 1** for more information on this.*

2.4 Vision and Principles

2.4.1 Using the UNWTO's definition of Sustainable Tourism, the following Vision for the area has been agreed:

A visitor economy for the benefit and well-being of the people, environment, language and culture of Gwynedd and Eryri.

2.4.2 To achieve this, a series of principles and sub- principles have also been agreed:

Celebrate, Respect and Protect our Communities, Language, Culture and Heritage

- A visitor economy in the ownership of our communities with an emphasis on pride in one's area.
- A visitor economy that leads in Heritage, Language, Culture and the Outdoors.

Maintain and Respect our Environment

- A visitor economy that respects our natural and built environment and considers the implications of visitor economy developments on our environment today and in the future.
- A visitor economy that leads in sustainable and low carbon developments and infrastructure.

Ensure that the advantages for Gwynedd communities outweigh any disadvantages

- A visitor economy that ensures that infrastructure and resources contribute towards the well-being of the community all year round.
- A visitor economy that thrives for the well-being of Gwynedd residents and businesses and that offers quality employment opportunities for local people all year round.
- A visitor economy that promotes local ownership and supports local supply chains and produce.

*For further information on the Vision and Principles please see **Annex 1***

2.4.3 These principles have been accepted through extensive consultation and Members of the Authority have inputted into the process. The consultation events included:

- Online discussions and input from international colleagues March – June 2021
- Online consultation events October and November 2021
- Updates for members and new members May 2021 and 2022
- Discussions at local and regional Tourism Forums
- Fforwm Eryri update– September 2022
- Discussions at Cabinet Level – Cyngor Gwynedd

3. **GWYNEDD AND ERYRI SUSTAINABLE VISITOR ECONOMY 2035 – STRATEGIC PLAN**

3.1 From the feedback and notes of discussions gathered, a draft Plan has been developed and sense checked with a purposely established Task and Finish group made up representatives from the following sectors: Public; Environment; Language; Community; Business; Tourism.

3.2 The final version attached in **Annex 1** has also been agreed by the Steering Group made up of representatives from both Authorities.

3.3 The structures of working in order to monitor and realise the Plan are explained in **Annex 1**.

3.4 This Plan cannot be implemented by the two partners alone, it depends on a broad and new Partnership in order to realise the vision. One of the first actions will be the establishment of the Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership, which will bring partners together for the first time to formally discuss the area for the future.

3.5 The Strategic Plan in **Annex 1** purposely does not include an Action Plan. One of the main responsibilities of the Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership will be to develop and agree on an Action Plan to go along with this strategic Plan. The Action

Plan will ensure that we respond to the needs of the areas of Gwynedd and the National Park, communities, businesses and the research that has been considered. The Action Plan will provide more detail of the practical steps and the priority projects and policies– and acknowledge who will lead and resource each objective.

- 3.6 This does not mean that no action is currently being taken, and many developments have already occurred. See **Annex 1** for examples of activities already undertaken.
- 3.7 National Park Officers are currently formulating the Annual Visitor Management Plan based on the Principles and momentum established in this Strategic Plan.

4. FUNDING AND RESOURCING

- 4.1 Despite the serious financial prospects ahead, it is expected that this Plan will also influence other policies of CG, SNPA and partners in the field of planning, destination management, environmental management, training and skills, regeneration, business support, events etc, adding value by changing the emphasis of activities or policies.
- 4.2 We are confident that the Strategic Plan and the resulting prioritised Action Plan will open doors to the UK and Welsh Governments' funding opportunities in the future.
- 4.3 During our discussions and consultations on developing this Plan, the Tourism Levy was raised as a possible means of supporting the sector and our communities in the future. Whilst there is no guarantee that it will be adopted by Welsh Government, the Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership and its Action Plan could be an inclusive and fair way of identifying priority projects for investments from the Visitor Levy in the future - if it is established.

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1.1 **Annex 1** notes the key strategic next steps to be taken, which includes adoption of this Strategic Plan by the National Park Authority and the Cabinet of Cyngor Gwynedd.
- 5.1.2 Upon adoption, the launch of the Strategic Plan and the Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership will be organised for the new visitor season, and work on developing the agreed Action Plan will begin.

6. RECOMMENDATION

For members to: Adopt the 'Strategic Plan for a Sustainable Visitor Economy in Gwynedd and Eryri (2035)' as set out in **Annex 1** to this report and as presented to the Members' Working Group in January 2023.



Gwynedd & Eryri 2035

Cynllun Economi Ymweld Cynaliadwy
Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan



Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy 2035

Strategic plan

Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan 2035

- **Foreword**

- Leader of Gwynedd Council
- Chair of Snowdonia National Park

- 1. Our Vision**

- 2. Measuring success**

- 3. Establish and Implement Gwynedd and Eryri Principles**

- 4. Operational Case Studies**

- 5. Contact Details and Further Information**

APPENDICES

- 1. The Case for Action**

- 2. Strategic Context and Good Practice**

- 3. Developing the Plan and Consultation**

- 4. Workshop Feedback**

Foreword

It is our pleasure to present this Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan on behalf of Cyngor Gwynedd and the Snowdonia National Park Authority.

The Plan is the result of many years of discussion and joint planning and we have consulted widely with elected members, communities, businesses and other key partners in developing it.

This Strategic Plan sets out the core principles for the visitor economy in the area, which will in turn lead to a series of actions to be agreed upon by the Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership.

We recognise the importance of the visitor economy to this special area, but we are also keen to ensure that the area and its special qualities are protected and safeguarded - so that what is so unique about the area remains protected today and for future generations.

This is a plan that breaks new ground and introduces a new way of measuring the impact of the visitor economy as a whole on our area taking into account effects on our language, culture and heritage, the environment and on our communities.

Pressures from the visitor economy on our communities, our environment and more broadly on the area's infrastructure have been acutely experienced in recent times. Indeed, the period following Covid-19 proved that the visitor economy needed to be re-examined to ensure a greater balance for all. We are confident that this Plan will help to identify and respond to issues and opportunities that have arisen or will arise in the future.

This Plan has been developed whilst taking into account research and key statistics as well as national, regional and local strategic priorities and international good practice. These considerations can be found in the Appendices.

By working together on developing the Plan and identifying new collaboration arrangements, Cyngor Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park Authority commit to action in order to achieve "a visitor economy for the benefit and well-being of the people, environment, language and culture of Gwynedd and Eryri".

However, we know that successful action cannot be achieved by us alone, and therefore we will establish the Gwynedd and Eryri Visitor Economy Partnership 2035, in order to help us realise the vision and our new visitor economy principles. The partnership will have a key role in developing and agreeing an Action Plan over a period of 5 years and it will have responsibility for agreeing on balanced measurements and for reviewing performance indicators every 12 months.

This is a plan that breaks new ground and presents a new way of measuring the impact of the visitor economy as a whole on our area, taking into account effects on the language, culture and heritage, the environment and our communities.

We look forward to the continuation of our collaboration as two Authorities, but also to our collaboration with key partners across the community, private and public sectors so that we can realise our objectives. Clearly, much of our future work will be dependent on securing funding, but by co-working to agree on an Action Plan and to identify sources of funding - our intention is to convert this Strategic Plan into action to ensure that we have a balanced, sustainable and robust visitor economy for the benefit of all our communities and businesses.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dyfrig Siencyn'.

Cllr. . Dyfrig Siencyn
Leader Cyngor Gwynedd



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annwen Hughes'.

Cllr. Annwen Hughes
Chair Eryri National Park Authority

1. Our Vision



Gwynedd Council and the Eryri National Park Authority has collaborated with communities, businesses and stakeholders on developing this Plan in order to promote a Sustainable Visitor Economy in our area for the future. Our vision for the future therefore is:

"A visitor economy for the benefit and well-being of the people, environment, language and culture of Gwynedd and Eryri"

Both bodies have reviewed international and local good practice while also considering the United Nations World Tourism Organisation's definition of sustainable tourism in order to create principles for the Gwynedd Council and Snowdonia National Park to follow in future.

The Principles of the Gwynedd and Eryri National Park Visitor Economy

Following a number of consultation sessions with Elected Members, communities, the visitor economy sector and other organisations, we have agreed on the following Sustainable Visitor Economy Principles:

1. Celebrate, Respect and Protect our Communities, Language, Culture and Heritage
2. Maintain and Respect our Environment
3. Ensure that the advantages to Gwynedd and Eryri communities outweigh any disadvantages

The new principles model that we have adopted can be seen here:



Objectives have also been developed to inform future priorities:

Celebrate, Respect and Protect our Communities, Language, Culture and Heritage: Objectives

- ▶ A visitor economy in the ownership of our communities with an emphasis on pride in one's area
- ▶ A visitor economy that is world-leading in Heritage, Language, Culture and the Outdoors

Maintain and Respect our Environment: Objectives

- ▶ A visitor economy that respects our natural and built environment and considers the implications of visitor economy developments on our environment today and in the future
- ▶ A visitor economy that is a world-lead leader in sustainable and low carbon developments and infrastructure and in responding to the climate change crisis.

Ensure that the advantages for communities outweigh any disadvantages: Objectives

- ▶ A visitor economy that ensures that infrastructure and resources contribute towards the well-being of the community all year round
- ▶ A visitor economy that thrives for the well-being of Gwynedd and Eryri residents and businesses and that offers quality employment opportunities for local people all year round
- ▶ A visitor economy that promotes local ownership and supports local supply chains and produce

This Plan breaks new ground for the area and responds directly to the opinion of our communities and the desire of our businesses to operate in a different way in the future.

