

RHYBUDD O GYFARFOD / NOTICE OF MEETING



Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri

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Snowdonia National Park Authority

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Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri

Dyddiad: *Dydd Mercher 13 Hydref 2021*

Gofynnir i'r Aelodau ymuno â'r cyfarfod 15 munud cyn yr amser cychwyn dynodedig

Amser: *10.00 y.b.*

Anfonir cyfarwyddiadau ymuno at yr Aelodau ar wahân

Snowdonia National Park Authority

Date: *Wednesday 13 October 2021*

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

Time: *10.00 a.m.*

Joining instructions will be sent to Members separately

Aelodau wedi'u penodi gan Gyngor Gwynedd

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Y Cynghorydd / Councillor :

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

Aelodau wedi'u penodi gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Conwy

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Y Cynghorydd / Councillor :

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

Aelodau wedi'u penodi gan Llywodraeth Cymru

Members appointed by The Welsh Government

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

**This Agenda is also available in Welsh*

A G E N D A

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

Questions must be submitted in writing (by post or e-mail) to the Director of Corporate Services at least 7 days prior to the meeting.
4. **Declaration of Interest**
To receive any disclosure of interest by members or officers in respect of any item of business.
5. **Minutes**
The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the meetings of this Authority held on the 9th June and 30th June 2021 be signed as true records. (Copies herewith)
6. **Matters for Information arising from the minutes**
7. **Action Log**
To submit the Action Log, for information. (Copy herewith)
8. **Budget Update**
To submit a report by the Chief Finance Officer. (Copy herewith)
9. **Draft Statement of Accounts 2020/21**
To submit a report by the Chief Finance Officer. (Copy herewith)
10. **Annual Report and Improvement Plan 2020/21**
To submit a report by the Director of Corporate Services. (Copy herewith)
11. **Place Names Scrutiny Panel - Update**
To submit a report by the Director of Planning and Land Management. (Copy herewith)
12. **Placemaking Charter**
To submit a report by the Director of Planning and Land Management. (Copy herewith)
13. **Working Group Reports**
To submit the reports of the Members' Working Groups held on 19th May and 30th June 2021. (Copies herewith)

14. **Meetings of other Organisations**

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

15. **To submit the following minutes for information**

- (1) Minutes of National Parks Wales Executive Meeting held on 19th March 2021.
(Copy herewith)
- (2) Minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 14th July 2021. (Copy herewith)
- (3) Minutes of the Standards Committee meetings held on 3rd September 2021.
(Copies herewith)

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 9th JUNE 2021**

PRESENT:**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

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

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

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

Officers

Mr. E. Williams, Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. J. Cawley, Mr. D. Edwards, Mr. E. Roberts, Ms. Bethan Hughes, Ms. Helen Pye, Ms. Etta Trumper, Mrs. A. Gaffey.

Apology

Mr. Tim Jones.

As the AGM was being held remotely, the Director of Corporate Services

- outlined the procedure for electing a Chair and Vice-Chair for the Authority.
- stated that the meeting was subject to Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business, and
 - o that a Notice of the Meeting had been published and the Agenda and reports were available on the Authority's website.
 - o the meeting was not open to the public.
 - o the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes, but may be made available online at a later date.

1. Chairman

The Director of Corporate Services advised Members that in accordance with Standing Orders 5.2 and 5.3, he had received nominations proposing Councillor Wyn Ellis Jones for Chairman.

Councillor Wyn Ellis Jones was elected Chairman of the Authority.

The Chairman thanked Members for their support.

2. Vice-Chairman

The Director of Corporate Services advised Members that in accordance with Standing Orders 5.2 and 5.3, he had received nominations proposing two Members for Vice-Chairman, Councillor Annwen Hughes and Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd. Both Members were invited to address the meeting.

Councillor Annwen Hughes congratulated Councillor Wyn Ellis Jones on his appointment as Chairman and took up the invitation to address the meeting.

Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd thanked Members for putting his name forward but advised that he wished to withdraw his nomination. He took the opportunity to congratulate Councillors Wyn Ellis Jones and Annwen Hughes on their nominations.

Councillor Annwen Hughes was elected Vice-Chair of the Authority.

The Vice-Chair thanked Members for their support.

3. Chairman's Announcements

- (1) the Chairman advised that Mr. Owain Wyn's term of office had been extended by the Welsh Government until the end of July 2022.
- (2) the Chairman confirmed that Councillor Freya Bentham had resigned from Gwynedd Council and, consequently, was no longer a Member of the Snowdonia National Park Authority. He took the opportunity to thank Councillor Bentham for her valued contribution to the work of the Authority over the past 4 years.
- (3) Members were advised of a recent meeting between the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Authority and the new Chief Executive of Gwynedd Council, Mr. Dafydd Gibbard, and Council Leader, Mr. Dyfrig Siencyn. Discussions had been very constructive and had focussed on tourism and future partnership working.
- (4) Members were reminded of the training being arranged for the 25th June 2021 (which was noted in the calendar of meetings as a Member Development Day).
- (5) the Chairman thanked officers for arranging the annual meetings with the Community Councils, which were held remotely. Feedback had been very positive.
- (6) the Chairman thanked the Communications and Engagement Team for designing the 'Eryri 70' badge to mark the Authority's 70th anniversary.

4. Corporate Update

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

- (1) the Europarc Federation Conference would be held remotely in 2021. The Chief Executive advised that he would present a report to the next meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee, for information.
- (2) Members were advised that the Welsh Government were currently not in a position to make an appointment to the Authority vacancy as the appointing unit have had to delay the start of the recruitment process until September/October, although they will appoint a member and a reserve member at that time.

5. Public Question Time

Members were informed that no public questions had been received.

6. Declarations of Interest

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

7. Membership of the Authority

Submitted - The Chief Executive's report on current membership of the Authority, for information.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report and asked Members to confirm that their contact details were correct as this information was published on the Authority's website.

Arising thereon:-

1. it was agreed that all Members should, in future, use their corporate email address. If Members required additional assistance in this regard, the Members Services Officer and the Information Systems Technician would assist Members in activating their corporate email address.

2. Councillors John Pughe Roberts, Philip Capper, Wyn Ellis Jones and Ms. Tracey Evans requested their contact details be amended to list their mobile telephone number rather than their home telephone number.

RESOLVED to note the report.

8. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Authority meeting held on 28th April 2021 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

9. **Action Log**

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

Authority Meeting 10.04.19

Action Item 12 – Europarc Youth Manifesto

The Director of Corporate Services reported that this action had not been progressed due to staff illness. He assured Members that officers would proceed with this work presently.

In response to a question, the Chief Executive advised that the Director of Planning and Land Management was the lead officer on the Place Names Task and Finish Group. He confirmed that background work was underway and discussions had been held with the Welsh Language Commissioner. The Chief Executive believed the aim was to convene a meeting of the Group before the summer break.

RESOLVED to note the Action Log as submitted.

10. **Appointment of Members to serve on Committees, Panels, Working Groups and External Representation**

Submitted - A report by the Chief Executive to appoint Members to serve on the following Committees, Panels, Working Groups and External Representation.

Arising thereon, Members were advised that all the Committees, Working Groups etc., were vacant and the names of previous memberships were included for information only. Members were also asked, where possible, to try to keep to the constitution of the Authority itself (2:1).

RESOLVED

1. **to appoint Members as follows:-**

(1) **COMMITTEES**

i) **Planning and Access Committee - All Authority Members**

ii) **Performance and Resources Committee - All Authority Members**

iii) **Standards Committee (Term of Office established by the Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2001)**

**Councillors Alwyn Gruffydd, Philip Capper; Mrs. Sarah Hattle.
+ 3 Independent Members**

(2) **PANELS**

- i) **Single Status Grading Appeals Panel**
3 Members + 2 substitute Members to be drawn from the Standards Committee membership by the Standards Committee

(3) **WORKING GROUPS**

- i) **Members' Working Group** - All Authority Members
- ii) **Local Joint Working Group**
Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Judith Humphreys, Ifor Glyn Lloyd; Mrs. Sarah Hattle.
- iii) **Yr Ysgwrn Management Board**
Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Elfed Powell Roberts; Mr. Owain Wyn.
- iv) **Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board**
Councillor Judith Humphreys; Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones.

(4) **AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

- i) **Celyn, Tegid and Tryweryn Advisory Conference**
Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Gethin Glyn Williams; Mr. Brian Angell.
- ii) **Fforwm Eryri**
Councillor Wyn Ellis Jones (Chairman)
Councillor Annwen Hughes (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Alwyn Gruffydd, Ifor Glyn Lloyd; Mr. Brian Angell.
- iii) **Local Access Forums**
South: Councillor John Pughe Roberts
North: Mr. Tim Jones
- iv) **Eryri Equality Forum**
Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd

(5) **TASK AND FINISH GROUPS**

- i) **Centres**
Councillors Philip Capper, Alwyn Gruffydd, Wyn Ellis Jones, John Pughe Roberts, Gethin Glyn Williams.
- ii) **Assets Sub-Group**
Councillors Philip Capper, Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Gethin Glyn Williams; Mr. Brian Angell, Mr. Tracey Evans, Mr. Owain Wyn.
(In Reserve: Mr. Tim Jones)
- (iii) **Learning Strategy**
Councillors Alwyn Griffiths, Judith Humphreys, Ifor Glyn Lloyd; Ms. Tracey Evans, Mrs. Sarah Hattle.

