

NOTICE OF MEETING



Eryri National Park Authority

Jonathan Cawley

Chief Executive

Eryri National Park Authority

Penrhyndeudraeth

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Meeting: Eryri National Park Authority
Date: Wednesday 5th February 2025
Time: 10.00 a.m.
Location: Eryri National Park Authority Office,
Penrhyndeudraeth and Via Zoom

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

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

*Councillors: Elwyn Edwards, Delyth Lloyd Griffiths,
Annwen Hughes, Louise Hughes, Edgar Wyn Owen,
Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts,
Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams;*

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors: Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Nia Owen;

Members appointed by The Welsh Government

*Brian Angell, Tim Jones,
Delyth Lloyd, Naomi Luhde-Thompson.*

This Agenda is also available in Welsh



A G E N D A

		Page Number
1.	Apologies for absence and Chair's Announcements	
2.	Corporate Update To receive an oral update from the Interim Chief Executive.	
3.	Public Question Time The Authority has allocated up to 20 minutes at the start of its meeting to allow members of the public the opportunity to ask specific questions that relate to the work of the Authority (apart from planning applications) that is relevant to the Park's duties and purposes. Questions must be submitted in writing (by post or e-mail) to the Director of Corporate Services at least 7 days prior to the meeting.	
4.	Declaration of Interest To receive any disclosure of interest by members or officers in respect of any item of business.	
5.	Minutes The Chair shall propose that the minutes of the meeting of this Authority held on 13 November 2024 be signed as a true record. (Copy herewith)	4 - 12
6.	Matters for Information arising from the minutes	
7.	Action Log To submit the Action Log, for information and decision. (Copy herewith)	13
8.	Election of Member to the Local Joint Working Group Oral submission by the Deputy Chief Executive	
9.	Ffermio Bro: Farming in Designated Landscapes program To submit a report by the Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture. (Copy herewith)	14 - 17
10.	Authority Budget and Levy on Constituent Authorities 2025/2026 To submit a report by the Chief Finance Officer. (Copy herewith)	18 - 28
11.	Capital Strategy 2025/2026 To submit a report by the Chief Finance Officer. (Copy herewith)	29 - 36
12.	Performance & Resources Committee minutes To submit the Minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 27 November 2024 for information. (Copy herewith)	37 - 40

13. **Members' Working Group Report** 41 - 44
To submit the report of the Members' Working Group meeting held on 4 December 2024. (Copy herewith)
14. **Meetings of Other Organisations**
To receive oral reports from Members on any recent meetings which they have attended as representatives of the Authority.



ERYRI NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 13th of NOVEMBER 2024
National Park Office

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Edgar Wyn Owen (Chairman), Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Louise Hughes, June Jones, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Jo Nuttall, Nia Owen;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Brian Angell, Tim Jones, Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Delyth Lloyd;

Officers

G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Dewi Aeron Morgan, Sian Owen, Ioan Gwilym, Eifion Jones. (Nia Murray and Edward Jones joined the second part of the meeting.)

1. Apologies for absence and Chairman's Announcements

Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Nia Owen to her first meeting as a Member of the Park Authority. He noted that Nia Owen was the successor of Councillor Dilwyn Owain Roberts who had resigned from being a Member of the Park Authority as a result of his promotion to the Conwy County Borough Council Cabinet. He suggested that the Park should send him an official letter to thank him.

2. Corporate Update

Received from the Interim Chief Executive.

He reported:

- that the COPA1 Conference, held on the 24th of September, had been a great success. 55 school pupils attended. A number of ideas were discussed regarding tackling the rubbish crisis on Yr Wyddfa. Three ideas made the top three, and grants of £1500 were available to deliver these ideas. The staff were congratulated on the success of the conference.
- That he himself, Councillor Edgar Owen (Chairman of the Authority), Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd (Vice-chairman of the Authority), and Delyth Lloyd had recently attended the National Parks UK Conference. They were celebrating 75 years of Landscapes for All. The obstacles experienced by some people, for example people with disabilities, from being able to enjoy the landscapes of the countryside were highlighted.

- on the parking issues in the Park and that:
 - a series of officer meetings has been held to discuss solutions to the parking issues, specifically in Nant Gwynant, Ogwen, the foreshore of Llyn Tegid and Llangywer;
 - the Authority has received legal advice regarding the matter and that this had made the Authority's options clearer;
 - Jason Diamond's secondment period from North Wales Police has now come to an end, and it has been very successful, and he thanked him for his contribution during that period.
- that the Yr Wyddfa Partners and Stakeholders Workshop was held in Llanberis in October in order to build on the special work it was already doing, and to start planning for the next five years.
- he himself had not been able to attend the Welsh Members National Parks Seminar held in Pembrokeshire on 6-7 November due to illness, but he thanked everyone who went and he had heard that it was a good conference.

There was a discussion on the problem of car parking in the Park and some comments and suggestions were offered by the Members. The Interim Chief Executive proposed to prepare a paper on the matter to be presented at the March meeting of the Members' Working Group (if there was no opportunity to present it sooner).

3. **Public Question Time**

No question was received from the public.

4. **Declaration of Interest**

The Interim Chief Executive declared an interest in items 22 (Exemption of Report: Proposed Structure of the Management Team) and 24 (Proposed Structure of the Management Team) as the reports may affect his job.

5. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Authority's meetings held on 11 September 2024 and on 2 October were received, and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

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

No issue was raised from the minutes.

7. **Action Log**

The Director of Corporate Services presented the Action Log.

Recommended: – the Action Log should remain as presented

Resolved: to accept the Recommendation.

8. **The Authority's Risk Profile Report**

The Director of Corporate Services presented the Authority's Risk Profile Report. He said:

- that the risks the Authority faced were divided into three categories, namely High Priorities, Medium Priorities and Low Priorities;
- that 19 risks had been identified on the Profile: 2 as High risks, 16 as Medium risks and 1 as a Low risk;
- that 3 new risks have been included on the Authority's Risk Register:
 - Resilience of the Management Team (risk 17)
 - The Proposal to Introduce Article 4 Guidance: Risk of Judicial Review (risk 18)
 - to Introduce Article 4 Guidance: Insufficient capacity to cope with the increase in workload (risk 19)
- that Risk category 18 has been entered incorrectly in the programme: it should be green (low risk category) rather than amber (medium risk category).

Recommended: – that the Authority note the content of the report.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

9. **National Parks Wales Executive Committee meeting**

The Minutes of the National Parks of Wales Executive Committee Meeting held on the 3 June 2024 were submitted.

The Minutes were **noted**.

10. **The Standards Committee**

The Interim Chief Executive presented a recommendation to the Members to appoint two Members to the Standards Committee and agree on the process to appoint a new Independent Member onto the Committee.