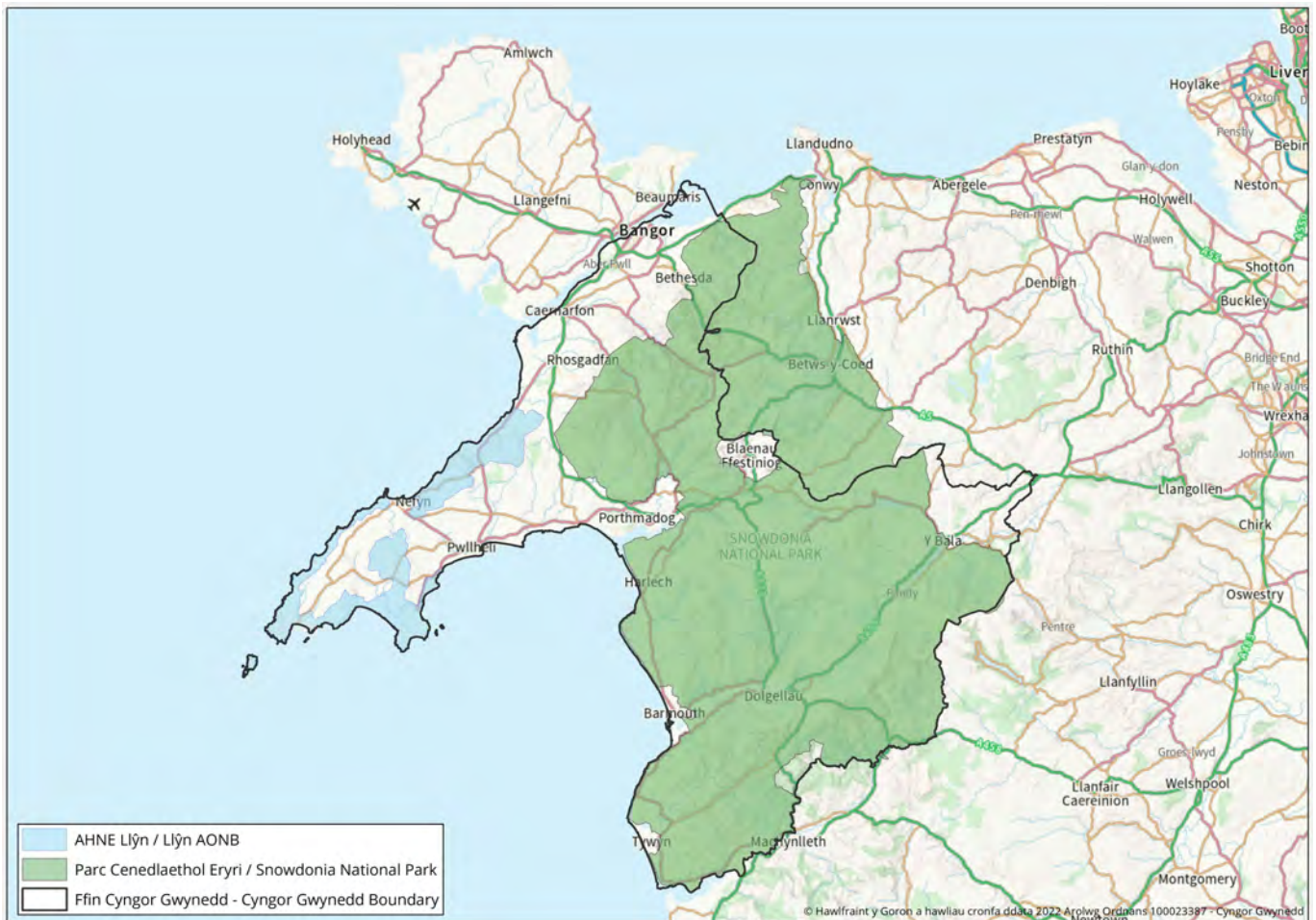
Our intention is for this new collaboration between Gwynedd Council, Eryri National Park and community, business and public partners to lead to a sustainable visitor economy in the area which gives priority to the well-being and prosperity of our communities, language and culture.



Cynllun Eryri recognises the need for a Sustainable Tourism Plan and Gwynedd Council's Plan gives priority to ensuring that Gwynedd's businesses and communities benefit from the visitors who come to the area as well as developing a Regeneration Plan for Gwynedd.

During the process of developing Our 13 Area Plans as part of implementing the Gwynedd Regeneration Framework, 13 areas in Gwynedd were consulted. The need for sustainable tourism arose in 9 of the 13 areas. In the 3 areas where Sustainable Tourism was not identified as a specific need, the issues regarding second homes, environmental protection, infrastructure, sustainable transport and the need for clean and tidy places were identified.

This Plan applies to the Cyngor Gwynedd area and the Eryri National Park - including the Conwy County Borough Council area which is part of the Park as you can see from the map below:

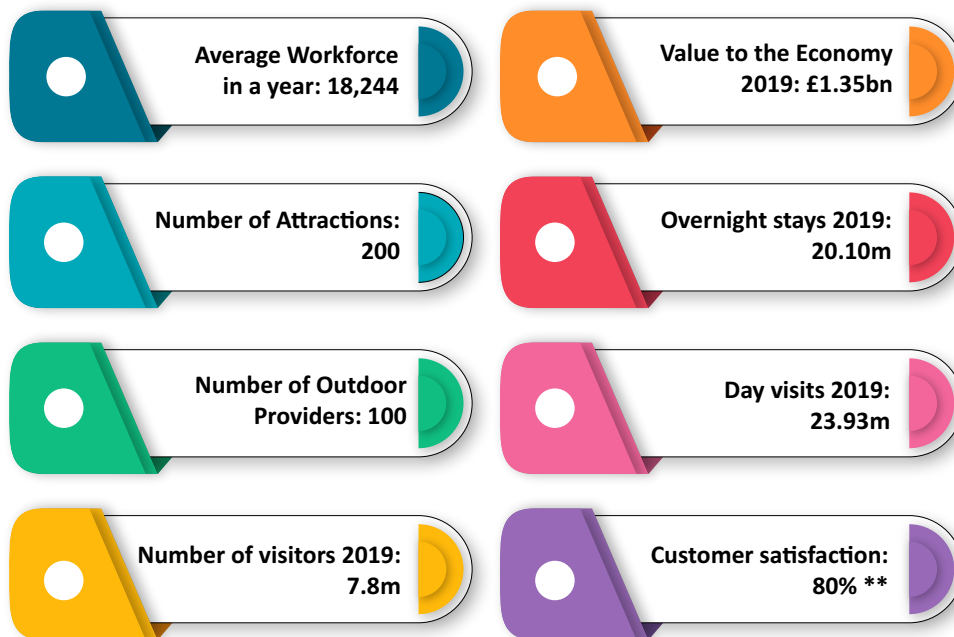


2. Measuring Indicators and Milestones

By adopting the Plan it is necessary to establish a way of indicating how the principles are embedded and implemented.

One of the main shortcomings of indicators for the tourism field at the moment is our reliance on reporting on economic and employment issues only through the use of the STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Assessment Monitor) model. This data focuses on economic elements and there is insufficient consideration of the impact of the visitor economy sector in a holistic way.

The current data demonstrates the following. (There are more statistics in Appendix 1 – The Case for Action):



*STEAM Review Figures 2019

** Visitor review Visit Wales – Gwynedd Council Beaufort Research 2019

The Skills and Employment Plan for North Wales 2023-2025 identifies the following when discussing the tourism and hospitality sector:

- ▶ The average salary across North Wales in all sectors is £24.8k
- ▶ 37% of people in the sector say that it is difficult to fill jobs

The information below provides the information for Gwynedd:

64.4% Welsh speakers* 2021 census (a decrease of 1% from 65.4% in 2011)

Considering the above and the information in the Case for Action (Appendix 1) we have identified comprehensive new indicators for measuring the impact of the visitor economy so that we have a much more balanced impression.

A number of the indicators are influenced by external matters - beyond the visitor economy - but they can offer important context when considering the action priorities of this Plan and partners' plans.

The Visitor Economy Partnership will be required to agree on a series of indicators to provide a more balanced image of the effects of the visitor economy on the area. The Action Plan will also set performance indicators to monitor delivery against the priorities of the Plan.

Examples of the new indicators could be:

1. Celebrate, Respect and Protect our Communities, Language, Culture and Heritage, for example:

- ▶ The percentage of residents who are satisfied with the effects of tourism on the community in general and the identity of the destination;
- ▶ The number of second homes (according to tax rates) and house price inflation;
- ▶ Number of Welsh speakers;
- ▶ The number of individuals and businesses who support the culture, protection, conservation and management of the area through the 'tourism ambassador' schemes for Gwynedd / Eryri.

2. Maintain and Respect our Environment for example:

- ▶ The numbers visiting / taking part in environmental / landscape activities i.e. coastal path, beach, Yr Wyddfa, paths;
- ▶ Biodiversity level (sampling some areas / species) marine and inland areas;
- ▶ Sea vessel registration - boats / jet skis;
- ▶ Number of public transport routes available (monthly);
- ▶ Number of electric car charging points;
- ▶ Number of reports / complaints about illegal camping.

3. Ensure that the advantages for the communities of Gwynedd and Eryri are greater than any disadvantages for example:

- ▶ Percentage of streets that are clean;
- ▶ Level of community deprivation;
- ▶ Parking numbers versus capacity;
- ▶ Number of road traffic incidents;
- ▶ Number of open public toilets / per 1000 of the total population;
- ▶ Number employed in the tourism industry;
- ▶ Average salary within the tourism industry;
- ▶ Number of tourism businesses / enterprises (or tourism-related businesses) in local or community ownership.

3. Establishing and Implementing the Principles for Gwynedd and Eryri

When adopting these Principles, it is necessary to establish new delivery arrangements in order to realise them in partnership, and in order to respond to the consultation process and the research.

In order to facilitate this, the Council and the Park Authority have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 26 November 2021.