- (iv) **Communication**
Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Edgar Owen; Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones.
- (v) **Europarc Youth Manifesto Group**
Councillors Judith Humphreys, John Pughe Roberts; Ms. Tracey Evans.
- (vi) **Website Focus Group**
Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Elfed Roberts; Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Tim Jones.
- (vii) **Traffic Management Task and Finish Group**
Councillors Edgar Owen, John Pughe Roberts; Ms Tracey Evans.
- (viii) **Carbon Account Task and Finish Group**
Councillor John Pughe Roberts; Mr. Brian Angell, Mr. Owain Wyn.
- (ix) **Place Names Task and Finish Group**
Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Alwyn Gruffydd, Judith Humphreys.
- (x) **Governance Task and Finish Group**
Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd; Mr. Tim Jones, Mr. Owain Wyn.

(6) OTHER BODIES

- i) **Trawsfynydd Stakeholder Group**
Councillor Elfed Powell Roberts
- ii) **Joint Council for Wales**
Mr. Owain Wyn
- iii) **National Trust, Beddgelert Local Liaison Committee**
Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd
- iv) **Campaign for National Parks**
(The 3 Welsh National Park Authorities are represented by a Member of the Authority which holds the National Parks Wales Secretariat)
- v) **The Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes**
Councillor Wyn Ellis Jones
- vi) **Welsh Local Government Association Council**
Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd
- vii) **Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau (SAC)**
Councillor Annwen Hughes
- viii) **Snowdonia Green Key Initiative Executive Group**
Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd
- ix) **Energy Island Programme Strategic Forum**
Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd
- x) **Dyfi Biosphere Partnership**
Mr. Owain Wyn (In Reserve: Mr. Tim Jones)

xi) **Cambrian Coast Railway Liaison Conference**
Councillor Annwen Hughes

11. **Membership of the Standards Committee**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to report on the membership of the Standards Committee.

Reported – Members were advised that the term of office for Mrs. Rachael Leah Jane Davies and Mr. Martin James Hughes, as Independent Members of the Standards Committee, was due for renewal. Both Members had indicated they would be willing to serve a second term should the Authority agree to this.

RESOLVED to re-appoint Mrs. Rachael Leah Jane Davies and Mr. Martin James Hughes as independent members of the Standards Committee for a further term, until 5th July 2025.

12. **Annual Governance Statement 2020/21**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care to approve the Annual Governance Statement for signature by the Chairman and the Chief Executive.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report and the Annual Governance Statement 2020-21.

RESOLVED to note the report and approve the Annual Governance Statement incorporating the Snowdonia National Park Authority's Statement on Internal Control for the 2020/21 financial year.

13. **Annual Report on Actual Treasury Management Activity 2020/21**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Finance Officer detailing the Authority's Treasury Management activity during 2020/21, for information.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented the report in detail and confirmed that the Authority's funds and investments continued to be secure.

RESOLVED to note the report, for information.

14. **Arrangements for Authority and Committee Meetings**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services for Members to agree arrangements for virtual meetings of the Authority and its committees.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report in detail and advised upon the options available to the Authority. The Director of Corporate Services considered it was unlikely that all members of the Authority would travel to Plas Tan y Bwlch to physically attend meetings once all Covid restrictions were lifted. Accordingly, some form of "hybrid" arrangements needed to be established.

Members and officers discussed the report and raised the following matters:-

- Members welcomed proposals to allow the public access to future meetings so as to ensure that the Authority remains open and transparent. Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council were already implementing this.

- Members discussed the difference in quality of the interaction when Members were able to meet face to face and felt this should not be lost as the Authority moves forward. A Member stated that he would welcome a face-to-face meeting in the near future, if circumstances allowed, and further discussions on which meetings should be held in person could be considered at a later date.
- as some covid restrictions could be in place for another 12 months, officers were asked to consider whether Plas Tan y Bwlch was still suitable as a meeting venue or whether alternative locations, such as the Council Chambers, with more room to accommodate the public, should be considered.
- the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that a report with future options would be presented to Members in due course.
- as outlined in para. 2.8 of the report, a Member asked that in future, meeting Agendas should include a requirement for Members to join the meeting 15 minutes before the designated starting time so that any technical issues could be addressed.
- officers confirmed that the pandemic had resulted in a reduction in the Authority's carbon footprint, but any financial savings were relatively small.
- in response to a question on convening hybrid meetings and the cost of purchasing additional technical equipment, the Chief Finance Officer advised that all Authorities will be looking into upgrading their systems in future, and whilst the Welsh Government have grant funds for "opening-up" he did not think these would be available for the purpose of purchasing new technology.
- the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that as the Authority did not currently have the necessary equipment to hold hybrid meetings it would be investing in the technology for the future. He agreed on the need to trial one or two hybrid meetings over the summer months to resolve possible future problems and this would also be the case for webinar meetings.
- it was agreed that Members should be allowed to choose how they want to attend future meetings.

RESOLVED

1. **subject to noting Members observations, to approve the measures as outlined in Section 2 of the report.**
2. **to include the requirement on the Notice of Meeting that Members should join the meeting 15 minutes before the designated time.**
3. **to note the position as outlined in Section 3 of the report and to await a further report in due course.**

15. **Annual Report of the Monitoring Officer**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to inform Members of complaints referred to the Ombudsman during the period 2020/21 and the work of the Authority's Standards Committee.

RESOLVED to note the report, for information.

16. **Members' Attendance**

Submitted – An information report by the Director of Corporate Services detailing Member attendance at Authority and Committee meetings from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and a Member asked whether this form of governance was still relevant as both the Welsh Government and Audit Wales measure performance, rather than attendance, and that it may be a matter for discussion at a future meeting of the Governance Task and Finish Group. Arising thereon, Members were reminded that, in future, they should inform the Members' Services Officer if they are unable to attend a meeting as a result of another commitment for the Authority.

RESOLVED to note the report.

17. **Communications and Engagement Strategy**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Engagement recommending the adoption of the final version of the Authority's new Communications and Engagement Strategy.

Reported – The Head of Engagement presented the Communications and Engagement Strategy and background and thanked Members for their input.

A member welcomed the proposal to seek revenue funding to engage apprentices to assist the communications officers and advised that this was working well for Gwynedd Council. The Member also advised that the Welsh Place Names Task and Finish Group had already started its work and took the opportunity to thank the Director of Planning and Land Management for his efforts.

Members thanked the Head of Engagement and her team for their excellent work and also recognised the improved effectiveness of Snowdonia's presence on social media.

RESOLVED subject to noting that the Welsh Place Names Task and Finish Group had already started its work, to adopt the Communications and Engagement Strategy and approve its implementation.

18. **The Volunteer Strategy 2021-2026**

Submitted – A report by the Volunteer and Well Being Officer to formally adopt the new National Park Volunteer Strategy 2021-2026.

Arising thereon, the Chairman took the opportunity to acknowledge the significant contribution of the volunteers.

RESOLVED to adopt the Volunteer Strategy 2021-2026 and approve its implementation.

19. **Welsh Language Standards**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care together with the Authority's Welsh Language Standards 2020/21 Monitoring Report.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report in detail and Members made the following observations:-

- Para. 2.10: a Member noted, for information, that Gwynedd Council experience similar problems and that sharing good practice could benefit the Authority. Also, as there was a need to monitor use of the Welsh language in the workplace, the Member asked how this was managed.
- in response, the Head of Administration and Customer Care advised that no formal monitoring was being carried out as the majority of staff were currently working from home and that working practices continue as before with no negative impacts on the language being identified. The Head of Administration

and Customer Care would welcome guidance on any formal methods to monitor use of the language and was advised that research work was being carried out by Bangor University.

- the Head of Administration and Customer Care confirmed that the 5-year review of the Authority's Strategy for Promoting the Welsh Language was coming up, and whilst the current strategy had a target to increase the number of people who could speak Welsh in the Snowdonia National Park by 2% by 2021, it was impossible to directly link this to the Authority's work, and as such, was very difficult to measure. New guidance was being published by the Welsh Language Commissioner and the revised Strategy would be presented to Members in due course.
- the Head of Administration and Customer Care assured Members that the Authority fully supports employees who are learning Welsh, and that, under the current circumstances, there were online courses and many additional online opportunities available to develop language skills.
- a Member welcomed that the Authority works to a higher standard in regard to the Welsh language than many other organisations in Wales and the demography of the Authority's staff should silence any criticism with regard to all interviews being conducted in Welsh.