He advised:

- that the term of the current chairman of the Committee, Mrs Sharon Warnes, had now come to an end and that the Authority had to appoint anew by advertising the position in accordance with the regulations, and establishing an interview panel;
- that Councillor Dilwyn Roberts and Mrs Sarah Hattle were no longer members of the Authority and that nominations were requested at the meeting to appoint two members for the Standards Committee, one from a Local Authority background and the other a member appointed by the Welsh Government.

Recommended:

- (i) That the Authority appoint two members of the Authority as members of the Standards Committee to continue until that member ceases to be a member of the Authority.
- (ii) In relation to the vacant post of Independent Member of the Standards Committee that the Authority advertises the post for a period of five years and establishes an Interview Panel of five in accordance with the Regulations to include one Lay Member to be chosen by the Monitoring Officer.

Resolved:

- (i) To appoint Naomi Luhde-Thompson and Councillor Nia Owen as new members of the Standards Committee

- (ii) To accept the Recommendation.

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

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services on the Draft Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

He advised:

- that the Panel had decided that salaries should be increased in line with inflation;
- that there were no changes to the travel costs;
- that the rates payable to Independent Members of the Authority's Standards Committee had not changed;
- that the report, if it were to be published without changes, would incur minor implications in terms of resources which would mean that the current budgets needed to be increased, but it would not make a big difference to the financial challenge the Authority was facing.

Recommended: – to discuss the draft Annual Report and decide on the Authority's response.

Resolved to accept the report and its proposals as it was.

12. **Open Day Feedback; Public Comments relating to Plas Tan y Bwlch**

The head of communications presented a report on the feedback collated during the recent drop-in session regarding the possible sale of Plas Tan y Bwlch.

He advised:

- that some of the responses noted that the communication about the disposal of Plas Tan y Bwlch could have been better;
- that 180 members of the public came to the drop-in session and that it was a good opportunity for the public to express their concerns and for the staff to better explain the situation;
- that the community's response to the possibility of selling Plas Tan y Bwlch showed that maintaining public access to the woodlands and Llyn Mair was a strong priority, and access to the house was generally secondary.

Recommended: – to note the report for informational purposes in order to enable the Authority to gain a full understanding of the issues arising from the communication with the public before making any decisions regarding the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

13. **Review of decision to use *Eryri* and *Yr Wyddfa* only in the Authority's communications**

The Head of Communications presented a report reviewing two years of the Authority using the names *Eryri* and *Yr Wyddfa* only.

He noted:

- positive outcomes as well as challenges and areas for improvement;
- people's sentiment towards using the Welsh words was changing with newspapers and the media in England using the Welsh words, and the Park's partners now using the Welsh words only;

- confusion continues between the name of the Park and the mountain;
- negative comments continue on social media;
- some had requested assistance with the pronunciation of the words.

Recommended: – to use *Eryri* and *Yr Wyddfa* only in all communications from the Authority that are not considered statutory or legal.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

14. **The Authority's Logo**

Report submitted by the Head of Communications.

He explained that the Authority had decided to use the names "Eryri" and "Yr Wyddfa" in all communications from the Authority. He said that updating the Authority's official logo was an essential step to reflect this change of use and branding, and that continuing to have a logo that included the term "Snowdonia" was inconsistent with the communications.

Draft logos were presented.

Recommended: – that the Authority

- Approve the modification of the Authority's logo to use only 'Eryri'.
- Authorize the implementation of the changes over time when necessary in order to ease the workload on staff and resources

Resolved:

- To adopt the logo below:



- To accept the Recommendation

15. **Place Names Projects Annual Report**

In the absence of the Head of Cultural Heritage a report on the Place Names Projects was presented by the Interim Deputy Chief Executive.

He advised:

- that the aim of the project was to record as many of the of the National Park's landscape names as possible, from field names to the names of pools in rivers;
- that the list of standard names for Eryri's lakes had already been adopted by ENPA and the Standardization Panel of the Welsh Language Commissioner and since then, work has been carried out to standardize the names of Eryri's waterfalls and passes;
- that only Welsh landscape names would be upheld, recognizing at the same time that some names in other languages exist in Eryri;
- that five name recording workshops have been held this year and that three more workshops have been arranged for 2024/25. The relevant communities had warmly welcomed the work undertaken.

Recommended: – that Members accept the report for information, to provide feedback on the progress of the work and any ideas for further projects.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

16. **Update On The 2024/25 Budget**

A report was presented by the Head of Finance summarizing the revised revenue and capital budgets for 2024/25 with changes that reflected the period from the beginning of the financial year up to 30 September 2024.

An update on the 2022/23 Audit Plan was also provided, reporting that the Authority was currently working with the Auditors to prepare the plan. It was advised that the Authority normally approved the plan but, as the plan was not ready in time for the current meeting, the recommendation was that the Auditors present it to the next meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee.

Recommended: – to accept the report and note the current financial situation for 2024/25, and that the Auditors present a report on the 2023/23 Audit Plan at the next meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

17. **Basic Revenue Budget 2025/26**

The Chief Finance Officer presented a report presenting details of the 2025/26 draft budget and showing the estimated cost of continuing the current services, and funding approved costs for the future.

Recommended: – note the basic budget planned for 2025/26 as outlined.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

18. **Reports of the Members' Working Group**

The reports of the Members' Working Group held on 22 May 2024 and on 26 June 2024 were presented.

Resolved to note the reports.

19. **Minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee**

The minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 11 September 2024 were presented for information.

Resolved to note the minutes.

20. **Meetings of Other Organizations**

The Chairman asked if any Member had attended an external meeting as a representative of the Authority. Tim Jones reported that he had attended the British National Parks Partnership meeting. He also reported that he had been unable to attend the Europarc Conference, which was being held virtually, because he had not received the links and access details in time.

21. **Exempt Report: Plas Tan y Bwlch - Update and Options**

The Interim Chief Executive submitted a recommendation proposing that the Authority approve the exclusion of the report, "Discussion on the Future of Plas Tan y Bwlch" under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

He explained that the relevant exemptions in the report were that it contained information which were:

- Relevant to a specific individual
- Likely to reveal the identity of the individual
- Discuss a particular person's financial or business affairs

He noted that being open and transparent were factors in favour of disclosure.

Recommended: – that the Authority in exempt the "Plas Tan y Bwlch - Update and Options" report.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

22. **Exempt Report: Proposed Structure Of The Management Team**

The Interim Chief Executive left the room whilst this item was being discussed.

The Chief Executive Designate submitted a recommendation to ask the Authority to approve the exclusion of the report, "Proposed Structure of the Management Team" under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

He explained that the relevant exceptions to the report were that it contained information which was:

- Relevant to a specific individual
- Likely to reveal the identity of the individual
- Disussing a particular person's financial or business affairs

He noted that there were no factors in favour of disclosure.