The Memorandum gives priority to the following:

- ▶ To agree on formal collaboration arrangements and structures between the two bodies;
- ▶ Establish collaboration arrangements with wider partners;
- ▶ Develop action plans;
- ▶ Develop appropriate measurements;
- ▶ Share good practice; and
- ▶ Agree on a Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan 2035.



This Plan cannot be implemented by the two partners in isolation, realising our vision depends on a broad and new partnership.

One of the first actions of this Plan will be the establishment of the Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership which will bring partners together for the first time to formally discuss this field of work for the future.

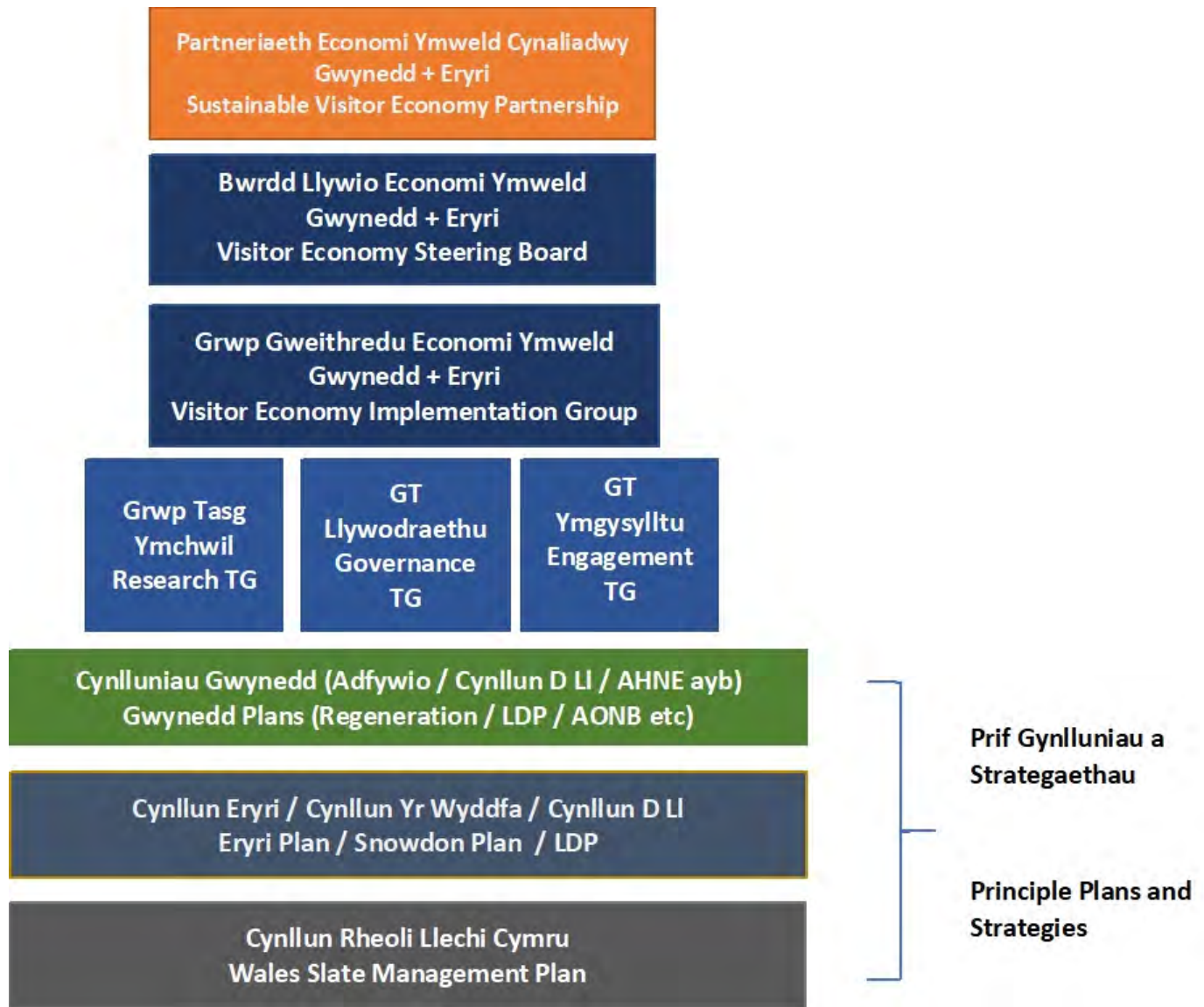
The new structure includes the following:

Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership - A new multi-sector partnership to deliver the Visitor Economy Plan by agreeing on delivery priorities, appropriate measurements and regular monitoring.

Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Steering Board - A joint strategic Steering Board between Gwynedd Council and Snowdonia National Park Authority with political representation and senior officers to agree on the strategic direction of the visitor economy between the two authorities. A representation from the Partnership will sit on the Steering Board.

Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Action Group - A group of officers to act on the strategic priorities set by the Steering Board and to support the realisation of the action priorities, the measurements and the monitoring work on behalf of the Partnership.

The following structure will be adopted in order to monitor and realise the Plan:



The Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership will adopt a formal Terms of Reference and it is expected that it will have a central role in advising the Steering Board and the Action Group and monitoring progress in delivering Plan and the relevant Action Plan. Membership of the Partnership will include:

- ▶ The two main partners
- ▶ Leaders from the private sector
- ▶ Community leaders and the third sector
- ▶ Public partners



Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Action Plan 2035

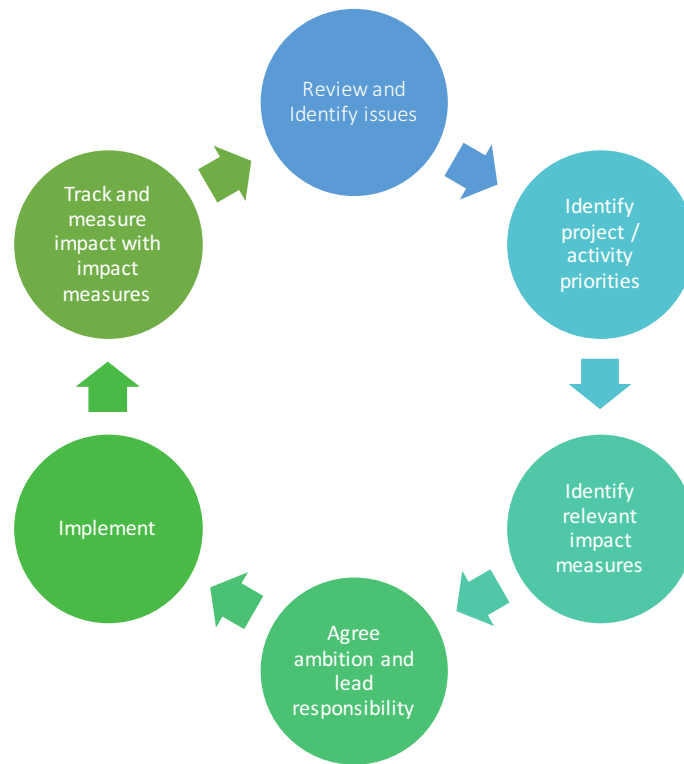
A number of actions are already taking place or have been scheduled by partners in order to respond to discussions on the development of this Plan and examples of these can be seen in the case studies.

One of the main responsibilities of the Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership will be to develop and agree on an Action Plan to go along with this Strategic Plan. The objective of the Action Plan will be to ensure that we respond to the needs of the areas of Gwynedd and the National Park, the communities, businesses and the research that has been considered. The Action Plan will provide more detail of the practical steps and the priority projects and policies that we would like to see implemented in the area in the future.

The Action Plan will list priorities and identify a lead body for delivery. It will go hand in hand with this strategic overview and interweave with the 13 Area Regeneration Plans which have been jointly developed with all the areas of Gwynedd and Eryri in response to what is important to our communities and businesses.

The Action Plan will be a living document that will continuously develop in order to respond to the priorities of our communities and our businesses. It will be reviewed every 12 months by the Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership.

It is expected that the Partnership will follow this procedure when reviewing priorities:



It is expected that an annual procedure will be followed, identifying issues, identifying the method of response and the method of measuring the impact of the response, before then agreeing the output of the action as seen below



For example, issues arising in relation to motor homes:



Finance

Despite the serious financial forecasts that lie ahead, it is expected that this Plan will also influence the other policies relating to Gwynedd Council, Eryri National Park and partners in the planning, destination management, environmental management, training and skills, regeneration, business support, events fields etc, adding value by changing the emphasis of activities or policies. We are confident that the Strategic Plan and the prioritised Action Plan will open doors to the UK and Welsh Governments' funding and other sources of funding in the future.

During our discussions and consultations relating to the development of this Plan, the Tourism Levy was raised as a possible means of supporting the sector and our communities in the future. While the Welsh Government is consulting on this, and there is no guarantee that it will be adopted; the Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership and its Action Plan could be an inclusive and fair way of identifying priority projects for investments from the Visitor Levy in the future, should it be established.

The main strategic actions

Below are the main strategic actions for Cyngor Gwynedd, Snowdonia National Park Authority and the new Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership:

Action	Lead Body	By when?
Establishment of Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership	Cyngor Gwynedd with the support of Eryri National Park	Spring 2023
Develop and embed the formal collaboration arrangements between the Council and the Park	Cyngor Gwynedd and Eryri National Park	2023
Adoption of Balanced Measurements	Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership	Spring 2023
Establish formal Monitoring Arrangements	Cyngor Gwynedd	Spring 2023
Approve an Action Plan that identifies a lead body to deliver priorities	Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership	Summer 2023
Establishing Leaders within the communities of Gwynedd and Eryri	Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership	Spring and Autumn 2023
Influencing partners' policies and strategies	Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership	Continuous
Identify funding opportunities	Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership	Continuous but during the annual review in December.
Continuous monitoring and review, but with an annual review of progress	Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership with the support of Cyngor Gwynedd and Eryri National Park	Continuous but a report to be submitted every December.
Communicate with all stakeholders in the visitor economy	Cyngor Gwynedd and Eryri National Park	Continuous

4 Operational Case studies

Although the Action Plan has not yet been adopted by the Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership, action is already taking place by partners in Gwynedd and Eryri. The Case Studies below show the activity that is already taking place which respond to this new Plan.