RESOLVED subject to the above, to approve the report and authorise the Head of Administration and Customer Care to publish the Welsh Language Standards 2020/21 Monitoring Report on the Authority's website.

20. **Members' Working Group Report**

Submitted – Report of the Members' Working Group held on 14th April 2021.

RESOLVED to note the report.

21. **Meetings of other Organisations**

Submitted – An oral update on recent meetings of organisations which Members have attended as representatives of the Authority.

Mr. Owain Wyn

Dyfi Biosphere Partnership

- received an update on recent work carried out by consultants engaged to provide the Partnership with its future direction. The general consensus was that the Partnership needs to better engage with local people especially the agricultural community and young people.
- the Partnership was still awaiting the outcome of the Central Government review although there were some positive signals. A full report will be released early in the Autumn.
- Councillor John Pughe Roberts has been appointed onto the newly established executive committee, made up of local residents, which will hopefully provide better ownership in future.

RESOLVED to thank the Member and note the report.

22. **Minutes**

The following minutes were submitted for information:-

- (1) Minutes of National Parks Wales Executive Meeting held on 20th November 2020.

In response to a question, the Chief Executive provided Members with an update on COP26 and the National Landscapes Partnership. Arising thereon, Members congratulated the Chief Executive on his election as Vice Chairman of the Partnership.

- (2) Minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 24th March 2021.

Arising thereon, and in response to a question, the Chief Executive advised that the Head of Personnel had agreed to continue in her role for two days a week until September 2021.

23. **Other business**

RESOLVED to call a special meeting of the Authority on 30th June 2021 to receive the “Revenue and Capital Outturn Report 2020/21”.

The meeting ended at 11.40

SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
WEDNESDAY 30th JUNE 2021

Councillor Wyn Ellis Jones (Conwy) (Chairman)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Edgar Wyn Owen, Elfed Powell Roberts, John Pughe Roberts;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Philip Capper, Ifor Glyn Lloyd;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

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

Officers

Mr. E. Williams, Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. J. Cawley, Mr. D. Edwards, Mr. E. Roberts, Mrs. A. Gaffey.

Apologies

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Gethin Glyn Williams; Mr. Tim Jones.

1. Chairman's Announcements

- (1) the Chairman advised that the meeting was subject to the Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business, and that:
 - a Notice of the Meeting had been published and the Agenda and reports were available on the Authority's website.
 - the meeting was not open to the public.
 - the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes, but may be made available online at a later date.
- (2) the Chairman advised upon a petition, presented by Elfed Wyn ap Elwyn with over 5,000 signatures, asking the Authority to support using the name 'Yr Wyddfa' only when referring to Wales' highest mountain and 'Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri' instead of 'Snowdonia National Park'. The petition had now been passed on to the Authority's Welsh Place Names Task and Finish Group for consideration. Councillor John Pughe Roberts took the opportunity to thank all who had signed the petition and supported his motion.
- (3) the Chairman reported that Mr. Dewi Jones had very recently retired after completing 50 years of service as a Voluntary Warden for the Authority. It was unfortunate that Members were unable to meet Mr. Jones to thank him in person, however, a letter had been sent, on behalf of Members, to thank Mr. Jones for his many years of service and wishing him a long and happy retirement.
- (4) Authority Membership: The Chairman advised that the Welsh Government appointing unit was about to start on the recruitment process. The Chairman thanked Mr. Owain Wyn for agreeing to assist the Welsh Government with this work. Also, Gwynedd Council was yet to appoint a successor to Ms. Freya Bentham.
- (5) the Chairman referred with sadness to the recent death of Mr. Gerald Williams, of Yr Ysgwrn, who's contribution to his community, the Snowdonia National Park and to Wales' cultural heritage was outstanding. The Chief Executive had personally contacted his widow Elsa, on behalf of staff and Members, to convey the Authority's sincere condolences.

Corporate Update

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

- (1) there was a delay to the repair works at Hafod Eryri due to difficulties in transporting the materials to the summit. It had now been agreed that the work would be carried out early next year and funding has been set aside for this purpose.
- (2) following today's meeting, Members will be asked to complete an online survey to assist the Welsh Government in identifying skills that Members feel the Authority does not currently have.
- (3) Members were advised of a potential festival being arranged in 2022 and that the National Parks could be asked to contribute. Members may be asked to consider the matter further over the summer months.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Revenue and Capital Outturn Report 2020/21

Submitted – A report by the Chief Finance Officer comparing, at service area level, the Authority's budgeted revenue and capital spending plans for 2020/2021 and the actual outturn expenditure for the year.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented the report detailing the virements, transfers and carry-forwards of revenue and capital budgets, for formal approval. Members were asked to note one amendment to the Match Funding Reserve (para. 5.9) in that the SMS grant scheme project amount was now £7k and not the £53,964 as outlined in the report.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the contents of the outturn report and approve the virements in the revenue and capital budgets outlined in part 4 (as detailed in Appendix 1).**
- 2. to approve the transfers to and from earmarked reserves (£2,864,679 net movement) as outlined in the table under paragraph 4.2 and Appendix 3.**
- 3. to note the final position of directorates and services with regard to budgetary control (paragraphs 4.3 to 4.7 and Appendix 2).**
- 4. to approve the allocation of slippage and commitments (£233,455) in Appendix 4.**
- 5. to note that the surplus for 2020/21 financial year (£10,237) increases the Authority's General Balances (paragraph 5.2).**
- 6. to approve the Capital Financing Statement (part 6 and Appendix 5).**

The meeting ended at 9.35



TAFLEN WEITHREDU – ACTION SHEET

AUTHORITY MEETING – 10.04.2019

ITEM NO. AND TITLE	DECISIONS / OBSERVATIONS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE or COMPLETION DATE	REMOVE FROM ACTION LOG
12. Europarc Youth Manifesto	RESOLVED to establish a Task and Finish Group to further the work and report to Authority in December 2019.	Officers to convene a meeting of the Youth Manifesto Task and Finish Group.	HP/AD	Initial Task and Finish Group has been convened, further Task and Finish Group to be held in March 2020. Job description for Youth Officer being prepared as joint role between Head of Wardens and Head of Engagement. Officer will lead on developing local Youth Manifesto. Youth Officer Job description finalised and awaiting evaluation.	NO



TAFLEN WEITHREDU – ACTION SHEET

AUTHORITY MEETING – 25.09.2019

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



TAFLEN WEITHREDU – ACTION SHEET

AUTHORITY MEETING – 09.12.2020

ITEM NO. AND TITLE	DECISIONS / OBSERVATIONS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE or COMPLETION DATE	REMOVE FROM ACTION LOG
7 Action Log	Authority Meeting 10.04.19 Action Item 12 – Europarc Youth Manifesto	To progress this action as a matter of urgency.	HP/AD	(See update above Authority 10.04.19 – Item No. 12) Youth Officer Job description finalised and awaiting evaluation.	NO
10. Base Revenue Budget 2021/22	The Director of Land Management agreed to provide Members with an update on Affordable Housing Commuted Sums Expenditure.	To present the update report.	JC	To be reported to Members during Planning and Access Committee meeting in March or April 2021.	NO



TAFLEN WEITHREDU – ACTION SHEET

AUTHORITY MEETING – 03.02.2021

ITEM NO. AND TITLE	DECISIONS / OBSERVATIONS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE or COMPLETION DATE	REMOVE FROM ACTION LOG
2. Corporate Update	RESOLVED to present a further report for Members to consider whether to establish the day's leave on St. David's Day on a permanent basis in future.	To present a further report.	CX / Chair	To be considered when staff terms and conditions are to be presented to the Authority.	NO

ITEM NO. 8

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	13 October 2021
TITLE	2021-22 BUDGET UPDATE
REPORT BY	Chief Finance Officer
PURPOSE	To inform Members – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• of significant virements.• of the progress against the revenue and capital budget,• together with a projected final position for the financial year.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A summary of the revised revenue and capital budgets for 2021-22 with changes reflecting the first five months of the financial year i.e. 1 April 2021 to 31 August 2021 is presented here.
- 1.2 The effects of slippage and under-spend from the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years have been included within the revised net budget and £120,193 relevant to the Wardens service and Plas Tan y Bwlch transferred to the Projects reserve.
- 1.3 Part 5 of the report indicates the progress made to date against the net revenue budget and a projection of the position as at the year end.
- 1.4 The Director of Corporate Services is taking temporary responsibility for the Wardens & Access. For convenience, however, the report shows the services within their usual directorate.
- 1.5 The Authority has received financial assistance in lieu of the Covid19 effect including :
 - Welsh Government grant for the first quarter of 2020/21 worth £102,730, with a further claim for the second quarter to be submitted by 15th October.
 - Rate rebates
 - Rebates on employment costs through the furlough scheme worth £25,838

- 1.6 Following the 10% increase in the National Park grant for 2021/22, the Authority has a budget surplus of £476,251 to be earmarked for specific uses, including increasing the Authority's capacity, the de-carbonisation agenda and capital commitments.
- 1.7 The £314,530 capital grant received in 2020/21 has been allocated to several projects in 2021/22.
- 1.8 Some of the "Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places" (SLSP) 2020/21 projects have been carried over into 2021/22 to complete. A further SLSP grant allocation of £900,000 has been awarded to the Authority for 2021/22 which includes £81,818 administration fee.