Recommended: – that the Authority exempt the report, "Proposed Management Team Structure."

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

PART 2

23. **Plas Tan y Bwlch - Update and Options**

The Interim Chief Executive presented a report on Update and Options on the Future of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Property.

He reported that the latest situation was that:

- one offer of £1.2M for the all of the property had been received
- 1 party had confirmed interest and was reviewing the condition survey; they had indicated that their internal process for obtaining approval from Trustees after a due diligence process would take a few months to complete (early 2025) when they would have capacity.
- everyone else who had shown interest so far had now withdrawn.

He suggested that all of the above confirmed that the Plas had been priced correctly.

He further reported:

- that a community company had submitted a report which broadly stated their position so far. The report included a possible two-year plan, and the Authority postponing its decision until April 25 would enable the company to progress – the result of their grant application should be known by then. Further postponing the decision for more time now would pose an unacceptable risk to the Authority;
- there were four options in terms of public access to the Plas land post-sale; the option to separate the woodland and the paths from Plas and the gardens meaning that the situation with the paths would remain as it stood was the easiest and best option;
- the Authority had contacted archival institutions and local and national museums to discuss options for managing collections at Plas Tan y Bwlch. All options were being considered, including keeping part of the collection within the Authority, transferring parts of it to other accredited organizations and displaying the collection in the local vicinity;
- that the Authority held the freehold for Plas Tan y Bwlch. This title was registered with HM Land Registry and there were no issues appearing on this title which would appear to affect the Authority in disposing of all or part of it;
- that the cost of mothballing the Plas would be significantly lower than the current cost. However, mothballing the property would likely be unpopular locally. It would also inevitably lead to a higher risk of vandalism and theft, and that this risk could only be partially mitigated by providing more security. The financial cost to the Authority could be significant if this type of thing were to happen. It would also lead to significant damage to the Authority's reputation. He therefore preferred to keep the Plas open as it was for the time being.

Following a full discussion the following recommendation was made.

Recommended – that the Authority:

- (i) formally annul the decision made by the Authority regarding Plas Tan y Bwlch dated 11 September 2024.
- (ii) postpone a decision on the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch until the Authority's meeting on 30 April 2025.
- (iii) continue to communicate and negotiate with those parties who have shown interest so far with the intention of gaining a better understanding of their interest and ability to buy.
- (iv) use this time to carry out an assessment of the ability of any potential buyer to fund repairs and improvements that are necessary to Plas Tan y Bwlch and whatever plans they have for the property. This assessment includes an assessment of any Community Company's ability to proceed with their plans and the likely timetable in question.
- (v) meanwhile, formally remove Plas Tan y Bwlch from the market.
- (vi) consider and decide the preferred option in order to ensure public access to the woodlands and Llyn Mair via a formal decision by the Authority as soon as possible.
- (vii) if negotiations referred to in (iii) do not succeed and/or if all potential buyers fail the assessment referred to in (iv), all options including placing Plas Tan y Bwlch back on the market open will be considered.
- (viii) hold a further drop-in session on a date to be arranged but before the

Authority's meeting on 30 April 2025 in order to communicate the Authority's decision and listen to any unresolved concerns that local communities and beyond have.

Resolved: to accept the Recommendation.

24. **Proposed Structure Of The Management Team**

The Interim Chief Executive left the room for this item.

The Chief Executive Designate submitted a report on the Proposed Structure of the Management Team to request the Authority's approval to increase the numbers on the Management Team from 3 to 4.

He reported:

- that the Management Team had included 4 members in the past and the number was cut to 3 due to budget cuts;
- that there is a lot of pressure on such a small team;
- that he was aware that providing an additional member to the Management Team would mean significant implications in terms of resources, which clearly made this a difficult decision, but he felt obliged to propose this despite the difficulties;
- that this was the right time to consider the new structure and responsibilities for the Management Team.

Recommended:

- (i) that the Authority supports the increase in the number of Management Team Members from 3 to 4, which would be structured as follows: Chief Executive, Director of Corporate and Legal Services and 2 other Directors. The administrative support would continue as it was.
- (ii) The Corporate Director would continue as Deputy Chief Executive for 6 months and that role would be reviewed by the CEO and the Chairman of the Authority after the 6 months period.

Resolved: to accept the Recommendation.

The meeting ended at 13:00



TAFLEN WEITHREDU – ACTION SHEET

AUTHORITY MEETING – 08.02.2023

ITEM NO. AND TITLE	DECISIONS / OBSERVATIONS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE or COMPLETION DATE	REMOVE FROM ACTION LOG
16. Terms and Conditions of Service – SNPA Senior Management Team: Directors	- that the Panel, together with the Head of Human Resources and the new Section 151 Officer, are tasked and authorised to address potential matters resulting from turnover of personnel in the Senior Management Team.	Need to arrange a meeting to consider the issues, date is yet to be agreed	NM	Noted and issue is being monitored.	NO

MEETING	Authority
DATE	5 February 2025
TITLE	Ffermio Bro: farming in designated landscapes program.
REPORT BY	Head of conservation, woodland and agriculture
PURPOSE	Member briefing

BACKGROUND

Ffermio Bro (FFB) has been developed by Welsh Government (WG) officials and Designated Landscapes officers following prolonged identification of need for capital grant packages for land managers in landscapes and the successful delivery of Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places collaborative projects.

It has been developed on the back of a very effective program available in England, Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL).

The proposal for the Welsh program is to be a transition program for land managers from current provision to the proposed Sustainable Farming Scheme Collaborative layer scheduled to start in 2029.

The Welsh programme will not be as comprehensive as the English counterpart due to funding limitations. Funding is derived from the WG Rural Affairs budget.

Projects will be aimed at delivering against the four Sustainable Land Management objectives:

- Sustainable production of food and other goods
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide
- Conserve and enhance countryside and cultural resources (promoting public access and engagement, sustaining and promoting Welsh language and facilitating its use)

It will be available in all eight Welsh designated landscapes, starting in April 2025 over a three-year delivery window.

Year one funding provision is set out in table one, and table two contains revenue breakdown, at writing there is no provision for consumables or overheads, but officers have raised the concern with WG officers.

Table 1: Capital allocations in year one.

Designated Landscape	Area in km ²	% of total	Capital 25-26 £		
			75% Floor	Allocation by land area	Total allocation
National Park Authorities					
Bannau Brycheiniog	1,344	25.97		146,122	275,966
Eryri	2,130	41.16		231,589	361,433
Pembrokeshire Coast	629	12.15		68,363	198,206
Total National Parks	4,103	79.3		446,074	835,605
National Landscapes			45% Floor		
Clwydian Range & Dee V	389.26	7.52		42,312	128,874
Gower	188	3.63		20,424	106,987
Ynys Môn	221	4.27		24,025	110,588
Llŷn	155	3		16,880	103,442
Wye Valley (in Wales)	118.71	2.29		12,885	99,447
Total National Landscapes	1,071.97	20.7		116,526	549,339
Total Designated Landscapes	5,175	100		562,600	1,384,943

Table 2. Revenue funding breakdown for year one.