Care for Snowdonia Plan ✓✓✓



Caru Eryri / Care for Snowdonia is a volunteer plan which is run in partnership with Cymdeithas Eryri / Snowdonia Society, the Outdoor Partnership and the National Trust. The aim of the plan is to help manage the effect that an increasing number of visitors is having on the National Park. Litter collections are organized across the National Park, focussing on the busiest paths, which include, all the main Yr Wyddfa, Ogwen, Cader Idris, and Llyn Tegid routes.

Volunteers can join the volunteer shift by using our online system. There are shifts arranged every Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Over the summer of 2021, volunteers spent 134 days caring for Eryri and collected 1033kg of rubbish. This is a huge achievement for which we are extremely grateful. The plan has been very successful in 2022, and includes conservation workdays.



Putting the proposals into action has already been initiated for an ambitious and sustainable approach to getting to grips with parking and transport in the northern part of Eryri. The proposals outline how traffic, pollution and noise could be reduced tremendously in the area internal during peak season whilst also significantly improving the visitor experience.

The proposals put forward in the Parking and Transport Review for the Wyddfa Partnership include:

- ▶ Seasonal management of parking in the 'internal area' with pre-booking options;
- ▶ An all-inclusive visitor access ticket which would encourage using local businesses via discounted prices and offers;
- ▶ A new zero carbon fleet of buses;
- ▶ Discuss ideas with communities re. parking improvements parking in the gateway villages;
- ▶ Transform the way information about parking and access is communicated;
- ▶ Infrastructure for electric vehicle charging;
- ▶ Management of on street and residents parking in the gateway villages;
- ▶ Public transport service, such as the network of shuttle buses, interchanges with long distance railway and bus services, improvements to the wider transport network, and

transport services' response to the demand from other sources;

- ▶ Review for improvements and work with taxi suppliers;
- ▶ Coach parking spaces (buses);
- ▶ Walking and cycling initiatives;
- ▶ Other complementary services to improve the visitor experience as part of the ethos of promoting sustainable access.

Gwynedd and Eryri Ambassador Plans ✓ ✓ ✓

The Gwynedd and Eryri Ambassador Courses give people the opportunity to learn and improve their knowledge about the unique qualities of the area to explain what makes Gwynedd and Eryri a special area that indeed cannot be compared to anywhere else.

They are free online courses available for anyone to complete in their own time.

The course is divided into two parts - the learning part, which includes videos, pictures and text about different topics, and the testing/quiz part, where the users can show how much they've learned.

Modules as part of the courses include: Welcome to Gwynedd / Welcome to Eryri, Language and Culture, Communities, The Coast, Landscape, UNESCO Sites, Activities and Attractions, History and Heritage and Wales. Three modules (compulsory) must be passed to reach the Bronze level, six modules to reach the Silver level and nine modules to reach the Gold level.



<https://www.ambassador.wales/cy/ambassador-courses/gwynedd-ambassador-course/>

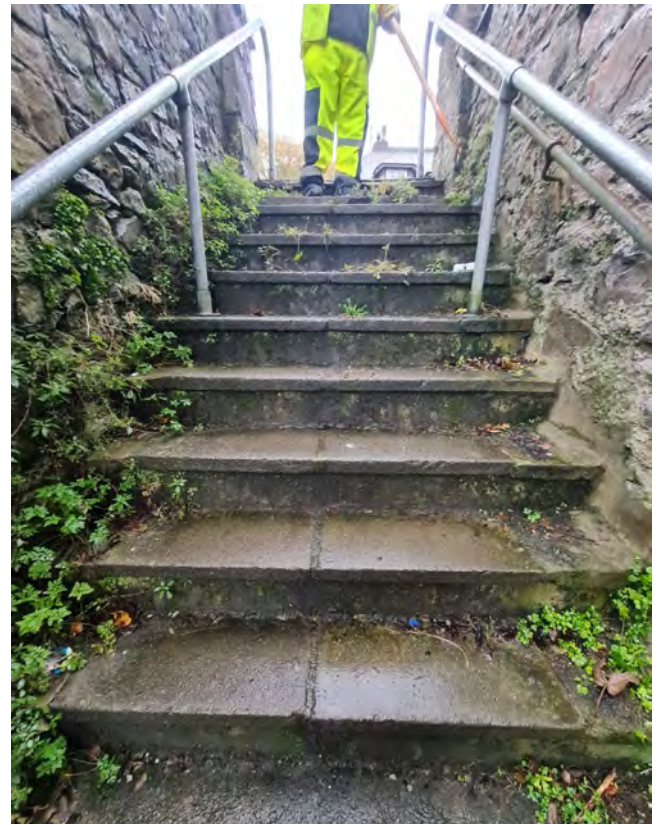
Timau Tacluso Ardal Ni (Our Area Tidy Up Teams): Clean and Tidy Communities ✓ ✓ ✓

Following an investment of £1.5 million from Gwynedd Council, the Our Area Tidy Up Teams will be working in communities from Aberdyfi to Abergwyngregyn to carry out a range of tidying up tasks such as cleaning pavements and signs, removing graffiti, tidying up roadsides, repairing and installing bins, addressing fly tipping, weeding and the removal of chewing gum.

The intention of the work is to contribute to the goal of making Gwynedd's communities clean and tidy in accordance with the wishes of local residents.

With this investment, the Council will employ new staff who will work in communities across the county, together with specialist vehicles and equipment to carry out thorough tidying work. Small tasks like this can make a world of difference to the look and feel of a street or community and the Our Area Tidy Up Teams will help to provide clean and tidy communities across Gwynedd.

Community pride in our local areas is central to the work ensuring the best for the communities of Gwynedd and those people who visit the area.



Aires Scheme ✓ ✓ ✓

As motor home visits to Gwynedd become more and more evident in our towns, villages and rural areas, better management of motor homes has been the subject of discussion in our communities.

This field was investigated by Gwynedd Council and a report was drawn up which included feedback from communities, businesses and users of motor homes in terms of how better management of the area can be ensured. Based on this evidence, a pilot scheme was developed to trial the use of assets owned by the Council - such as public car parks in appropriate destinations; in order to provide 'overnight' parking for the purpose of motor homes similar to "aires" schemes abroad and to bring benefits to local communities and businesses.



Through the pilot, it is intended to make simple modifications in car parks to provide basic services to motor-home owners such as fresh water, toilet emptying, disposal of grey water and rubbish. The Council is looking at around 6 sites across Gwynedd in urban locations where Motorhome management problems have been a challenge, and these will act as a network. Clear regulations will be set for length of stay and 'camping' activities will not be allowed.

Through the pilot, it is intended to make simple modifications in car parks to provide basic services to motor-home owners such as fresh water, toilet emptying, disposal of grey water and rubbish. The Council is looking at around 6 sites across Gwynedd in urban locations where Motorhome management problems have been a challenge, and these will act as a network. Clear regulations will be set for length of stay and 'camping' activities will not be allowed.

Another scheme will run hand in hand with the development of the Lay-by locations to improve the Council's powers to regulate the area in order to respond to the challenges that arise in some locations in the county with these vehicles parking overnight without the right to do so.



5. Contact details and further information

Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy 2035 | Drupal (ymweldageryri.info)

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Cyngor Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park Authority



Gwynedd
& Eryri 2035

Cynllun Economi Ymweld Cynaliadwy
Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan

Appendices

1. The case for action

Gwynedd and Eryri are home to iconic natural and heritage attractions, which include Mount Snowdon, the National Park, the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), one of the longest sections of the Wales Coast Path, blue flag beaches and marinas, the largest forest in North Wales, over 100 lakes, World Heritage Sites and the Dyfi Biosphere.

There are 17 National Nature Reserves in Eryri; more than in any other national park in Wales; and 56 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The vast biodiversity reflects the variety of the landscape, geology, the climate and the land management methods. The wealth of plants and animals is fundamental to the history, culture, language, economy and continual well-being of everyone who lives in and visits the area.

There are a number of high standard businesses, attractions and food and drink producers here that have invested heavily over the past decade providing unique experiences for residents and visitors. The outdoor and heritage sectors are two of the county's strongest sectors.

The area is a stronghold of the Welsh language with over 69% of the population speaking Welsh fluently according to the 2011 census.

For centuries, the area has attracted visitors who have been fascinated by our natural and built environment and our communities. Today, there is a need to review our priorities for the visitor economy in future, work differently and create a new plan.

The visitor economy has an important contribution to make to the economy and communities of Gwynedd and Eryri - this contribution needs to be balanced and sustainable in order to protect our communities, our environment, language and culture for future generations.

Data and research highlight the need for a better balance in the visitor economy and within the economy generally in the Gwynedd and Eryri National Park area.

The review of Phase 1 of the Arfor programme funded by the Welsh Government highlights the following about the West Wales area:

The counties of Gwynedd, Anglesey, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire are often referred to as strongholds of the Welsh language, although a number of counties or areas within other counties can be identified which share similar characteristics. There is a general consensus that these strongholds share similar social, economic and cultural characteristics, including:

1. A high percentage of Welsh speakers
2. Immigration of older people, young people who emigrate
3. Rural depending on agriculture, food and tourism
4. Market towns and University towns

5. High percentage of jobs in the public sector

6. Lowest wages in Britain, and among the lowest wages in Europe

In addition to the above, there is a consensus that the counties share the same challenge, and that there is a problem that needs to be responded to.