2. EARMARKED REVENUE AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE CARRIED FORWARD FROM 2019-20 AND 2020-21

- 2.1 Monies were put into Authority reserves according to the lists presented and approved in the outturn report presented to the Authority on 15 July 2020 and 30 June 2021. Transfers into the 2021/22 budget are shown in paragraph 3.1 below.

3. REVISED REVENUE BUDGET 2021-22

- 3.1 The Original Net Budget was approved by the Authority on 3 February 2021.

The allocation from reserves can be seen in the 'Vired' column of the table below :-

Service Areas	Original Net Budget (£)	Vired (£)	Revised Net Budget (£)
Planning & Land Management	2,728,270	11,190	2,739,460
Corporate	3,882,141	242,969	4,125,110
Balances, Reserves and Provisions	10,000	0	10,000
Total Expenditure to Services	6,620,411	254,159	6,874,570
Interest Earned on Surplus Funds	-8,000	0	-8,000
Revenue Financing of Capital Spend	1,636,048	-70,772	1,565,276
Capital Charges Adjustment	-591,050	0	-591,050
Net Budget	7,657,409	183,387	7,840,796
FUNDED FROM			
National Park Grant	4,119,789		4,119,789
Constituent Authority Levy	1,373,262		1,373,262
	5,493,051		5,493,051
Contributions from reserve :	2,164,358	183,387	2,347,745
Revised Net Budget	7,657,409		7,840,796

3.2 A detailed analysis showing the revised net budget, per service as at 31 August 2021, can be seen in Appendix 1.

3.3 The net increase in the base budget of £183,387 from £7,657,409 (as approved in February 2021) to £7,840,796 represents:

£7,660	revenue grants from reserve
£417,428	slippage monies 2019/20 and 2020/21
£49,155	Eryri Fund grants
£27,923	finance for the gas analyser purchase (peatlands) from the match funding reserve
-£193,217	grant budget for Hafod Eryri returned to reserve following the railway company's request to delay works until the next financial year.
-£125,562	adjustment to the base budget (following the 2020/21 outturn).

4. REVISED CAPITAL BUDGET

4.1 The revised net budget for 2021/22 capital expenditure is shown in the following table:

Service Areas	Original Gross Budget (£)	Grant Income (£)	Original Net Budget (£)	Vired (£)	Revised Net Budget (£)
Planning and Land Management					
Public Access	79,530	0	79,530	0	79,530
Wardens - Vehicles	14,000	0	14,000	68,802	82,802
Cultural Heritage Schemes	113,080	0	113,080	69,046	182,126
Dolgellau Townscape Heritage scheme	685,480	-508,670	176,810	0	176,810
Harlech and Ardudwy Scheme	40,000	0	40,000	0	40,000
Carneddau - Data LiDAR (W.G. grant)	17,590	0	17,590	0	17,590
Carneddau - Paths (W.G. grant)	32,500	0	32,500	0	32,500
Mobile Observatory (W.G. grant)	25,000	0	25,000	0	25,000
Ash Die Back (W.G. grant)	50,000	0	50,000	0	50,000
Biodiversity (W.G. grant)	75,000	0	75,000	0	75,000
Gas Analyser (Peatlands scheme)	0	0	0	27,923	27,923
Penmaen Brith (W.G. grant)	25,000	0	25,000	0	25,000
Llyn Cynwch (W.G. grant)	30,000	0	30,000	0	30,000
Bwlch Mawr - Brithdir (W.G. grant)	50,328	0	50,328	-43,149	7,179
Brithdir - Pen Ceunant (W.G. grant)	40,000	0	40,000	0	40,000
Gorseddau (W.G. grant)	50,000	0	50,000	0	50,000
Nant Gwynant (W.G. grant)	45,000	0	45,000	0	45,000
Cadair Idris (W.G. grant)	50,000	0	50,000	0	50,000
Llyn Llywelyn (W.G. grant)	30,000	0	30,000	-6,250	23,750
Gwyrfai Route (W.G. grant)	30,000	0	30,000	0	30,000
Ffridd Uchaf (W.G. grant)	0	0	0	6,250	6,250
Completing various grant schemes (W.G. grant)	8,000	0	8,000	0	8,000
Corporate					
Information Systems - Replacement Prog.	72,340	0	72,340	0	72,340
Inf. Technology for Planning	60,000	0	60,000	32,539	92,539
Website (W.G. grant)	10,000	0	10,000	0	10,000
70 years Celebration (W.G. grant)	30,000	0	30,000	0	30,000
Snowdon Partnership Scheme (W. G. grant)	62,780	0	62,780	-317	62,463
Snowdon Interpretation (W. G. grant)	50,000	0	50,000	0	50,000
Electric charging points for cars (W. G. Grant)	13,040	0	13,040	-751	12,289
Resurfacing works at car parks and Plas Tan y Bwlch (W.G. grant)	40,000	0	40,000	0	40,000
Ogwen Centre (TAIS scheme)	0	0	0	2,000	2,000
Betws Y Coed (W.G. grant)	77,780	0	77,780	-635	77,145
Water Refill Stations (W.G. grant)	12,040	0	12,040	0	12,040
Hafod Eryri (W.G. grant 18/19)	66,210	0	66,210	-66,210	0
Hafod Eryri (W.G. grant 19/20)	160,020	0	160,020	-160,020	0
	2,144,718	- 508,670	1,636,048	- 70,772	1,565,276

4.2 The £70,772 decrease in the net capital budget is due to :

- £115,326 adjustment to the base budget (following the 2020/21 outturn)
- £193,217 grant budget for Hafod Eryri returned to reserve following the railway company's request to delay works until the next financial year.

£27,923 finance for the gas analyser purchase (peatlands) from the match funding reserve
£209,848 2019/20 and 2020/21 slippage

5. FORECASTED POSITION FOR 2021/22

5.1 The Management Team are aiming to keep this year's net expenditure within the available financial resources, with the option of a contribution from reserves as required. The table below provides a summary of the progress to 31 August 2021 against the budget, and the projected position as at the end of the financial year (as discussed with the relevant Heads of Service and Directors). An early forecast for 2021/22 is presented here and of course the forecasted figures can change.

Service Areas	Revised Net Budget (£)	Net Expenditure to date (£)	Projected year end (£)	Projected variance (£)
Planning & Land Management	2,739,460	387,288	2,739,460	0
Corporate Balances, Reserves and Provisions	4,125,110 10,000	913,568 0	4,065,110 10,000	60,000 0
Total Expenditure to Services	6,874,570	1,300,856	6,814,570	60,000
Interest Earned on Surplus Funds	-8,000	-1,987	-8,000	0
Revenue contribution to capital spend	1,565,276	317,010	1,565,276	0
Capital charges adjustment	-591,050	-246,271	-591,050	0
Net Revenue budget	7,840,796	1,369,608	7,780,796	60,000
Projected Net balance (+) / deficit (-) for 2021/22				60,000
FUNDED FROM				
National Park Grant	4,119,789			
Constituent Authority Levy	1,373,262			
Contr. From reserves	2,164,358			
Original Net Budget	7,657,409			
Contr. From reserves	183,387			
Revised Net Budget	7,840,796			

5.2 To summarise, the projected year-end revenue position at this time is an underspend of £60,000. There is a caveat here regarding any deterioration in the Covid19 situation, and Welsh Government support to offset the pandemic's financial cost.

Explanations on the main variations foreseen by the end of the year, and changes as a result of that, focussing mainly on sums of £10,000 and over, is provided below.

5.3 **Corporate:** There is an estimated surplus of circa £60,0000. The main variances are as follows:

Plas Tan y Bwlch – a deficit against budget of about £35,000 is foreseen. It is expected that the income target for bed and breakfast will be exceeded, but that employment and energy costs specifically are expected to exceed their budget. There is no rates cost for this year, but on the basis of last year's figure the income for the electricity feed in tariff could be significantly lower than budget, and as such both, to a degree, compensate for each other.

Car Parks – a surplus against budget of about £170,000 is forecasted after earmarking a contribution towards one year's employment cost for the Property and Conveniences Manager. The Head of Property, with the Management Team's support, intends to keep any surplus in reserve for capital costs presently under consideration.

Visitor Facilities – whilst there is a surplus on the budget, this will be utilised should the toilets be kept open over the winter.