Designated Landscape	% of Capital Allocation	Revenue resource 25-26 £
National Park Authorities		
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park	19.93%	£54,810
Eryri National Park	26.1%	£71,775
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park	14.31%	£39,355
National Landscapes		
Clwydian Range & Dee Valley National Landscape	9.3%	£25,575
Gower National Landscape	7.72%	£21,230
Ynys Môn National Landscape	7.98%	£21,945
Llŷn National Landscape	7.47%	£20,545
Wye Valley National Landscape*	7.18%	£19,745
Total Designated Landscapes	100%	275,000

The project will be administered by project officers (funded), in regions with an increasing staff resource becoming online in years two and three along with a regional administrative officer. Capital allocations are projected to more than double by years two and three for each landscape.

Work options will be based largely in a menu of capital works and standard costs, in particular in year one with more bespoke options becoming available in years two and three.

Large projects (expected to be over £10K threshold) will be referred to a regional panel for approval. Four panels made up of farmers, farming unions and NGO representation are expected to be formed operating in NW, NE SW and SE. More detail is awaited on governance and structures of the panels and their relation to the Rural Payments Wales mechanism.

Officers have expressed concerns that to deliver ambitious nature recovery and landscape works that more flexibility should be attributed to the scheme options and payment rates. Current provision is unattractive to landowners due to cumbersome, protracted agreements, payment rates insufficient to match costs and significant delays in payments leading to low uptake rates, there is risk that re branding options alone will not increase uptake and that the huge potential of the programme will not materialise.

The development of the program does allow DL's to develop staff capacity and experience in advance of the new SFS programme with a strong desire to be involved in the delivery of the collaborative layer delivery. This could not be undertaken on current resources within the authority.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The project brings in revenue funding for the project delivery.

In year one, the structured revenue from Welsh Government is sufficient for 1.5 FTE officers in Eryri, with the expectation to deliver on Llŷn and Môn AONB.

In years two and three the revenue funding will raise to two officers in Eryri, and additional officers in Llŷn and Môn AONB.

Officers feel that the workload would be beyond the capacity of 1.5 FTE in year one, with this in mind officers have decided to recruit 2FTE officers for Eryri in year one. It will require £21K to be made available to fill the post and this will be made up from department budget (a saving from one member of staff on sabbatical period), therefore there will be no net additional cost on the Authority.

Revenue funding in years two and three will be sufficient to pay costs.

Discussions with Llŷn and Môn Officers have resulted in their decision to pool their revenue funding, and top up required funds from their Authorities resources, to allow recruitment of a third officer who will be recruited with Eryri, with a caveat that one will be delivering in the AONB's and may be relocated in year two.

This decision allows for a stronger recruitment drive and allows officers more time to understand the project and workload and provide a longer more stable delivery mechanism.

Welsh Government has an additional revenue stream in years two and three for regional admin support. Officers have decided to pursue the recruitment of this officer in year 1 with funding again derived from savings from the officer on sabbatical leave (no net cost to the Authority) which allows project staff more ability to deliver and have a dedicated administrative and finance officer overseeing contracts, expenditure and claims due to the scale and complexity of the project.

Other core and project delivery staff operating within the Authority will have roles to play in supporting these officers during delivery which will have some work-load implications for some departments. We remain awaiting confirmation on consumables and overheads operating budget.

Financial resource, the payments will be made retrospectively, on a quarterly basis, leaving minor financial exposure, however it does carry a low risk of delayed payments or non-payment as the system is based on Rural Payments Wales mechanism.

Officers have concerns derived from past project delivery that the risk exposure of non-payment could be an issue and discussion is underway with officials to minimise this exposure.

RECOMMENDATION

To discuss content and approve officers continued development of the programme for use in Eryri.

MEETING	Eryri National Park Authority
DATE	5 February 2025
TITLE	THE AUTHORITY'S BUDGET & LEVY ON CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES 2025/26
REPORT BY	Chief Finance Officer
PURPOSE	To approve the 2025/26 revenue and capital budget and the levies on constituent authorities based on the Welsh Government's draft grant allocation figure for the Authority.

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of the Authority's budget for 2025/26 based on the draft National Park Grant settlement for 2025/26. The final grant settlement will be confirmed in March 2025, so there is a possibility of change in the meantime.
- 1.2 This report also contains details of the levy distributed between the two constituent authorities, namely Cyngor Gwynedd and Conwy County Borough Council based on the indicative grant figure.
- 1.3 The budgets presented in this report are based on a standstill budget. That is, a level of expenditure necessary to continue with the current level of services in 2025/26, without any developmental additions.

2. Revenue Budget 2025/26

- 2.1 Information about the draft settlement was received in December 2024 and an increase of around 5% was announced to the Authority's core funding. In actual terms this is an increase of £206k in the core funding, which will also result in an increase of £68k in the levies raised on the constituent authorities. This is news to be welcomed, however the Authority continues to face an extremely challenging financial situation and starts the financial year with a deficit in the baseline of £635,850.

- 2.2 Following the presentation of the Basic Revenue Budget 2025/26 at the Authority meeting on the 13th of November 2024, adjustments were made which have been presented in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 An inflation provision of 2% has been set for wage increases in 2025/26 (£120,000). Inflation rates continue to fall compared to levels seen over the past two years, with the current rate being 2.5%.
- 2.4 As a result of the revaluation of the rateable value of the Authority's property in 2023/24, there is an increase of £22,040 to the baseline in the 2025/26 budget.
- 2.5 A change in the structure of the Leadership Team means an additional position of Director has been included within the budget, at a cost of £97,000, approved by the Authority on 13th November 2024.
- 2.6 We note that the costs of Plas Tan y Bwlch will continue to be funded from the reserves in 2025/26.

3. Analysis of the 2025/26 Revenue Budget

- 3.1 Based on the draft grant figure, Appendices 2 and 3 contain information about the Authority's budget for 2025/26, analysing the net revenue budget at key service area level (Appendix 2) and on the basis of standard subjective headings (Appendix 3).
- 3.2 Appendix 4 contains a more detailed analysis of the revenue budget at individual departmental level in every key service area. The analysis and the net costs of the services also include estimates for assumed capital costs.

4. Capital Budget 2025/26

- 4.1 Gross capital expenditure is estimated at £1,443,130 funded from capital grants, together with contributions from the Authority's revenue budget and reserves. (see Appendix 5 for details).