Although the development of this Plan has commenced since 2018, Covid-19 has put tremendous pressure on communities across Gwynedd and Eryri with unprecedented numbers of visitors to the area. This period has highlighted some issues that need to be addressed to support a sustainable visitor economy.

A climate change emergency was declared by Welsh Government, Gwynedd Council and the National Park in 2019. The nature and biodiversity crisis as a result of climate change forces us to change our lifestyle and behaviour.

The Eryri Plan identifies the need for a Sustainable Tourism Plan and the Gwynedd Council Plan places a priority to ensure that Gwynedd's businesses and communities benefit from the visitors who come to the area and develops a Regeneration Plan for Gwynedd.

The Slate Landscape of North West Wales World Heritage Site Management Plan recognises the need to develop a plan to manage visitors to the area and the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty gives priority to sustainable tourism management.

We have a duty to protect the area's communities, environment and culture for the benefit of future generations, and new collaboration opportunities arise and an opportunity to learn from the experiences of other areas.

In November 2021, Gwynedd Council and the National Park Authority signed an Agreement of Understanding. The Objective of the Agreement of Understanding is to collaborate effectively and efficiently in partnership to realise the Vision and Principles of the Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan 2035 to protect and promote the area's special values.

This Plan is relevant to the Gwynedd Council and Eryri National Park area - including the Conwy County Borough Council area which is part of the Park.

During the process of developing 13 Ardal Ni (Our Area) Plans as part of implementing the Gwynedd Regeneration Framework, 13 areas of Gwynedd were consulted. The need for sustainable tourism arose in 9 of the 13 areas. In the 3 areas where Sustainable Tourism was not identified as a specific need, the themes of second homes, environmental protection, infrastructure, sustainable transport and the need for clean and tidy places were identified.

Research and statistics

The development of this Plan has relied a great deal on research work and statistical analysis in order to draw up our principles and priorities for action.

The research and statistics include:

- ▶ Review of Local Tourism Accommodation (2018/19, Gwynedd Council)
- ▶ Visit Wales and Gwynedd Council Visitor Review (2019, Beaufort Research)
- ▶ Benefiting from Tourism Review - consideration of options to fund future priorities (May 2019, Blue Chip Tourism and RJS Associates Ltd).
- ▶ Review of the Destination Management Partnership (October 2019, Blue Chip Tourism and RJS Associates Ltd)
- ▶ Cynllun Eryri Plan (2020, Snowdonia National Park Authority)
- ▶ Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen Sustainable Parking and Transport Strategy (2020, Snowdonia National Park Authority)
- ▶ Gwynedd Council Plan (2018, Gwynedd Council)
- ▶ Managing the use of dwellings as holiday homes (December 2020, Gwynedd Council)
- ▶ Research to the motor homes situation in Gwynedd (September 2021, Gwynedd Council)

The main statistics of the Visitor Economy in Gwynedd can be seen below*:

- ▶ Average Workforce in a year: 18,244
- ▶ Number of Attractions: 200
- ▶ Number of Outdoor Providers: 100
- ▶ Number of Visitors 2019: 7.8m
- ▶ Value to the Economy 2019: £1.35bn
- ▶ Overnight stays 2019: 20.10m
- ▶ Day stays 2019: 23.93m
- ▶ Customer Satisfaction: 80% **

* STEAM Review Figures 2019

** Visit Wales Visitor Review – Gwynedd Council Beaufort Research 2019

According to the review of the Destination Management Plan, these are the following headlines for 2013 - 2020 performance (2018 data unless noted differently):

- ▶ 11% increase in the number of visitors to 7.37 million
- ▶ Tourist nights and days have increased by 11%
- ▶ 23% increase in Economic value to £1.12 Billion
- ▶ 15,500 jobs supported by tourism spending
- ▶ 14% growth in the number of accommodation businesses to 3,194 (2011-2019)
- ▶ 6% increase in bed spaces to 132,611 (2011-2019)
- ▶ 47% increase to Yr Wyddfa summit visitor Centre (2014/2017)
- ▶ 102 activities supported by Gwynedd Council, adding £34 million towards the local economy (2014-2018)
- ▶ 3.1 million users viewed the official website of Snowdonia Mountains and Coast during 4.1 million sessions (2015-2019)
- ▶ Average growth of 580% in official social media channels
- ▶ 1,925 AirBnB registered in Gwynedd in January 2019 (increase of 1,251 in August 2018 and 745 already on the accommodation research list)

The North Wales Skills and Employment Plan 2023-2025 states the following when talking about the tourism and hospitality sector:

- ▶ One of the most difficult sectors to fill employment gaps
- ▶ Average salary across North Wales in all sectors is £24.8k
- ▶ 37% of people in the sector say that it is difficult to fill jobs
- ▶ Retaining staff in the sector is difficult – as not enough people want jobs and as wages are lower compared to other sectors
- ▶ The sector shows high employment opportunities for the future and has seen steady growth since 2016 and shows growth beyond 2025
- ▶ Need to raise the profile of the sector in the future as a career
- ▶ Need to encourage employers to invest in their staff in order to retain them
- ▶ Need to encourage apprenticeship opportunities in the sector

Gwynedd Accommodation Review

The following provides information on the situation in Gwynedd:

Number of homes	61,645
Number of second homes	4,873
Number of self-catering Holiday units (non-domestic unit)	1,976
Merged Total	6,849
Merged total of holiday accommodation in Gwynedd (highest in Wales)	10.76%

According to the 2011 Census, the number of Welsh speakers in Gwynedd was 65.4 % and this varied from 87% in Llanrug to 36% in Bangor and 35.5% in Aberdyfi.

The main issues that arise in the area

In considering the case for action, the research and statistics the main issues affecting the area can be summarised as follows.



In some areas, there are exceptional pressures on communities and public services, for example on car parks, waste and recycling levels, roads, facilities and matters arising as a result of motor homes, pressure on emergency services, AirBnB and events. The Covid-19 period created tensions in some areas with unprecedented visitor numbers.

Salary levels are traditionally low within the visitor economy sector, although there has been a slight increase in recent years but, traditionally, it is also a sector that offers seasonal employment and interest to pursue a career in the field is decreasing.

According to some, there is a lack of diversity in the rural economy and possible over-dependence on tourism and negative feelings within some communities and areas.

Some are also concerned about the potential impact of the visitor economy on our language, environment, communities and culture - but there may be opportunities if different actions are taken and new principles and way of working are followed in order to ensure sustainable growth.

Developing better measures could offer a new and improved way of measuring any negative and positive impacts that derive from the visitor economy on our areas and there is an opportunity here to integrate a Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan into the development of Area Regeneration Plans across Gwynedd.

A review of the Gwynedd Destination Management 2013-2020 was undertaken in 2019 and more details about the conclusions can be found in the 'Developing the Plan and Consultation' section.



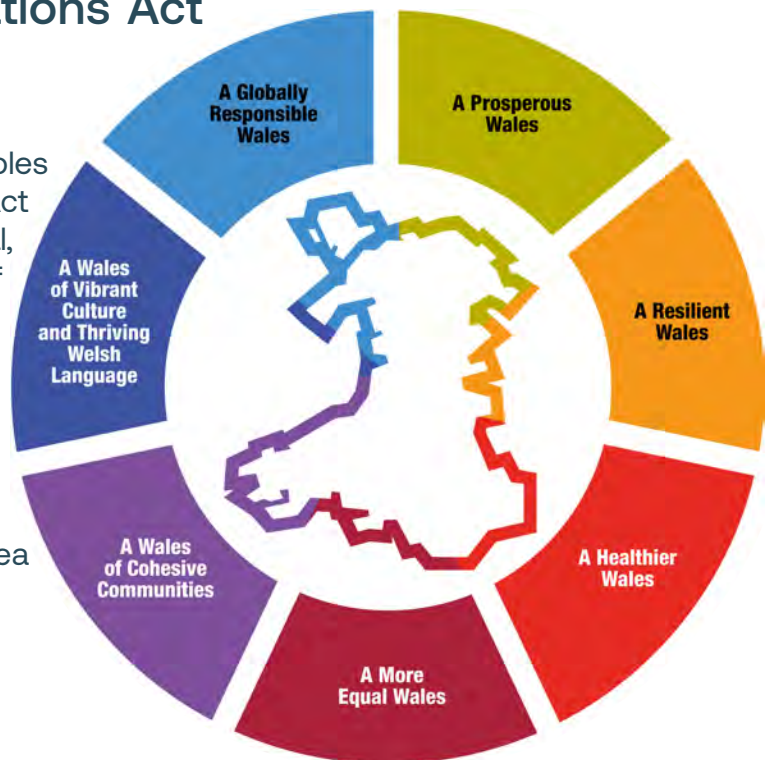
2. The Strategic Context and Good Practice



Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015

As a Council, we are committed to the principles within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015) in order to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of communities in Gwynedd and Eryri. We will ensure that we consider the long-term by collaborating and considering people of all ages when resolving and preventing problems.

Our vision for the visitor economy in the area corresponds with the principles of the act.



The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)

The UNWTO defines sustainable tourism as:

"Tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities."

UNWTO has three pillars that define sustainable tourism:

1. Make optimal use of environmental resources that constitute a key element in tourism development
2. Respect the socio-cultural authenticity of host communities
3. Ensure viable, long-term economic operations, providing socio-economic benefits to all

These pillars were redefined to respond to the needs and priorities of our area.

Welsh Governance Programme 2021-2026

The *Governance Programme* notes the commitments that Welsh Government will deliver over the next 5 years. These will address the challenges facing Wales and improve the lives of people across the country. The sustainable visitor economy principles respond to the priorities of the Governance Programme and the Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru.

Our All Wales Plan

Following the Climate Emergency declared by Welsh Government in 2019, our first All Wales Plan was published alongside Net Zero Wales, Carbon Budget 2 (2021-25) - this involves a substantial change in the way we all live, work and visit other places.