Translation – an underspend of about £20,000 is foreseen due to the use of external translators rather than employing a translator.

Legal – the Hillside, Aberdovey case is still awaiting a hearing and therefore the financial implications unclear. For the purposes of this report the service is taken as breaking even against budget.

Finance – an estimate of £13,000 over-spend due to a change in employment arrangements.

Corporate Management – the administrative assistant position is vacant, and also there is the budget surplus line of £476,251 uncommitted at this time, but to be earmarked for specific purposes as noted in paragraph 1.6.

Engagement – a £10,000 underspend is foreseen due to a combination of lines including travelling expenses and the fact that the Eryri publication is not published this year.

Management Plan and Partnerships – at this time an underspend is foreseen in the budget line for the Commissioning Fund. It is understood that discussions are underway with the Eryri Forum on projects but no specific commitment to date. For the purposes of this report an estimate of half the budget (£58k) is regarded as underspend.

5.4 **Planning & Land Management:** Overall, the variances foreseen come to net balance of zero i.e. break even against budget.

Cultural Heritage – An underspend is foreseen with the Head of Service on maternity leave, and this has been earmarked as additional budget for the Harlech and Ardudwy project.

Planning – The progress with planning fees is consistent with reaching the budget target. There are savings in the employment budget and to date no use of the “bought in services” budget line. The director intends to use this finance to temporarily extend the capacity of the service.

Wardens – there are savings due to empty posts. The Head of Service is using said savings for other purposes within the service including restructuring and purchase of two welfare units.

Celtic Rainforests (LIFE) – the expenditure is behind profile. All the Welsh Government funding (£2m) has been claimed. The Project Manager has started preparing the second interim report and is looking to confirm the situation regarding an extension for the project due to the effects of the pandemic.

5.5 **Balances, Reserves and Provisions**: The original baseline balance of £10,000 is a provision for inflation and is yet to be allocated.

5.6 **Salary costs** : There is as yet no agreement on the salary inflation increase for 2021/22. There is £72,240 provision in the revised budget.

5.7 **Interest** : Interest rates are remaining very low and achieving the budget target (reduced for this year) will be challenging.

5.8 **Capital**: The main net spends to the end of August are on:

- Dolgellau Townscape Scheme £45,546
- Ysgwrn (SLSP 2020/21) £39,420
- Gas Analyser (Peatlands) £27,923

6. **Virements Between Budgets Worth Over £30,000 For the Attention Of The Authority.**

6.1 Part 3 of the Authority’s Financial Regulations state the need to report to the Authority or the Performance & Resources Committee with regard to virements worth between £30,000 and £100,000 between budgets, where they have not been previously approved by the Authority. In addition the Authority’s approval is required for any virement worth £100,000 or more.

There are no relevant virements in the first 5 months of this financial year.

7. **RECOMMENDATION**

- **To note the contents of the report.**
- **Confirm the transfers to/from reserves in paragraph 1.2 and the “Vired” column in the table under paragraph 3.1**

8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

Appendix 1

Snowdonia National Park Authority			
Revised Budget for 2021-22 on 31 August 2021			
	Base budget £	Virements £	Revised Net Budget £
PLANNING AND LAND MANAGEMENT			
Conservation, Trees and Agricuylture	418,210	-15,820	402,390
Dark Skies	47,800	0	47,800
Welsh Peatlands (W.G. grant)	45,190	10	45,200
National Grid - Maentwrog (East)	91,160	0	91,160
Celtic Rainforests (LIFE)	74,860	0	74,860
Carneddau Partnership	25,000	0	25,000
Public Access	111,730	0	111,730
Snowdon Team	305,120	0	305,120
Wardens - General	267,660	4	267,664
Wardens - North	258,400	0	258,400
Wardens - South	239,860	0	239,860
Archaeology	60,340	2,746	63,086
Cultural Heritage	70,480	0	70,480
Dolgellau Townscape Heritage	22,510	0	22,510
Harlech and Arduwy scheme	61,110	0	61,110
Ysgwrn	94,190	0	94,190
Planning	534,650	24,250	558,900
Sub-total carried forward	2,728,270	11,190	2,739,460
CORPORATE			
Members Costs	103,510	0	103,510
Authority Support	84,810	0	84,810
Corporate Management	1,104,401	60,578	1,164,979
Property	259,330	0	259,330
Legal	52,290	0	52,290
Administration and Customer Care	219,170	-10,000	209,170
Translation	110,780	0	110,780
Personnel and Training	108,250	0	108,250
Sub-total carried forward	2,042,541	50,578	2,093,119

Snowdonia National Park Authority			
2021-22 Revised Budget as at 31 August 2021			
	Base Budget £	Virements £	Revised Net Budget £
Subtotals Brought Forward			
PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT	2,728,270	11,190	2,739,460
CORPORATE	2,042,541	50,578	2,093,119
Headquarters	222,410	0	222,410
Information Systems	318,780	0	318,780
Finance	167,570	10,000	177,570
Plas Tan y Bwlch Study Centre	286,450	-5,240	281,210
Engagement	456,200	79,365	535,565
New Authority Website	42,760	26,690	69,450
Engagement with Young People (W.G. grant)	20,010	0	20,010
Well-being Paths (W.G. grant)	40,000	0	40,000
Management Plan and Partnerships	250,330	121,746	372,076
Mountain Safe	30,000	-30,000	0
Information Centres	143,380	-10,170	133,210
Llyn Tegid	-19,940	0	-19,940
Car Parks	-423,580	0	-423,580
Litter Clearance	19,510	0	19,510
Traffic and Transport	5,000	0	5,000
Visitor Facilities	280,720	0	280,720
	3,882,141	242,969	4,125,110
BALANCES	10,000	0	10,000
TOTAL	6,620,411	254,159	6,874,570
Interest Earned	-8,000	0	-8,000
Revenue Financing of Capital Expenditure	1,636,048	-70,772	1,565,276
Capital Charges Adjustment	-591,050	0	-591,050
	7,657,409	183,387	7,840,796
FUNDED FROM			
National Park Grant	4,119,789	0	4,119,789
Constituent Authority Levy	1,373,262	0	1,373,262
Tfrs from reserves	2,164,358	183,387	2,347,745
Net Budget	7,657,409	183,387	7,840,796

ITEM NO. 9

MEETING	Performance and Resources Committee
DATE	13 October 2021
TITLE	DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21
REPORT BY	Chief Finance Officer
PURPOSE	To note the contents of the draft Statement of Accounts and the arrangement of the period for inspection by members of the public.

1. SUMMARY

This report introduces the draft Annual Statement of Accounts for the 2020/21 financial year which provides details of the Authority's financial activities during the year (Appendix 1). The draft Statement of Accounts includes the Annual Governance Statement as approved by the Authority on 6 June 2021.

The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2005 (amended) require that the Chief Finance Officer approve the draft Annual Statement of Accounts by the 31 May. In lieu of the effect of the Covid19 pandemic an extension until 31 August was provided on condition that every effort was made to complete as soon as possible and a public advert provided to explain the reasons for missing the original deadline.

Following the audit, they will be approved by the Authority Members' representatives before the 30 November, again an extension of time due to the effect of Covid19. In the meantime the draft Statement of Accounts is presented to the Members for their information.

2. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

The accounts were sent to the auditors on 27 July and the audit commenced on 4 October. The audit work has not been completed to date.

In accordance with the regulations, the Appointed Auditor will complete the audit and present the report on the Statement of Accounts to the Authority Members, before obtaining an official signature on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales by 30 November 2021.

3. PUBLIC INSPECTION OF ACCOUNTS

Under section 30 & 31 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004, and regulation 13 & 15 of the Accounts and Audit Wales Regulations 2005, it is required that the Authority notify the public that the accounts are open for inspection for a 20 working day period.

The public inspection was arranged for the 20 working day period between 20 October and 16 November 2021 (as advertised on the Authority's website, main office reception area and Betws y Coed Information Centre).

During the audit process, a local government elector also has the opportunity to question the Auditor about the accounts. The 17 November has been set as the specific date for this year.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None. The decision today does not commit any further resources against the Authority's budget.

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 To note the contents of the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS



FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21****INDEX**

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NARRATIVE REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

The narrative report provides a brief explanation of the more significant matters reported in the accounts and aims to add to and assist the interpretation of the accounting statements which are set out on pages 22 to 26 and consist of :-

- The **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement** consolidates all the gains and losses experienced by the Authority during the financial year. These gains and losses should reconcile to the overall movement in net worth.
- The **Balance Sheet** setting out the financial position of the Authority as at 31st March 2021.
- The **Movement in Reserves Statement** is a summary of the changes that have taken place in the bottom half of the balance sheet over the financial year.
- The **Cash Flow Statement** which summarises the inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions for revenue and capital purposes.