The £1,443,130 is funded from:

	£
Welsh Government Capital Grants	800,000
Other Grants	400,000
Authority baseline and reserves	243,130
	1,443,130

5. Use of Reserves

- 5.1 At the time of writing the report it is anticipated that the 2025/26 budget will include a net contribution of £504,740 from the Authority's reserves. A significant part of the financial challenge will be met during the year, with any remainder being funded from the reserves, however this amount is not reflected in the above figure. There is

therefore an expectation that this contribution will increase. There is an outline below, and the full details are in Appendices 6 and 7.

The contribution of £504,740 of funds includes:

Revenue £457,440 (appendix 6.)

Capital £47,300 (appendix 7.)

Please see appendices 6 & 7 for full details

6. Levy on Constituent Authorities

6.1 Section 71 of the Environment Act 1995 and the National Parks Authorities (Wales) Levy (Amendment) Regulations prescribe the method of setting a levy, 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 from 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 Act above.

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" from the Schedule to the Act.

2025/26	(£)	Shares	(£)
Government Grant	4,325,806		
Total Levies	1,441,935		
Funding Total	5,767,741		
Apportionment of the Levy:	Cyngor Gwynedd	77.1%	1,111,732
	Conwy County Borough Council	22.9%	330,203
	Total	100%	1,441,935

6.4 How the £8,223,370 budget is funded (see appendices 2-4) is summarised as follows:-

Government Grant	£4,325,806
Total Levies	£1,441,935
Contribution (net) from Reserves	£ 504,740
In year grants expected	£1,315,040
Deficit	<u>£ 635,850</u>
Budget 2025/26	<u>£8,223,370</u>

7. RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Approve Eryri National Park Authority's revenue and capital budget for 2025/26, as presented in the following appendices.

7.2 Approve the levies on the billing authorities, as stated in part 6.3 above.

	(£)	(£)
1 Base Budget 2024/25		7,195,246
2 Change in staff costs		
Compulsory Changes		
Effect of National Insurance Increase	112,388	
2024/25 Pay Award (£1,290 on each scale point)	178,853	
Decrease in Inflation Provision	-	229,986
		61,255
Discretionary Changes		
Minor changes to staff/structure	83,225	83,225
3 Changes in Expenditure		
Increase		
Pen y Pass Barrier Maintenance	110,000	
Member Allowances	24,060	
Changes in Rateable Value	22,040	
Information Technology Subscription Costs	5,000	
Cleaning Contract	1,175	162,275
Decrease		
Information Technology re-structure	-	10,000
Correction to Historical grant figure	-	20,000
Dark Skies Adjustment	-	60,800
		- 90,800
4 Changes in Income		
Increase		
Pen y Pass Car Park Income	-	110,000
Accommodation Provision at Information Centres	-	610
HLF Carneddau Income	-	12,312
Decrease in income due to ERAMMP completion	-	17,000
		- 104,702
Additional Capital Projects financed from Grants/Reserves	916,871	916,871
5 Base Budget 2025/26		8,223,370
6 National Park Grant and levy 2025/26		- 5,767,740
7 Net contribution from reserve & in year grants		
Capital Grants Reserve	Carneddau - Data Lidar	- 18,900
Capital Grants Reserve	Carneddau - Paths	- 28,400
Match Funding Reserve	Carneddau	- 25,000
Revenue Grant Reserve	Wellbeing paths	- 40,000
Project Reserve	Young People Officer	- 41,900
Project Reserve	Property Officer	- 50,540
Specific Risk Reserve	Reserves to fund PTYB	- 300,000
NRW Grant	Peatlands Officer Cost	- 33,770
NRW Grant	Peatlands Officer Cost	- 57,270
Welsh Gov. Grant	S.L.S.P Nature and Carbon	- 500,000
Welsh Gov. Grant	General Capital	- 300,000
Department underpends	Temporary Research Planning Officer	- 24,000
NRW Grant	NPAP Project	- 400,000
		- 1,819,780
8 Deficit		635,850

Atodiad 2 / Appendix 2

**CRYNODEB O'R GYLLIDEB REFENIW 2025/26
REVENUE BUDGET SUMMARY 2025/26**

PRIF FEYSYDD GWASANAETH / KEY SERVICE AREAS

	Cyllideb Net Net Budget 2025/26	
	£	%
<u>Gwasanaeth / Service :</u>		
Cynllunio a'r Dreftadaeth Ddiwylliannol a Rheolaeth Tir/ Planning and Cultural Heritage and Land Management	2,488,250	33.3
Corfforaethol / Corporate	4,833,038	64.7
Balansau, Arian Wrth Gefn a Darpariaethau / Balances, Reserves & Provisions	150,000	2.0
Cyllideb Net Gwasanaethau / Net Services Budget	7,471,288	100.0
Llog ar Arian Dros Ben / Interest Earned on Surplus Funds	-100,000	
Cyllido Gwariant Cyfalaf / Financing of Capital Expenditure	1,443,130	
Addasiad Taliadau Cyfalaf / Capital Charges Adjustment	-591,050	
Cyfanswm Cyllideb Cyfrif Refeniw / Total Revenue Account Budget	8,223,370	
<u>Daw'r Arian O / Financed by :-</u>		
Cronfeydd wrth gefn / Reserves (prosiectau/projects)	1,819,780	22.1
Cronfeydd wrth gefn / Reserves (diffyg / deficit)	635,850	7.7
Grant y Parc Cenedlaethol / National Park Grant	4,325,806	52.6
Dyraniad Lefi Rhwng Cynghorau Lleol / Levy Allocation between Constituent Authorities -		
Cyngor Gwynedd Council	1,111,732	13.5
Cyngor Conwy Council	330,203	4.0
	8,223,370	100.0

Atodiad 3 / Appendix 3

CRYNODEB O'R GYLLIDEB REFENIW 2025/26
REVENUE BUDGET SUMMARY 2025/26

LEFEL ODDRYCHOL / SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS

	Cyllideb Budget 2025/26	
	£	%
Gweithwyr / Employees	6,114,029	59.3
Tir ag Adeiladau / Premises & Grounds	1,592,825	15.4
Cludiant / Transport	151,940	1.5
Cyflenwadau a Gwasanaethau / Supplies & Services	1,714,699	16.6
Taliadau Cyfalaf / Capital Charges	591,050	5.7
Arian Wrth Gefn a Darpariaethau / Reserves & Provisions	150,000	1.5
Cyllideb Gros Gwasanaethau / Gross Services Budget	10,314,543	100.0
Incwm / Income	-2,843,252	
Cyllideb Net Gwasanaethau / Net Services Budget	7,471,291	
Llog ar Arian Dros Ben / Interest Earned on Surplus Funds	-100,000	
Cyllido Gwariant Cyfalaf / Financing of Capital Expenditure	1,443,130	
Addasiad Taliadau Cyfalaf / Capital Charges Adjustment	-591,050	
Cyfanswm Cyllideb Cyfrif Refeniw / Total Revenue Account Budget	8,223,370	