Welcome to Wales

Visit Wales, Priorities for the visitor economy 2020-25 sets out the priorities of Welsh Government and Visit Wales for the tourism industry in Wales. It notes the need to collaborate in a way that supports the well-being of strengths that initially attract people here - our landscapes, culture and adventure, and notes that tourism that is good for our industry must also be good for Wales. The aim of the Government via the Plan, in future, is to use the visitor economy to obtain a broader benefit.

North Wales' Ambition

The Ambition Vision of North Wales is 'create a more vibrant, sustainable and resilient economy for North Wales'. It hopes to see the region developing in a sustainable manner with opportunities for people to gain new skills for the future and have worthwhile careers. It hopes to see businesses growing and communities prosper and for this to take place while promoting our language, culture and heritage and in accordance with the well-being objectives for Wales.

The North Wales Skills and Employment Plan 2023-25

The three-year Skills and Employment Plan has been developed by the North Wales Regional Skills Partnership (RSP), in collaboration with businesses and employers across the region.

The vision within the Plan is that *North Wales is a region where the people, and specifically their skills and abilities, are a key driver of economic development and well-being. Employers in the region are thriving, developing and growing because of the skills of the local population. Businesses want to move into the region because of the skills of the local population. At the same time, people can achieve their ambitions and maximise their potential within North Wales.*

Snowdonia National Park's Local Development Plan Policy 2016-2031 (2019 update)

As a National Park, Eryri is required to have a development plan in place. The Park is within the Gwynedd and Conwy authorities and the plan defines permitted developments and management priorities.

Gwynedd and Anglesey Joint Local Development Plan 2011-2026 (31 July 2017)

The joint development plan for both local authorities identifies the key role of the visitor economy and notes a positive and proactive method for its development and management.

Good practice

When developing this Plan, we received support and advice from Professor Terry Stevens, an expert in the field of sustainable tourism. We have also considered the following good practice:

- ▶ New Zealand - Tiaki Promise
- ▶ Isle of Arran, Scotland

- ▶ Triglav National Park, Slovenia - an area that has twinned with Eryri
- ▶ Vadehavskysten, Denmark (Coastal Area of Wadden)
- ▶ Jackson Hole, USA
- ▶ Park City, USA
- ▶ Dolan (Ogwen Partnership, Siop Griffiths and Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog)



3. Developing the Plan and Consultation

Work to develop this Plan commenced in 2018 during a workshop that reviewed our Destination Management Plan 2013-2020 and examined our priorities for the future. This occurred at the same time as the consultation with stakeholders across the area to develop the Cynllun Eryri and the Gwynedd Plan.

Since then, a large number of workshops have been held to discover how a Sustainable Visitor Economy would look in Gwynedd and Eryri. These workshops have included the visitor economy sector, Gwynedd Destination Management Partnership, Members of Gwynedd Council and Snowdonia National Park Authority, community councils and individuals.

As part of the Plan's development, our Destination Management Plan was reviewed in 2019 by the Blue Chip company and RJS Associates. The key outcomes of the review of the Destination Management Plan were as follows:

- ▶ A great investment had been achieved in the Gwynedd visitor economy since 2013 and there was a possibility that a number of strategic projects would deliver substantial impacts.
- ▶ Against the objectives of the Plan, strategic projects scored best in terms of visitor experience and extending the season; and more moderate against increasing spending and improving the environment.
- ▶ They have not scored as well in terms of skills and jobs and community integration. Partially, this was because delivering against these objectives would be a by-product of the strategic projects rather than their primary aim, and partially as the projects delivering these aims, in general, were purely local or small and, therefore, they were not categorised as strategic.

The review also identifies the following as potential objectives for the future:

- ✓ Extending the tourist season
- ✓ Increasing visitor spending per visit
- ✓ Improving the quality of the visitor experience
- ✓ Managing tourism for the benefit of Gwynedd communities and environment. This may include, e.g. marketing sites that receive fewer visitors, managing busier sites, dealing with second home ownership and AirBnB matters
- ✓ Promoting responsible, sustainable practice among the sector and its customers
- ✓ Developing a sense of place in Gwynedd (including its culture, heritage and Welsh language)

The above matters have also been raised during the work of developing the Cynllun Eryri, as well as the need to develop a brand marketing strategy for Eryri based on the Special Qualities and implement it regularly across the public and private sectors - i.e. that there is consistency across the area with branding and marketing. The need was also noted to encourage visitors to visit at different times of the year and to different areas in order to reduce pressures during the busiest period and to help businesses to overcome seasonal difficulties.

Despite Covid-19 restrictions, the Council and the Park managed to engage with a vast number of people and bodies by holding events and workshops on Zoom and using 'Jamboard' software.

The main messages from these workshops are summarised below with feedback from other workshops in **Appendix A**.

What are the main challenges and opportunities for achieving a sustainable visitor economy in the future?

Resources challenge	An opportunity to extend the season	Language, culture, heritage - an opportunity to bring benefits to communities. The challenge of protecting them.
An opportunity to educate and develop skills among local people - create a career.	The challenge of an excess in some areas.	An opportunity to strike a balance if we operate sustainably. An opportunity for communities.
Climate change challenges.	A challenge and an opportunity to coordinate partners.	Opportunities for the third sector and communities.
An opportunity/challenge to change Planning policies and for homes for local people.	An opportunity to disperse people from areas that are too busy.	Avoid punishing communities, e.g. through additional parking measures.
A need to educate visitors about the special qualities of the area.	An opportunity for visitor management rather than marketing the area.	An opportunity for better infrastructure, e.g. transport/ toilets/bins, etc. for all.

What policies/activities need to be developed and prioritised?

A policy to bring tourism benefits to communities.	Twinning communities with attractions.	Policies needed to develop sustainable transport
Promote the use of the language, culture and history of the area.	World Heritage Site	Responsible destination marketing and visiting
Training to develop a career in the field.	Planning policies that support local communities and regulate second homes/Airbnb.	Regulate motorhomes.
A need to tax visitors to the area.	A tourist tax to support communities and infrastructure.	A need to develop a destination management plan and establish an accountable body/partnership.
A need to put sustainability at the heart of everything - language, culture, environment, heritage and community.		

Which partners need to hold discussions?

A strong voice for communities is needed.	Social enterprises.	Mountain/sea safety organisations, etc.
National organisations, e.g. Ramblers.	A need for schools and education to be involved in this.	It is important that this includes everyone - public, community, private.
Local companies need to have supply chain opportunities.	A need for clear leadership and a representative body.	Champions to promote the visitor economy.

4. Workshop feedback

Main Challenges and Opportunities deriving from Workshops with Members of Gwynedd Council and Snowdonia National Park Authority - February 25 and 27, 2020

Theme	Challenges	Opportunities
Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attracting more visitors from Wales • A sustainable level of 'adventure holidays' • Quality assurance • Extend the season • Effective marketing • Too much marketing? • Accurate research and evidence • A risk of developing into one big play area • Developing the area's brand • Lack of vision • Marketing in a competitive world • Encourage more overnight stays • Conscientious marketing - no marketing of houses as second homes • Need to invest in the asset before marketing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique cultural experiences • Unique Landscape and Heritage • A market for local produce • Open air and adventure (broad) • Targeting higher spending markets • A greener brand • More marketing and using technology • Enhanced packaging of the offer • Area and location for film and television

Theme	Challenges	Opportunities
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The switch to electric vehicles • Relevant infrastructure for an ageing population • Too much pressure on the infrastructure from visitors • Coast path attracts people all year round - who is responsible for maintenance - is there enough money? • The impact of airbnb on local infrastructure e.g. litter • Improving paths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community transport and wi-fi • Improved public transport • Upgrading facilities for all • Water bottle filling resources • Electric charging points • Charging a fee to drive into the Park

Theme	Challenges	Opportunities
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attracting good standard hotels to the area • Road sizes in rural areas • Car parks / toilets / public transport • Improve the 'small things' e.g. litter / furniture etc • Too much emphasis and the 'big things' • Impact on the environment • Lack of public transport options • Erosion of paths • Improving infrastructure without affecting the environment • Supply chain • Cost to the Park and Council of maintenance • Creation of new cycle lanes (Dolgellau to Bala) • Speeding • Lack of control of second homes • Road condition • Development of area / town plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism tax to pay for community services • Better routes to connect communities with their local attractions • Charging for parking and toilets • Associated transport network

Theme	Challenges	Opportunities
Local Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of properties for local people – Holiday Homes and house price increases for local people • Sustainable job development • Lack of visitor balance and management of this • Airbnb growth • Too many visitors • Maintain and manage any growth in visitors to communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the development of social enterprises • Improved diversity of accommodation • Keeping the benefits local more • Local enterprise • Do more 'ordinary' things e.g. livestock markets • Airbnb is an opportunity for locals if properly managed

Theme	Challenges	Opportunities
Local Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressures on local services • Preserving the character of communities • Tourism tax • Quality deteriorating due to lack of investment • Pressure on mountain rescue teams and emergency services • Moving people away from Snowdon • High taxes and VAT • Outsiders running the sector • How to spread the benefit to all? • Loss of hotels to be flats / self-catering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting producers and providers • Local ownership • Creating a buzz by connecting communities and businesses

Theme	Challenges	Opportunities
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement of planning conditions • Lack of Government planning policy • Developments in the right places • Limiting the numbers of holiday homes • Encourage 'appropriate' accommodation • Increase stock without disrupting local communities • Changing planning arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the planning system • Improved management of holiday accommodation and second homes • Licensing? • Encourage more serviced accommodation • Larger self-service accommodation to attract families