The accounts are supported by the Statement of Accounting Policies and explanatory notes.

2. SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK'S VISION AND PRIORITIES

The National Park Authority's vision was adopted in the Snowdonia National Park Management Plan in the meeting on 23rd September 2020 as follows :

A culturally rich National Park with a thriving green economy, world class visitor experience and a major contributor to the well-being of our nation.

By 2045 Snowdonia will continue to be a protected and evolving landscape, safeguarded and enhanced to provide a rich, varied and resilient natural and historic environment; providing wellbeing benefits nationally and internationally.

National Park purposes will be delivered through a diverse and prospering economy adapted to the challenges of climate change and founded on natural resources – its landscape qualities, opportunities for learning and enjoyment, cultural and natural heritage. With thriving bilingual and inclusive communities, partnership working will have demonstrated that more can be achieved through working together.

Communities will have adopted innovative solutions in a changing world – a low carbon economy will have strengthened residents' link with the environment, providing a better standard of living and ensuring Snowdonia's reputation as an internationally renowned National Park and one of the nation's breathing spaces.

In accordance with the Future Generations Well-Being Act (Wales 2015) the Authority has adopted a Well-Being Statement 2021-2026 in March 2021.

https://www.snowdonia.gov.wales/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/387364/SNPA-WELL-BEING-STATEMENT-2021-26.pdf

This document provides the context for the corporate programme providing detail on specific corporate well-being and improvement objectives, and presented annually in the April Authority meeting. The agenda is available through the following link:

https://www.snowdonia.gov.wales/_data/assets/pdf_file/0029/385292/Authority-28.04.21.pdf

3 FINANCIAL CONTEXT

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND YEAR END POSITION

The revised 2020/21 budget as reported to the Authority on 30th June 2021 was as below.

	Budgeted	Actual	Variance
	£	£	£
Planning & Land Management	2,345,627	1,505,001	840,626
Corporate	3,372,080	3,107,988	264,092
Interest	-23,000	-12,307	-10,693
Capital funding from revenue	1,868,205	-146,141	2,014,346
Capital charge adjustment	-567,800	-567,800	0
Net	6,995,112	3,886,741	3,108,371
NPG & Levy	-4,993,683	-4,993,683	0
Tfr to/from reserves	-2,001,429	1,106,942	-3,108,371
TOTAL	0	0	0

The net variance of £3,108,371 was adjusted for end of year transfers to & from reserves (further information in par. 4.2 of said report) leaving a balance of £10,237 to be allocated. This figure was amalgamated into the revised balances in the Authority reserves. The report is item 3 on the following link -

https://www.snowdonia.gov.wales/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/394130/SpecialAuthority30.06.21.pdf

During the process of compiling the Statement of Accounts the following adjustments were made to the outturn resulting in reducing the balance to be allocated to £3,702. The adjusted net expenditure figures appear in the Expenditure and Funding Analysis (note 1 to the main statements).

	Outturn	Adjustments	EFA (note 1)
	£	£	£
Planning & Land Management	1,505,001	921	1,505,922
Corporate	3,107,988	10,002	3,117,990
	4,612,989	10,923	4,623,912
Other movements		-4,388	
Balance	10,237	6,535	3,702

The movements in individual reserves is provided in note 8 to the financial statements.

4. SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS :

Balance Sheet :

The **pension fund liability** increase of **£2,728k** is the main reason why the Authority's net worth has decreased by **£1,846k**. Other movements are as follows :

- **Long Term Assets** value has decreased by **£97k** due mainly to the difference between annual depreciation plus valuation losses against the additional expenditure on fixed assets.
- **Current Assets** value has increased by **£2,412k**. The main effect due to increase in :
 - Debtors (£1,346k) including grant schemes such as Celtic Rainforests (£402k), SMS (£1,287k) and NRW (£352k).
 - Cash and investments (£1,084k) arising from grant monies including :
 - £243k relating to the Celtic Rainforests scheme,
 - £812.5k from Welsh Government,
 - £191k Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places grants (S.L.S.P.),
 - and £99k of SLSP grant administrative fee, unspent in 2020/21.
- **Current Liabilities** have increased by **£1,121k** mainly due to
 - £221k grants received in advance,
 - £109k employee benefit accrual,
 - £294k contribution owed to partner in the Celtic Rainforests scheme,
 - £169k relating to redundancies,
 - And sums relating to grant projects etc.,

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account :

The net cost of services has increased by £832k, with the movements per directorate as follows :

- Planning and Land Management +£755k
- Corporate (including Communication) +£70k
- £43k "non-distributable cost" (£36k in 2019/20) +£7k

Main movements are as follows :

More income / less expenditure

- (£103k) £272k Refcus net spend in 2020/21 compared to £375k in 2019/20
- (£356k) less IAS19 pension adjustment to the services in 2020/21

Less income / more expenditure

- (£609k) £243k grants in advance credited to services in 2020/21 compared to £852k in 2019/20.
- (£50k) £256k valuation loss in 2020/21 compared to £206k in 2019/20.
- (£86k) increase in annual depreciation cost.
- (£301k) more costs related to redundancies.
- (£109k) increased adjustment for the employee benefit accrual in 2020/21. together with additional costs / reduced income due to the effect of the pandemic over and above what was compensated e.g. losses in car park income and rents.

In addition to receiving grant funding the Authority also generates its own income. Note 1c to the main statements shows £1,433k generated from fees, charges and other service based income; of this the main components are as follows :

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ▪ Car Park fee income | £470k (£884k in 2019/20) |
| ▪ Information Centres sales | £248k (£185k in 2019/20) |
| ▪ Planning fees | £63k (£159k in 2019/20) |
| ▪ Rent | £32k (£141k in 2019/20) |

Reduced income in general due to the pandemic apart from Planning fees.

5. PENSION LIABILITY

Snowdonia National Park Authority is an employer in the Gwynedd Pension Fund. The accounts fully incorporate the requirements of International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS 19).

The policy reflects the commitment in the long-term to increase contributions to make up any shortfall in attributable net assets in the pension fund.

The net pension liability in the balance sheet reduces the net worth of the Authority by £7,317k as at 31st of March 2021. The hypothetical figure has increased by £2,728k since 31st of March 2020. The main reason for this is the effect of the change in Actuarial assumptions in lieu of national developments. (detail in note 36)

6. UNUSUAL CHARGE OR CREDIT IN THE ACCOUNTS

The main items are :

- capital grants worth £1,878,344 received from Welsh Government
- grants and refunds worth £811,538 received in lieu of the pandemic

7. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Capital expenditure is expenditure on the acquisition of a fixed asset or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of the existing fixed asset.

Capital expenditure in 2020/21 amounted to £1,778,255 (before including the effect of writing back two historic creditors worth £92,622). Details of expenditure within each service area are shown in note 30. The expenditure was financed by grants and contributions from other bodies (£1,606,074) and direct revenue financing (£172,181).

All planned capital expenditure will be funded from revenue, external grants and reserves held for one off spends.

The main schemes in which the Authority was involved as at 31st March 2021 were :

- The Town Heritage Scheme at Dolgellau currently estimated at a cost of £2m. Scheme programmed to finish in December 2022.
- The Carneddau Partnership Scheme is now in its operational stage and estimated to be worth £4.17m. Scheme programmed to finish by March 2026.
- The Celtic Rainforests project is a 7 year project worth £7.6m. Scheme programmed to finish in 2025/26.

8. CAPITAL FUNDING

All capital expenditure of the Authority, since being established on 23rd November 1995, has been funded by capital grants and contributions from the Government, European Community and other sources of grants, from capital receipts applied and from the Authority's revenue resources.

As at 31st March 2021 the Authority had no outstanding debts to finance capital expenditure, and for treasury management purposes will remain a debt-free authority.

9. USABLE RESERVES

The General Revenue Reserve balance was reviewed during the year as part of a review of Authority reserves, and currently stands at £663k.

The Authority has specific Usable Reserves totalling £9,114k and these are detailed in note 8 to the financial statements. It should be noted that most of the reserves are earmarked for specific purposes.

10. GOVERNANCE

The Authority has 18 members, who serve on the Authority Board, Performance and Resources Committee and Planning and Access Committee. Plas Tan y Bwlch and Ysgwrn have separate Management Boards each consisting of 3 members.

Further information on governance and related issues relating to 2020/21 is provided in the Annual Governance Statement part of this document.

11. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Risks

The Authority's main risks are documented in the Corporate Risk Register which is reviewed by the Performance and Resources Committee and annually in the February Authority.

The Authority's 4 main risks and the measures for mitigation are noted at the end of part 6 of the Annual Governance Statement

Opportunities

The Authority has been provided with "one-off" funding by Welsh Government to undertake work on capital projects including Access and improvements to the Authority's properties.

The Authority continues to attract grant funding from various sources which enables an operating capacity much higher than that possible through the base grant only. The annual contraction in Authority staff numbers, however, does mean that there is an element of risk re capacity in undertaking future projects.