CYLLIDEB REFENIW 2025/26
REVENUE BUDGET 2025/26

Costau Gweithwyr a Chostau Rhedeg	Costau Cyfalaf	Cyllideb Gros 2025/26	Gwerthu, Ffioedd ac Incwm Grant	Cyllideb Net 2025/26
Employee Costs & Running Expenses	Capital Charges	Gross Budget 2025/26	Sales Fees & Grant Income	Net Budget 2025/26
£	£	£	£	£

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

Archeoleg / Archaeology	70,205	-	70,205	-	70,200
Treftadaeth Diwylliannol / Cultural Heritage	83,530	-	83,530	-	83,530
Ysgwrn	125,604	45,250	170,854	- 46,800	124,050
Cynllun Partneriaeth Tirwedd Carnedau / Carneddau Landscape Partnership Scheme	596,089		596,089	- 571,091	25,000
Cynllunio/ Planning	1,004,889	3,320	1,008,209	- 206,500	801,710
Cadwraeth ac Amaethyddiaeth / Conservation and Agriculture	533,471	10,580	544,051	- 19,220	524,830
LIFE-Coedwigoedd Celtaidd / LIFE - Celtic Rainforests	633,654	-	633,654	- 558,861	74,790
Awyr Dywyll / Dark Skies	60,803	-	60,803	-	60,800
Cynllun Rheolaeth a Phartneriaethau / Park Management Plan and Partnerships	516,497	-	516,497	-	516,500
Canolfannau Gwybodaeth / Information Centres	393,401	5,940	399,341	- 192,500	206,840
	4,018,143	65,090	4,083,233	- 1,594,972	2,488,250

Corfforaethol / Corporate

Costau Gweithwyr a Chostau Rhedeg	Costau Cyfalaf	Cyllideb Gros 2025/26	Gwerthu, Ffioedd ac Incwm Grant	Cyllideb Net 2025/26
Employee Costs & Running Expenses	Capital Charges	Gross Budget 2025/26	Sales Fees & Grant Income	Net Budget 2025/26
£	£	£	£	£

Gweinyddol / Administration	210,913	-	210,913	- 300	210,610
Cyllid / Finance	241,722	1,250	242,972	-	242,970
Technoleg Gwybodaeth / Information Technology	365,981	24,980	390,961	-	390,960
Cyfreithiol / Legal	60,707	-	60,707	-	60,710
Adnoddau Dynol/ Human Resources	217,531	-	217,531	-	217,530
Cyfiethu / Translation	94,557	1,430	95,987	-	95,990
Pencadlys / Headquarters	151,177	121,690	272,867	- 9,000	263,870
Cymorth i Aelodau a'r Awdurdod / Members & Authority Support	234,136	-	234,136	-	234,140
Rheoli Corfforaethol / Corporate Management	774,497	-	774,497	- 1,000	773,500
Plas Tan Y Bwlch	576,736	225,540	802,276	- 272,050	530,228
Eiddo / Property	254,716	-	254,716	-	254,710
Cyfleusterau Ymwelwyr / Visitor Facilities	260,190	67,280	327,470	- 66,160	261,310
Meysydd Parcio / Car Parks	363,660	3,090	366,750	- 830,020	463,270
Llyn Tegid	33,910	2,030	35,940	- 56,120	20,180
Casglu Ysbwriel / Litter Collection	15,000	4,510	19,510	-	19,510
Cyfathrebu/ Communication	307,186	7,300	314,486	- 4,130	310,360

Maniffesto Ieuenctid / Young People's Manifesto	41,899	-	41,899	-	41,900
Llwybrau Llesiant / Well Being Routes	40,000	-	40,000	-	40,000
Mynediad i'r Cyhoedd / Public Access	119,890	4,640	124,530	-	122,530
Wardeiniaid, Gweithwyr Stad a Gwirfoddolwyr / Wardens, Estate Workers and Volunteers	1,185,942	62,220	1,248,162	-	1,240,660
Traffic a Thrafnidiaeth / Traffic and Transport	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000
	5,555,350	525,960	6,081,310	-	1,248,280
					4,833,038

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

Darpariaeth Chwyddiant Cyffredinol / Prices Inflation - Provision	General	30,000	-	30,000	-	30,000
Darpariaeth Chwyddiant Cyflogau / Inflation Provision	Payroll	120,000	-	120,000	-	120,000
		150,000	-	150,000	-	150,000

Cyfanswm Cyllid Gwasanaethau / Total Services Budget		9,723,493	591,050	10,314,543	-	2,843,252	7,471,288
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Llog ar Arian Dros Ben / Interest Earned on Surplus Funds		-	-	-	-	100,000	100,000
Cyllido Gwariant Cyfalaf / Financing of Capital Spend		1,443,130	-	1,443,130	-	-	1,443,130
Addasiad Taliadau Cyfalaf / Capital Charges Adjustment		-	591,050	-	591,050	-	591,050

Cyfanswm Cyllid Cyfrif Refeniw / Revenue Account Budget	Total	11,166,623	-	11,166,623	-	2,943,252	8,223,370
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Capital Expenditure 2025/26**Appendix 5**

Description	(£)	(£)
Information Technology	22,340	
Access Projects	10,000	
Warden Vehicles	14,000	
		<u>46,340</u>
Cultural Heritage Schemes	149,490	
		<u>149,490</u>
Carneddau - Paths	18,900	
		<u>18,900</u>
Carneddau - Lidar Data	28,400	
		<u>28,400</u>
SLSP Nature and Carbon	500,000	
General Capital - Welsh Gov.	300,000	
		<u>800,000</u>
NPAP Grant	400,000	
		<u>400,000</u>
		<u>1,443,130</u>

Revenue Reserves Utilised for 2025/26**Appendix 6**

Project	Reserve	(£)	(£)
Projects Reserve Carneddau project	Projects Reserve	25,000	
Reserve Youth Manifesto	Projects Reserve	41,900	
Salary Costs Property Officer	Projects Reserve	50,540	
			<hr/>
			117,440
Plas Tan y Bwlch	Specific Risks Reserve	300,000	
			<hr/>
			300,000
Projects Reserve Wellness	Revenue Grants Reserve	40,000	
			<hr/>
			40,000
	Total		457,440

Capital Reserves Utilised for 2025/26**Appendix 7**

Project	Reserve	(£)	(£)
Carneddau - Paths	Capital Grants (Welsh Government)	18,900	
Carneddau (Data Lidar)	Capital Grants (Welsh Government)	28,400	
			<hr/>
			47,300
			<hr/>
			47,300