Theme	Challenges	Opportunities
Economic Development and Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need benefit balance Vs local impact • Get quality work in the sector • How to include the community in the industry? • Improving salary levels and seasonal • Difficult to recruit locally to the sector • The impact of Brexit on the industry • Training not in line with needs • Lack of a career in the industry – for young people • Want to keep tourism money in the local economy • Improving visitor spend in the local economy • Extending the season • How to encourage local people to venture • Lack of capital for local businesses • Improving opportunities locally for businesses • Raising industry standards • Lack of quality experiences - food • Global issues: Coronavirus / climate change • Improving the standard of hotels • Visiting pattern changing • VAT and taxes a challenge • Review of touring caravan regulations April - October • Get more local producers supplying • Lack of tourism groups • Improve training for staff about local history and sense of place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attracting new markets • Local produce and seafood • Use of new technology • Improving local supply chains • Improved education and skills provision • Good employment for local people • Diversification opportunities in rural areas in the wake of Brexit • Creating unique opportunities for young people in the sector • Improving economic flow to 'local' businesses • Indoor facilities – weather! • Tourism tax • Serviced accommodation • Developing quality jobs • Creating 'suitable' tourism • Renewable energy • Outdoors • Businesses to open later hours in summer • Extending the season • Sustainable tourism • Developing a tourism career facilitator • Packaged guides and tours • Supporting Welsh communities with good jobs

Theme	Challenges	Opportunities
Culture and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of profile to the language • How to benefit from Welsh Slate status? • Reducing negative impacts on the language and culture • Risk of anglicising communities as older people move here. • Impact on the demographics of the county • How to get local ownership of the industry? • Ensure that development improves and is not detrimental to the area • Protect villages and towns from becoming holiday towns • Need to promote enterprise and unique experiences by local people to promote language and culture • Ensuring RESPECT for language, culture and communities • Having Welsh-speaking workers • Loss of local names • How do businesses be persuaded to use Welsh? • Need to better connect the sector with communities • How to better link the local market (products and services) with the sector? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of the area • Regeneration of slate areas • Setting up 'Paradores' as in Spain? • Increasing Cultural holidays • Selling the culture • Promoting the Welsh Language • Events • Mabinogi and legends • Sense of Place • The sector as a career in Welsh

Theme	Challenges	Opportunities
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is sustainable tourism and how? • A challenge where there is insufficient public transport • Carbon footprint increases due to cars visiting • How do we improve local supply chains etc.? • Promote more on Gwynedd's 'quieter' areas as places to visit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The natural environment • Health • Connecting people and communities with the outdoors • Reducing carbon footprint • Development of the Gwynedd quality mark

Theme	Challenges	Opportunities
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decline of community life leads to lack of ‘authentic’ tourism • How do we protect the landscape and the environment? • Risk of losing what makes us unique in terms of landscape and nature • Adverse impact on nature • Agricultural challenges • Reducing reliance on cars • Developing sustainable tourism that promotes health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filling water bottles • Green and eco-tourism • Nature and paths • Electrification

Theme	Challenges	Opportunities
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring reliable research and statistics • Improved collaboration between the Council, Park and Government • Lack of collaboration within the sector • Lack of collaboration between community / town councils with the sector and the third sector • Lack of information sharing between businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One vision for tourism - a balance between the economy, environment, community

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

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, June Jones, Edgar Owen (Chair), Elfed Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson;

Officers

Emyr Williams, G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Helen Pye, Angela Jones, Catrin Glyn, Anwen Gaffey;

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes.

1. **Apologies**

Councillors Louise Hughes, Kim Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd; Ms. Tracey Evans, Ms. Delyth Lloyd; Mr. Dafydd Edwards, Section 151 Officer.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

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

3. **Minutes**

Subject to noting a correction to the minute (item 5 – Discussion Paper on Local Tourism Levy) to read “.....the Sandford Principle states that when irreconcilable conflicts exist between conservation and public enjoyment in National Parks, then conservation interest should take priority”, the minutes of the Members' Working Group meeting held on 7th September 2022 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.

4. **Update on the Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen Parking and Transport Strategy**

Submitted – A joint report by the Partnerships Manager and the Snowdon Partnership Officer to update members on the Strategy's progress to date.

Reported – The Snowdon Partnership Officer presented the report and background and provided an overview of the strategy. The Partnerships Manager outlined progress to date and presented details of projects that Transport for Wales have invested in for 2021 & 2022.

Members welcomed the report and made the following observations:-

- Members welcomed the report and thanked officers for the considerable amount of work undertaken in such a short period of time.
- the improved Sherpa bus service, which offers better integration for passengers, was welcomed. Members felt that more promotional information about the routes and their availability should be provided.
- in response to a question, the Partnerships Manager advised that a recent meeting with Transport for Wales had discussed making more use of the railway network. Currently,

there were technical problems with the route into the National Park, especially to Betws y Coed, but in the medium/long term it will be part of the strategy, with Bangor being used as the main hub.

- in response to a concern by a Member, the Partnerships Manager confirmed that the Trunk Roads Authority, at a recent partnership meeting, had provided assurance that double yellow lines will be in place by the end of the financial year, and that the cones will be removed in time for the next tourist season. Monitoring and enforcement was the responsibility of the two Local Authorities and this would continue.
- in response to a question on publicity and the behavioural changes necessary, the Partnerships Manager advised that a core recommendation in the Martin Higgitt report was the need to establish a “one-stop shop” to communicate all aspects of the strategy. Officers were about to develop a pilot and were hopeful this would encourage behavioural change in the long term. The Head of Engagement outlined what the Authority can achieve on its own, and also what can be achieved when working jointly with partners to help support and promote their projects and services. A bid for additional funding will be submitted to Croeso Cymru to support the Authority to provide clear messaging and contribute towards sustainable tourism work for next year.
- a Member asked whether future financial constraints would have an effect on progress next year and onwards. In response, the Chief Executive confirmed there was a large financial challenge ahead. He advised that currently the Authority’s financial contribution to the partnership amounted to just under £50k, raised from specific car parking fees, which was matched by Gwynedd Council. This would be a matter for future discussion.
- the Chief Executive welcomed the report and advised that he would shortly be giving evidence on traffic in North Wales to the Traffic Commissioner, alongside the Snowdon Partnership Officer and the Head of Engagement. This was an excellent example of how National Park Authorities work, whether it related to traffic, the economy or climate change, with no statutory powers to deliver on such issues, the Authority’s strength was in bringing partners together. Another dimension for Members to note was, if the Authority was serious about achieving a carbon-free Eryri, a future report on carbon will show that traffic and tourism account for two-thirds of the area’s carbon footprint.
- a Member asked whether this work could be a high priority for money raised from the proposed Tourism Levy. The Head of Engagement confirmed that the Martin Higgitt report had referred to some form of levy to run the service and make it sustainable. There was a challenge ahead with pressures on the budgets that currently fund these services and would need to be in place for a number of years to get established and make it sustainable in the long term.
- a Member agreed that changing attitudes will be a long process. The Member asked whether day visitors who come in along the A55 could be re-directed from Nant Gwynant?
- the Partnerships Manager and the Snowdon Partnership Officer were currently working on a signage strategy with Transport for Wales which will include the whole of the National Park. The Transport for Wales report and recommendations were expected by the end of the financial year and the Chief Executive noted that some signs on the A55 were already being used to direct visitors to Yr Wyddfa.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the report and progress achieved so far in implementing the strategy.**
- 2. that Members become Ambassadors of the strategy in their wider roles and remit.**

The meeting ended at 12.40

REPORT OF THE MEMBERS' WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 7th DECEMBER 2022

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, June Jones, Edgar Owen (Chair), Elfed Roberts, John Pughe Roberts;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson;

Officers

Emyr Williams, G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Jane Jones, Dafydd Thomas, Bethan Hughes, Helen Pye, Elliw Owen, Mr. Dafydd Edwards, Section 151 Officer, Sarah Roberts;

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes.

1. Apologies

Councillors Louise Hughes, Kim Jones, Meryl Roberts, Ifor Glyn Lloyd; Ms. Tracey Evans, Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Ms. Delyth Lloyd.

2. Declaration of Interest

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

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Members' Working Group meeting held on 19th October 2022 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.

4. Changes to The Use Class Order and Article 4 Directions – Introduction and Context to The New Legislation

Submitted – A report by the Director of Planning and Land Management to introduce changes to secondary planning legislation and how officers may be able to apply this in Snowdonia.

Reported – The Director of Planning and Land Management presented the report and outlined the main changes to the Use Class Order. Members were advised that they weren't required to make any decisions at the meeting as it was an opportunity to discuss and raise awareness of the change in legislation.

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

- In response to a question, the Director of Planning and Land Management advised that planning permission would be required in any area where the Article 4 Direction had been implemented when changing between Use Class C3 to Class C5 or Class C6.
- In response to a concern by a member, The Director of Planning and Land Management provided a further explanation on paragraph 11 of the report and advised there wasn't a clear definition of what was meant by exceptional circumstances but would be considered as part of the evidence gathering process.