12. AUTHORITY STRATEGIES

The Authority's four main strategies are :

- Snowdonia National Park Management Plan,
- Eryri Local Development Plan,
- Corporate Plan, and
- Corporate Work Programme.

Further information about the 4 strategies as well as other Authority strategies and a review of their effectiveness is in part 5 of the Annual Governance Statement.

13. IMPACT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE

The Authority has balanced its budget for 2021/22 based on the National Park Grant figure as advised by Welsh Government officers in December 2020. Welsh Government has not provided indicative settlement figures for 2022/23 and beyond.

The COVID-19 effect

The Authority has received financial support via Non-Domestic tax saving and also business support grants from Gwynedd and Conwy councils, grant support specific to Yr Ysgwrn and the job furlough scheme. At present, Plas Tan Y Bwlch is only offering a bed and breakfast service and facilities for day meetings.

Access to Yr Ysgwrn and Information Centres follows Welsh Government guidelines, and the Authority's services generally follow Covid related work guidelines.

While there is limited staff presence at the Headquarters in Penrhyndeudraeth, the majority of staff continue to work from home. Access to the main offices for the public is limited to by appointment only. Some Plas Tan Y Bwlch staff remain on the furlough scheme.

The Authority has considered the position of tenants and consented to a reduction in rent where necessary. Where Capital and Grant projects have been delayed, the Authority have discussed with the relevant fund providers and partners and been granted an extension where appropriate e.g. Dolgellau Townscape Heritage and Carneddau Landscape Partnership schemes.

At the time of writing, the Authority's cash flow is adequate, but should there be a "third wave" of the virus the situation would need to be re-evaluated.

The Authority has checked the Park Management Plan against the lessons learned as a result of Covid. A review of the Local Development Plan will commence within the next 2 years (with the exact date of review to be determined primarily by the LDP Annual Monitoring Report) and this will also consider the challenges for the area resulting from Covid. The Well-being Plan was developed over the Autumn / winter including consideration of Covid issues. The Authority is continually reviewing the financial impact until there is better stability.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about this Statement of Account is available from:

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Head of Finance
Snowdonia National Park Authority
National Park Offices
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Gwynedd
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**THE STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

THE AUTHORITY’S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Authority is required to:-

- Make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. For Snowdonia National Park Authority, that officer is the Chief Finance Officer;
- Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets;
- Approve the statement of accounts.

These accounts were approved by the Authority on 2021

Signature :

CLLR WYN ELLIS-JONES - CHAIRMAN

THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER’S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Authority’s statement of accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the CODE).

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Chief Finance Officer has:-

- Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent;
- Complied with the local authority CODE.

The Chief Financial Officer has also:-

- Kept proper accounting records which were up to date;
- Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER’S CERTIFICATE

I certify that the Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Accounts and Audit Regulations and gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Signature 

27th July 2021

DAFYDD L. EDWARDS - CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. **General Principles**

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the CODE).

The Code of Practice requires accounting policies to be applied consistently. The overriding requirement is that the Statement of Accounts “present a true and fair view” of the financial performance and position of the Authority.

2. **Accounting Concepts**

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the following fundamental (and pervasive) accounting principles and concepts:

- Going concern
- Relevance
- Faithful representation
- Comparability
- Understandable
- Materiality
- Accruals
- Primacy of legislative requirement

These principles and concepts have been used in the selection and application of accounting policies and estimation techniques and in the exercise of professional judgement.

3. **Accruals of Expenditure and Income**

The revenue and capital accounts of the Authority are maintained on an accruals basis. All sums due to the Authority are set up in the accounts at the time they are due.

- Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the Authority transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Authority.
- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Authority can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Authority.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

4. Cash and Cash Equivalents

These consist of the Authority's imprest and float accounts and cash held on "call" or short term deposit with banks where the monies are repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours.

5. Exceptional Items

Where such items are applicable to the 2020/21 accounts, they have been highlighted in the relevant notes e.g. revaluation losses.

6. Prior period adjustments, changes in accounting policies and estimates and errors

There are no material adjustments arising in 2020/21.

7. Charges to revenue for non-current assets

Services, support services and trading accounts are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding fixed assets during the year:

- Depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service.
- Revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off.
- Amortisation of intangible fixed assets attributable to the service.
These sums are not chargeable against the Authority's General Fund and as such are therefore reversed out through an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account as shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

8. Employee Benefits**8.1 Benefits Payable During Employment :**

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits (e.g. cars) for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Authority.

8.2 Termination Benefits :

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Authority to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy and are charged on an accruals basis to the Non Distributed Costs line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the Authority is demonstrably committed to the termination of the employment of an officer or group of officers or making an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy.

8.3 Post Employment Benefits :

Employees of the Authority are members of the Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by Gwynedd Council. The scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Authority.

8.4 The Local Government Pension Scheme

All staff, subject to certain qualifying criteria, are entitled to become members of the Local Government Pension Scheme. The pension costs charged to the Authority's accounts in respect of this group of employees are determined by the fund administrators and represent a fixed proportion of employees' contributions to this funded pension scheme.

The Local Government Scheme is accounted for as a defined benefit scheme.

The liabilities of the Gwynedd Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method - i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions such as mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projected earnings for current employees.

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 2.3% calculated as a weighted average of 'spot yields' on AA rated corporate bonds.

The assets of the Gwynedd Pension Fund attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value as determined by the Fund's Actuary.

The change in the net pensions liability is analysed into the following components:

Service cost comprising:

- Current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked.
- Past service cost – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Corporate costs.
- Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/(asset), i.e. the net interest expense for the Authority – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability/(asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability/(asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability/(asset) during the period as a result of contributions and benefit payments.

Re-measurements comprising:

- The return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability/(asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- Contributions paid to the Gwynedd Pension Fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the Pension Fund in settlement of liabilities not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the Authority Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority to the Pension Fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are appropriations to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the Authority Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 governs how the long-term liabilities which exist in relation to pension costs should be reported. Local Authorities in England and Wales are required to produce their financial statements in accordance with IAS19.

8.5 Discretionary Benefits

The Authority also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

9. Events After the Balance Sheet Date

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

- those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events
- those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but where a

category of events would have a material effect, disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect. Events taking place after the date of authorisation for issue are not reflected in the Statement of Accounts.

10. **Financial Instruments**

Financial Liabilities

The Authority is a debt-free Authority in that it has no borrowings.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified into two types:

- Loans and Receivables – Assets that have fixed or determinable payments but are not quoted in an active market.

Such instruments relevant to the Authority are car loans made to employees (however the sums are deemed not to be material enough for inclusion).

- Available-for-sale assets – Assets that have a quoted market price and/or do not have fixed or determinable payments. The Authority has no such asset.

11. **Foreign Currency**

Income and expenditure arising from any transactions denominated in a foreign currency is translated to £ sterling.

12. **Government Grants and other Contributions**

Whether paid on account, by instalments or in arrears, government grants and third party contributions and donations are recognised as due to the Authority when there is reasonable assurance that:

- the Authority will comply with the conditions attached to the payments, and;
- the grants or contributions will be received.

Amounts recognised as due to the Authority are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset acquired using the grant or contribution are required to be consumed by the recipient as specified, or future economic benefits or service potential must be returned to the transferor.

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (non-ring fenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Where the grant has yet to be used to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied reserve. Where it has been applied, it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied reserve are

transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

13. Heritage Assets

Heritage assets are those assets preserved in trust for future generations because of their cultural, environmental or historic associations i.e. they have historical, artistic, scientific, geophysical or environmental qualities. They are maintained by the Authority principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture, but are not utilised by the Authority in its normal course of business. Depreciation of heritage assets, where appropriate, is in line with the Authority's general policy on depreciation.

14. Intangible Assets

Purchased intangible assets in the form of software licences are accounted for as part of the Information Technology replacement programme, and are written off to revenue in line with depreciation charges.

15. Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The Authority has an interest in a Limited Liability Partnership together with 13 other UK National Park Authorities for the purpose of generating income mainly from sponsorship.

16. Inventories and Long Term Contracts

Stocks are brought into account at cost price for bar stocks, goods for resale and general provisions at Plas Tan y Bwlch, Study Centre, and for goods for resale at the Authority's Information Centres. This is consistent with the policy adopted in previous years. Recommended practice requires stocks to be shown at the lower of actual cost or net realisable value but the difference in this case is not considered to be material.

17. Leases (Finance)

As at 31/3/2021 the Authority has no finance lease arrangements.

18. Leases (Operational)

The Authority manages operating leases for:

- Vehicles,
- Photocopiers and snacks & drinks machines.
- Land and buildings

Lease payments are charged in full according to date payable on a straight line basis, ensuring an equal annual charge to service revenue accounts throughout the life of the lease.