MEETING	Eryri National Park Authority
DATE	5 February 2025
TITLE	CAPITAL STRATEGY 2025/26
REPORT BY	Chief Finance Officer
PURPOSE	To approve the Capital Strategy for 2025/26 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 2025/26 the Authority is planning capital expenditure of £1,443k as summarised below:

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

	2023/24 actual (£'000)	2024/25 forecast (£'000)	2025/26 budget (£'000)	2026/27 budget (£'000)	2027/28 budget (£'000)
General Fund (Corporate Services)	548	638	36	36	36
General Fund (External to the Authority)	1,562	1,467	1,406	1,739	939
Capital Investments	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2,110	2,105	1,443	1,776	976

2.3 The general fund's main capital projects for 2025/26 includes £847,300 worth of projects funded by Welsh Government. This includes £500,000 for Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places (SLSP) projects, as well as a general allocation of £300,000 for capital purposes which is yet to be allocated. Also included is the 3 year National Peatland Action Programme worth £400,000 annually. The main single contribution from the authority will be for Cultural Heritage Schemes as well as 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. Considering the financial challenges currently facing the authority it is unlikely that there will be unspent budgets available for capital purposes over the next three years.

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

	2023/24 actual (£'000)	2024/25 forecast (£'000)	2025/26 budget (£'000)	2026/27 budget (£'000)	2027/28 budget (£'000)
External sources	1,593	1,218	1,247	1,580	780
Own resources	517	886	196	196	196
Debt	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2,110	2,105	1,443	1,775	976

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 in 2025/26.

2.6 The Authority has a capital receipts reserve which is forecasted to stand at £163,790 on 31/3/2025.

2.7 The Authority’s capital financing requirement therefore stands at zero and the Authority is expected to stay debt-free in 2025/26.

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:**

Any decision on proceeds on the sale of any assets would be put before the Authority. 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 2025/26 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

	2023/24 limit	2024/25 limit	2025/26 limit	2026/27 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

No reduction in the 'authorised borrowing limit' nor the 'operational boundary' is recommended, in order to retain flexibility, in the context of inflationary pressures, and the difficult financial position that the Authority is currently facing.

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

	31.3.2024 actual (£'000)	31.3.2025 forecast (£'000)	31.3.2026 budget (£'000)	31.3.2027 budget (£'000)	31.3.2028 budget (£'000)
Near-term investments	12,336	11,150	9,448	7,786	6,724
Longer-term investments	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	12,336	11,150	9,448	7,786	6,724

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, as well as the need to use some of the reserves during this challenging time.

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 sales in the three Information Centres and at the Ysgwrn property. The proceeds contribute to the costs of running the individual services. In 2023/24 a total of £2,434k generated from fees and other service-based income. The main components are as follows:

- Car Park fee income £1,529k
- Planning Fees £247k
- Information Centre sales £331k
- Rent £104k

- 5.3 The risks involved are managed through Yr Ysgwrn management board and budget monitoring reports to Authority members. Yr Ysgwrn is also included on the Corporate Risk Register.

6 LIABILITIES

- 6.1 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.
- 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 2025/26, 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 2025/26 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 2025/26 as outlined in paragraphs 3.5-3.14 of the report, and note the institutions listed in paragraph 3.7.**



**MINUTES OF THE
PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**
WEDNESDAY 27th of NOVEMBER 2024
National Park Office

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Cllr(s) Elfed Powell Roberts (Chair), Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Edgar Wyn Owen, Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Cllr(s) Jo Nuttall, Nia Owen;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Tim Jones, Naomi Luhde-Thompson;

Officers

G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Bethan Hughes, Nia Murray, Awel Gruffydd, Gareth Hughes, Sian Owen, Eifion Jones.

Also present

Rachel Freitag, Audit Manager (item 10 only)

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the meeting was being recorded to assist with checking the minutes and that the recording would be available online at a later date.

1. Apologies for absence and Chairman's Statements

Apologies were received from Cllr(s) Louise Hughes, June Jones, John Pughe Roberts, Ifor Glyn Lloyd, and from Brian Angell and Delyth Lloyd.

The Chair welcomed Cllr Nia Owen to her first meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee.

2. Declaration of Interest

There was no declaration of interest in relation to any item from a member or officer.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Performance and Resources Committee held on the 10 July 2024 and on the 11 September 2024 were adopted, and the Chair signed them as a true record.

4. **Action Sheet**

Submitted – Action Sheet by the Director of Corporate Services.

He said that item 9, *Scrutiny Panel - Eryri Carbon Account*, should be deleted from the leaflet as a *Draft Low Carbon Strategy* had been presented to the Authority's meeting on 12 June 2024.

Recommendation: – to remove item 9 and keep the other two items as they were.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

5. **Strategic Equality Plan**

Submitted – a report on the Authority's Strategic Equality Plan by the Head of Human Resources and the Head of Administration and Customer Care which noted:

- the steps the Authority had taken to determine and collect the relevant information;
- how the Authority had used that information to meet the three aims of the general duty;
- the progress made towards delivering each of the Authority's equality objectives.

Recommendation: – to approve the publication of the Annual Report for 2023-24 on the Authority's website.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

6. **Tourist Information Centres – Annual Report**

Submitted – report by the Sustainable Tourism Manager on the Park's Tourist Information Centres in Aberdyfi, Beddgelert and Betws y Coed.

Reported:

- that the turnover of the three centres has increased over the year
- that the number of visitors has remained stable in Aberdyfi and Betws y Coed, but has decreased slightly in Beddgelert
- Aberdyfi centre has managed to get a full staff complement for the whole season.

The Chief Executive advised that quite far-reaching work is proposed for the Betws y Coed Centre.

Recommendation: – to discuss the content of the report and any steps that should be taken looking forward to 2024-2025.

Report **Accepted**.

7. **Corporate Work Programme**

Submitted – a report by the Director of Corporate Services on the Corporate Work Programme which included details of the progress made in the first and second quarters of 2024 (April - September) to deliver the various projects and initiatives agreed on to deliver the Authority's Improvement Objectives.

Recommendation: – to examine and discuss the Corporate Work Programme

Resolved to accept the Corporate Work Programme.

8. Update of External Funding Grants

Presented - An update on the projects supported by the Authority and confirmation of priorities for external grant support in the future by the Chief Executive.

Recommendation(s): –

- (i) Identify the capital funding projects 2022-2025;
- (ii) Identify the commitment to Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places projects;
- (iii) Confirm priority areas for future bids;
- (iv) Identify the Flow Chart;
- (v) Note progress of live projects.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

9. Health and Safety Report

Submitted: A report on health and safety management within the Authority by the Health and Safety Officer.

Reported that:

- Health and Safety Officer was appointed in January 2024;
- digital systems have been introduced to record illness and that this:
 - enables the reason for the illness to be identified as well as facts,
 - explain, possibly, the increase in the number of accident reported etc.;
- a significant increase has been seen in absences due to stress, anxiety and depression (the rate of absences was similar to other similar organisations);
- well-being is a key focus, with an emphasis on mental health; there is access to counseling on the Wellness 360 app is available to all members of staff, and that two members of staff are trained as a Mental Health First-Aiders and a Wellness *Champion*.