- a member felt that targeting the whole of the National Park would be the most favorable option rather than individual communities and was hopeful that obtaining the ratable lists from the Local Authority for each community would be an effective way to communicate with the relevant properties.
- In response to a question, the Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that the work on implementing the legislation would be additional work for the Planning and Development Management section and informed Members that discussions were currently taking place with the Welsh Government regarding resource implications.
- a Member was concerned regarding the strain placed on the Authority's staff to undertake the additional work. The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that there was no additional funding available to the Authority to carry out the work and advised that Gwynedd Council had applied for additional resources to implement the policy and that the Dwyfor area had been set up as a pilot area by the Welsh Government and possibly the Authority could benefit from this as a small area was within the National Park.
- In response to a question by a Member, the Director of Planning and Land Management advised that obtaining the required information for each community from the Local Authority's Council Tax Department was a good starting point. The Member believed it was important to work with the local Authority in terms of second homes and felt strongly that any new houses should only be built where needed.
- a member asked why the Welsh Government created the move between Use Classes as Permitted Development as this created an extra burden on the Article 4 Direction. In response, the Director of Planning and Land Management advised that it was a matter for the Welsh Government as to why the legislation had been implemented as it had, and the Authority was working on the legislation they had at present. The Member believed that the proportion of holiday homes in particular communities should be regularized across Wales as this would make it easier to justify the position and make the policy stronger to avoid any potential risks. The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that the Authority would agree on a 'sustainable' threshold of holiday homes allowed within the communities of the National Park and the information would be included within the evidence pack circulated to Members.
- a Member was concerned how it would be possible to control the use of Airbnb's and holiday lettings. The Director of Planning and Land Management agreed it would be difficult to control the situation.
- Members further discussed joint working with other Authorities and the Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that Officers were working closely with both Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council on a suitable way forward.
- a member referred to the Rent Smart scheme and believed that although this was used with private lettings asked whether the Authority could implement something similar as it was an effective way of controlling any problems.
- a member asked if external help could be brought in to implement the policy and whether a reserves budget could be used to fund the work. The Chief Executive confirmed there were reserves that could be allocated on a one-off basis, but discussions should take place with both Gwynedd and Conwy Council to agree how to finance elements of the work.
- Members further discussed controlling the use of Airbnb's and second homes and the potential tax implications if requirements weren't met.
- Members noted the proposed timetable for the implementation of the legislation.

RESOLVED

- 3. to note the report and the new regulations introduced by the Welsh Government in October, along with the various implications these could have upon the National Park Authority and Eryri in general.**
- 4. to note feedback received by Members.**
- 5. to support officers to proceed with the initial evidence gathering exercise which will inform whether any potential Article 4 Direction should be pursued.**

5. Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2022- 27 (Draft)

Submitted – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care requesting feedback on the draft strategy.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report and the draft Strategy and outlined the main points.

The Head of Administration and Customer Care informed Members that it was Welsh Language Rights Day and the Authority together with other Public Services were taking part in a national campaign to promote it on social media.

Members were asked to note that the draft Strategy would go out for public consultation following the meeting for a period of 8 weeks rather than 6 weeks as stated in the report to allow additional time due to the Christmas break.

RESOLVED to note the content of the draft Welsh Language Promotion Strategy.

6. The Future of Welsh Communities – Call for Evidence

Submitted – A report by the Principal Policy Officer for Members to provide input into the call for evidence.

Reported – The Principal Policy Officer presented the report and the consultation document and highlighted the main points. Members were asked to concentrate mostly on questions 5 to 12 in the call for evidence. Members were advised that any comments on the other questions could be circulated by email to the Principal Policy Officer.

Members welcomed the report and a member referred to Questions 5 and 10 and felt that although the Welsh Government were aware of the lack of employment in rural areas, they were not doing enough to create jobs for local people and the matter should be addressed as young people were moving from local communities to seek employment.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the report.**
- 2. for Officers to produce a response on behalf of the Authority.**

The meeting ended at 12.10

**LOCAL JOINT WORKING GROUP
FRIDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2022**

PRESENT:

Employer Representative

Councillor Elwyn Edwards;

Employee Representative - Unison

Mr. Rhydian Roberts;

In Attendance (ex-officio)

Councillors Annwen Hughes, Edgar Wyn Owen;

In Attendance

Mr. Emyr Williams, Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mrs. Anwen Gaffey.

Apologies

Councillors Kim Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd; Ms. Sarah Hattle.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes.

1. **Chairman**
RESOLVED to elect Mr. Rhydian Roberts as Chair of the Local Joint Working Group for the ensuing year.
2. **Vice-Chairman**
RESOLVED to elect Councillor Elwyn Edwards as Vice-Chair of the Local Joint Working Group for the ensuing year.
3. **Quorum**
It was noted that the meeting did not have a quorum. In accordance with Standing Order 3.4 the meeting continued at the discretion of the Chair and any resolutions would be subject to ratification by the Authority at its next meeting.
4. **Declarations of Interest**
No declarations of Personal Interests were made in respect of any item.
5. **The Social Partnership & Public Procurement (Wales) Bill**
Submitted – A joint information exercise on trade union facility time implications of the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report and questionnaire. Members agreed the Social Partnership & Public Procurement (Wales) Bill was a positive step forward, although may be more relevant to larger Authorities. The Chief Executive advised that one aim of the Bill was to ensure that Authorities consult formally with the Trade Unions when setting their future Well-being objectives. He confirmed that the Authority's staff had contributed to setting the current Well-being objectives and advised that when the Well-being objectives are next reviewed in 2026, input from both staff and the Trade Unions will be sought. It was agreed that the Trade Union representatives and the Chief Executive and/or Director of Corporate Services would draft their answers separately and would meet to discuss a finalised response.

Arising thereon, the Chief Executive advised that the Authority's Staff Forum, which met on a regular basis prior to the Covid pandemic, would be re-convened to allow members of staff who may not be members of a Trade Union to participate. The Trade Union representative welcomed this proposal, as only 40% of the Authority's staff were currently members of a trade union.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the report.**
- 2. that the Trade Union representatives and the Management Team draft their responses separately and then meet to discuss a finalised response.**

6. Pay Grade Banding

Submitted – An oral report by the Chief Executive.

Reported – The Chief Executive advised that as a result of the Authority's decision to raise staff salaries by two incremental points across the pay spine (Green Book terms and conditions) this had led to a need to reorganise the pay bands. Currently some bands may contain only one pay grade whilst others have up to 7 or 8 pay grades. This work will be carried out jointly by the Chief Executive and the Head of Human Resources.

Arising thereon, the Chief Executive confirmed that the pay settlement for 2022/23 had been agreed and implemented. The pay settlement for 2023/24 was yet to be decided and the Chief Executive noted that the Trade Unions were seeking a higher increase than the Authority had allocated in its budget.

RESOLVED to note the oral report, for information.

7. Hybrid Working

Submitted – An oral report by the Chief Executive.

Reported – The Chief Executive advised that a workshop was being held in December for Heads of Services, who have been asked to discuss future hybrid working practice for office-based staff with their teams, and the Management Team. The Chief Executive explained that he had delayed making a decision on the matter as the agenda had moved on. Originally, the need to work from home was due to the pandemic but was now considered as a new way of working. As part of the workshop the following issues would be considered:-

- the benefits of being flexible
- staff workload
- the carbon agenda
- staff mental health and wellbeing

The Chief Executive advised that some departments currently ask their staff to work from the office on a Monday. The Trade Union Representative agreed that this had benefitted some staff, especially with regard to their mental health and wellbeing.

The following matters were also discussed:-

- the option of renting office space and whether hot desking was being considered.
- working in an office environment provides staff with the opportunity to share ideas.
- staff who have joined the National Park from other organisations regard the Authority as an employer who appreciates its workforce.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the intention was to provide staff with a choice, within guidelines, whilst taking the requirements of the post and the needs of the individual into account. He anticipated that new hybrid working arrangements would be in place by April 2023.

RESOLVED to note the oral report, for information.

8. 2023/24 Finance

Submitted – An oral report by the Chief Executive.

Reported – The Chief Executive advised that he was waiting for confirmation of the grant settlement for 2023/24 but was encouraged to hear that Welsh Government would receive additional funding for schools, the NHS and social care. This may be good news for the Authority as the pressure on the government may not be as bad as was originally feared. He reported upon a recent meeting with the Minister and that in a recent letter the Minister had noted her appreciation for the work carried out by the National Parks, and that she would make every effort to provide additional support. The Chief Executive noted that it was difficult to provide any financial assurances until the budget had been announced, but as the Authority had been awarded a flat budget for this financial year and the following two years, the anticipated cost of inflation would be approximately £1 million over the next 3 years. The Minister had suggested the Authority should consider what it could do less of over the next two years, as by year 3 additional funding may be available. The Welsh Government will be advised of its budget allocation by the UK government on the 13th December 2022 which may provide some indication of what to expect.

The Chief Executive confirmed that Members, at a recent Authority meeting, were open to using some of the Authority's reserves to meet the challenge. In response to a question from the Trade Union representative, the Chief Executive confirmed that the main inflationary pressure on the Authority would be the pay award. He also advised that the cost of fuel and utilities were anticipated to increase by £125k next year. The Chief Executive stated that staff cuts were not anticipated and that the pay award would be supported.

The Chief Executive advised upon a timeline for the process. Once he receives confirmation of the settlement, he will meet with the Management Team and the Section 151 Officer in order to fully understand the implications. A paper will then be presented, initially to Senior Members, to develop options prior to preparing a report to be considered by the Members' Working Group. The Authority's Staff and Trade Unions will then be formally consulted, and a detailed report presented to the Authority for decision.

RESOLVED to note the oral report, for information.

The meeting ended at 10.45

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	8 th February 2023
TITLE	Exempting the Report: TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE SNPA SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM: DIRECTORS
REPORT BY	Chief Executive
PURPOSE	To request the Authority to approve the exemption of the above report

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 I have considered the grounds for exemption of information contained in the report referred to above and make the following recommendations to the Authority:
- 1.2 Exemptions applying to the report:
- 1.2.1 12. Information relating to a particular individual.
13. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
14. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
- 1.3 Factors in favour of disclosure: None
- 1.4 Prejudice which would result if the information were disclosed:
- i. Regardless of how the report is worded the identity of the individual or individuals concerned would be ascertained.
 - ii. Regardless of how the report is worded the financial affairs of the person, persons or Authority the subject of the report would be revealed.
- 1.5 My view on the public interest test is as follows:
- i. Public interest is best served if the Authority retains the information in order to ensure the identity of the individual(s) concerned and the financial information is protected.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That the Authority agrees to make the report “Terms and conditions of service SNPA senior management team: Directors” exempt from disclosure.