Recommendation(s): – to note the report.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

10. Financial Audit Plan 2022.23

Submitted - A plan for the 2022-23 accounts audit and the 2023 and 2024 performance audit work programme by the External Audit Manager.

Reported

- that this plan is for the 2022-23 accounts audit because the 2021-22 accounts audit has been significantly delayed due to issues relating to the valuation of property, machinery and equipment;
- that is also the reason that the plan specifies a performance audit work programme for 2023 and 2024;
- the financial statement risks and other focus areas;
- the intention is to complete the audit before Christmas and submit the report in February 2025

Recommendation(s): – to accept the plan.

Resolved to accept the Recommendation.

11. **To present the minutes of the Standards Committee for information**

The minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on the 20th of September 2024 were submitted.

Noted: Minutes.

The meeting ended at 10:55



**MEMBERS WORKING GROUP
ERYRI NATIONAL PARK**
Wednesday 4th December 2024

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, June Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Jo Nuttall, Nia Owen;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Brian Angell, Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Delyth Lloyd;

Officers

Jonathan Cawley, Iwan Jones, Eilw Owen, Geraint Evans, Bethan Hughes, Rhys Owen, Rhydian Roberts, Angela Jones, Eifion Jones;

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

In the absence of the Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Chair of the Members' Working Group, Councillor Edgar Wyn Owen chaired the meeting.

1. **Apologies**

Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd and Mr Tim Jones.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

No declaration of personal interests was made in relation to any item.

3. **Minutes**

Submitted: the minutes of the Members' Working Group meeting held on 16th October 2024.

Raised: that the minutes of the meeting did not list Councillor Einir Wyn Williams as an attendee despite her being present, and that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Members' Working Group, held on the 4th of September, had also not noted her presence.

Resolved:

- (i) to note the presence of Councillor Einir Wyn Williams at the Members' Working Group meeting held on the 4th of September, but that it was not possible to amend the minutes as they had already been adopted;
- (ii) formally to amend the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th of October to record the presence of Councillor Einir Wyn Williams at the meeting.

Adopted: the minutes in accordance with the above, and the Chair signed them as a true record.

4. **Consultation Report following public engagement on serving an Article 4 Direction Notice for the Eryri National Park area**

Submitted: a report by the Head of Planning Policy on comments received during the public engagement period on the serving of an Article 4 Direction Notice to the Eryri National Park area

Reported:

- the notice was published on April 12th and the engagement period had lasted 12 weeks;
- 357 responses were received during that period;
- a range of concerns had been raised including possible negative impact on house prices, the housing market, personal finances, tourism and economy; the report responded to these concerns in detail;
- the potential impact on house prices and mortgage availability had been discussed with other local planning authorities that had similar mechanisms and restricted dwellings with a primary residency condition, and no significant impact on house prices or mortgage availability had been observed in those areas;
- other comments were generally supportive of the intention, recognising:
 - that holiday home numbers needed to be managed,
 - the need to ensure sustainable and viable communities,
 - the need to maintain and protect the Welsh Language;
- that the next step would be to present a report on the responses received following the engagement period to the Planning and Access Committee in January 2025 for the Authority's consideration on whether to confirm the Article 4 Direction or not.

The report was *discussed*, and the following observations were made:

- The department was congratulated on the detail and thoroughness of the report;
- That house prices was not a consideration in planning matters; it was a public interest system;
- That pressure should be put on the Welsh Government for financial aid to implement this.

Recommended: – that Authority Members consider the comments received during the engagement period and respond to the comments

Resolved to accept the recommendation.

5. **Draft Outline of the Supplementary Planning Guidance 'Change of Use of Main Home, Second Home and Short-Term Holiday Accommodation'**

Submitted: a report by the Head of Planning Policy on the Draft Outline of the Supplementary Planning Guidance 'Change of Use of Main Home, Second Home and Short-Term Holiday Accommodation'

Reported:

- that officers had prepared a draft outline of the Supplementary Planning Guidance to give further guidance on how to apply the Eryri Local Development Plan policies when considering planning applications for the Change of use of Main home, Second home and Short Term holiday accommodation;
- a threshold of 15% of the total housing stock within a Community/Town Council area had been proposed as the point at which control of second home (C5) and short-term holiday lets (C6) would be necessary; thereafter there would be a presumption against applications for a change of use from a main residence to short-term let accommodation and second homes and mixed uses applications for second homes or short term lets within the Community/Town Council area;
- a full text version would be drafted prior to the public consultation, once initial feedback had been given by the Authority;

The report was discussed, and the following observations made:

- the Authority would need to be able to defend and justify the figure of 15% robustly if it were to be challenged;
- Gwynedd Council had won a court case on a 15% threshold;
- a threshold of 15% could encourage change of use in areas where the percentage was less than that;
- any threshold figure chosen would be reviewed annually;
- the average percentage of second homes nationally was 4%, and that a threshold of 15% was therefore reasonable.

Recommended: – that Authority Members discuss the Draft Outline of the Supplementary Planning Guidance 'Change of Use of Main Home, Second Home and Short-Term Holiday Accommodation' report. Following any changes, a draft version of the Supplementary Planning Guidance will be presented to the Planning and Access Committee for public consultation approval.

Resolved to accept the recommendation

6. Trees and Woodland Strategy

Submitted: report by the Head of Conservation, Trees and Agriculture on the Trees and Woodland Strategy.

Reported:

- this was the final draft version of the Strategy before it would be publicly circulated for comments;
- that the target of increasing the tree coverage to 30% was challenging, but officers were confident that the target could be achieved;
- the next step was to hold one-to-one sessions, drop-ins, online and community meetings to hear the responses of local people to the strategy;
- the strategy was created with the strong support of, and in collaboration with, the Woodland Trust.

Recommended: – to identify and discuss the latest version of the strategy prior to its release as part of the public consultation

Resolved to release the Strategy as part of the public consultation.

7. **State of the Park Report 2024**

Submitted: a report by the Head of Partnerships on the state of the Park.

Reported:

- that the State of the Park Report was a collection of the most up-to-date data across the Designated Landscape, used to analyse and measure the current situation in Eryri;
- that in the past the information had been collected every 5 years and a pdf report produced, but this year a micro-site had been created enabling the information to be updated much quicker, and the information would be publicly available.

Recommended: –

- (i) that Members provide feedback on the core messages of the State of the Park report;
- (ii) that Members agree to progress to produce the State of the Park Report as the basis of the review of Cynllun Eryri in 2025.

Resolved to accept the recommendation

The meeting ended at 12:00