The Authority rents a number of properties in support of its services, and also receives rental income from a number of owned properties. The owned properties are held as fixed assets in the balance sheet. The lease income is accounted for on a straight line basis.

19. **Property, Plant and Equipment**

Assets that have physical substance and are held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes and that are expected to be used during more than one financial year are classified as Property, Plant and Equipment.

Recognition: Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Authority and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

Measurement: Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- the purchase price
- any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management (the initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.)

The cost of assets acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value, unless the acquisition does not have commercial substance (i.e. it will not lead to a variation in the cash flows of the Authority). In the latter case, where an asset is acquired via an exchange, the cost of the acquisition is the carrying amount of the asset given up by the Authority.

Where gains are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Assets are then carried in the Balance Sheet using the following measurement bases:

- Infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost where known
- Non-operational assets (surplus assets) - measured at fair (market) value.
- All other assets – service potential at existing use value (EUUV), determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use.

Where there is no market-based evidence of fair value or existing use value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of the value.

Where non-property assets that have short useful lives or low values (or both), depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for fair value. Other than for information systems equipment, a de minimis level of £10k has been used for the recognition of non-current assets.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at fair value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their fair value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. Increases in valuations are

matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. [Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.]

Where decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for by:

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains)
- where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The Revaluation Reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1st April 2007 only, the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the Capital Adjustment Account.

Componentisation :The Authority has applied the componentisation principle to those assets valued at £150k or over and where the difference in depreciation cost is identified as being material. This principle is applied in order that those elements of a property that have different operational lives and thereby differing rates of depreciation are recognised and accounted for.

Impairment: Assets are assessed at each year-end as to whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. Where indications exist and any possible differences are estimated to be material, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and, where this is less than the carrying amount of the asset, an impairment loss is recognised for the shortfall.

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for by:

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains)
- where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where an impairment loss is reversed subsequently, the reversal is credited to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, up to the amount of the original loss, adjusted for depreciation that would have been charged if the loss had not been recognised.

Depreciation: Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e. freehold land and certain Community Assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction). Neither investment assets nor assets held for sale are depreciated.

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Buildings – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer
- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – a percentage of the value of each class of assets in the Balance Sheet, as advised by a suitably qualified officer

Depreciation is applied on the basis of a full year in the year when the asset is first recognised in the Authority's accounts. Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately. Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between current value depreciation charged on assets and the depreciation that would have been chargeable based on their historical cost being transferred each year from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Disposals and Non-current Assets Held for Sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previously losses recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services.

If assets no longer meet the criteria to be classified as Assets Held for Sale, they are reclassified back to non-current assets and valued at the lower of their carrying amount before they were classified as held for sale; adjusted for depreciation, amortisation or revaluations that would have been recognised had they not been classified as Held for Sale, and their recoverable amount at the date of the decision not to sell.

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as Assets Held for Sale.

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10k are categorised as capital receipts. The balance of receipts is required to be credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve, and can then only be used for new capital investment [or set aside to reduce the Authority's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement)]. Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against the General Fund. These amounts are appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

20. **Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets**

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Authority a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. For instance, the Authority may be involved in a court case that could eventually result in the making of a settlement or the payment of compensation.

Provisions

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the Authority becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the Authority a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the authority. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

Contingent Assets

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the Authority a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the authority.

Contingent assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

21. **Reserves**

The Authority sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover risks. Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year to score against the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then appropriated back into the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against the General Fund for the expenditure.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Authority – these reserves are explained in the relevant policies.

22. Revenue Expenditure Funded From Capital Under Statute

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but that does not result in the creation of a non-current asset has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year. Where the Authority has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged so that there is no impact on the General Fund Balance.

23. Value Added Tax

VAT payable is included as an expense only to the extent that it is not recoverable from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (H.M.R.C.). VAT receivable is excluded from income. It is the Authority's practice to include any input tax which cannot be recovered from H.M. Revenue and Customs within the costs of relevant services. As a result of the change in Plas Tan y Bwlch's current business model, the Authority has not sustained any irrecoverable VAT cost there in 2020/21.

THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices.

2019/20 Gross Expenditure	2019/20 Gross Income	2019/20 Net Expenditure		2020/21 Gross Expenditure	2020/21 Gross Expenditure	2020/21 Gross Expenditure
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
5,549	-4,475	1,074	Planning and Land Management	6,891	-5,062	1,829
5,563	-1,926	3,637	Corporate	5,304	-1,597	3,707
36	0	36	Non-distributable Costs	43	0	43
11,148	-6,401	4,747	Net Cost of Service	12,238	-6,659	5,579
		-58	Other Operating Expenditure (note 9)			5
		146	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure (note 10)			99
		4,835	Net Operating Expenditure			5,683
		-6,219	Non-specific grant income (note 11)			-6,246
		-1,384	Surplus (-) / Deficit on Provision of Services for the year			-563
		180	Net surplus on revaluation of fixed assets and impairment losses charged to the revaluation reserve (note 21)			296
		-4,212	Actuarial gains / losses on pension assets/liabilities (note 36)			2,113
		-4,032				2,409
		- 5,416	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			1,846

BALANCE SHEET

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Authority. The net assets of the Authority (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Authority. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Authority may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves is those that the Authority is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve) where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line "Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations".

2019/20		Notes	2020/21
£'000			£'000
17,624	Property, Plant & Equipment	12	17,552
810	Heritage Assets	13	798
37	Long Term Debtors	17	25
18,471	Long Term Assets		18,375
5,468	Short term investments	15	5,334
131	Inventories	16	117
1,804	Short Term Debtors	17	3,146
2,641	Cash and Cash Equivalents	18	3,859
10,044	Current Assets		12,456
-1,761	Short Term Creditors	19	-2,885
-3	Provisions		0
-1,764	Current Liabilities		-2,885
-4,589	Pension Fund Liability	36	-7,317
-430	Long Term Creditors	19	-743
-5,019	Long Term Liabilities		-8,060
21,732	Net Assets		19,886
-8,039	Usable Reserves	8	-9,114
-13,693	Unusable Reserves	21	-10,772
-21,732	Total Reserves		-19,886

THE MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into "Usable reserves" (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure) and other reserves. The Surplus (+) or Deficit (-) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Authority's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance. The Net Increase/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Authority.

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT 2020/21

	General Fund & Earmarked Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	Total Usuable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Balance as at 31 March 2020 brought forward	-5,618	-163	-2,257	-8,039	-13,693	-21,732
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-563	0	0	-563	2,409	1,846
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (note 7)	-379	0	-133	-512	512	0
Increase / Decrease in 2020/21	-942	0	-133	-1,075	2,921	1,846
Balance as at 31 March 2021 carried forward	-6,560	-163	-2,390	-9,114	-10,772	-19,886
General Fund	-663					
Earmarked Reserves	-5,897	(see note 8)				
	-6,560					

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT 2019/20

	General Fund & Earmarked Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	Total Usuable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 31 March 2019 brought forward	-4,282	-152	-1,190	-5,625	-10,691	-16,316
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-1,384	0	0	-1,384	-4,032	-5,416
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (note 7)	48	-11	-1067	-1,030	1,030	0
Increase / Decrease in 2019/20	-1,336	-11	-1,067	-2,414	-3,002	-5,416
Balance as at 31 March 2020 carried forward	-5,618	-163	-2,257	-8,039	-13,693	-21,732
General Fund	-659					
Earmarked Reserves	-4,959 (see note 8)					
	-5,618					

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

The **Cash Flow Statement** shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Authority during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Authority generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Authority are funded by way of grant and levy income or from the recipients of services provided by the Authority. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Authority's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the Authority.

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
-1,384	Net (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	-563
-24	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements (note 22)	-1,454
1,466	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	1,548
58	Net cash flows from Operating Activities	-469
1,154	Investing Activities (note 23)	-734
-5	Financing Activities (note 24)	-15
1,207	Net increase (-) or decrease (+) in cash and cash equivalents	-1,218
3,848	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	2,641
2,641	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period (note 18)	3,859

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

The objective of the Expenditure and Funding Analysis is to demonstrate how the funding available to the Authority (i.e. government grants, rents, fees & charges etc.) for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The Expenditure and Funding Analysis also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the council's directorates. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2020/21					
	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	Adjustment between Outturn and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	Outturn
	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)
Planning and Land Management	1,875	46	1,829	323	1,506
Corporate and Communication	3,325	-382	3,707	589	3,118
Costs that cannot be allocated	0	-43	43	43	0
Net Cost of Services	5,200	-379	5,579	955	4,624
Other Income and Expenditure	-6,142	0	-6,142	-6,142	0
Surplus / Deficit	-942	-379	-563	-5,187	4,624
Opening Balance	-5,618				
Surplus for the year	-942				
Closing Balance	-6,560				
	-663	General Fund			
	-5,897	Earmarked reserves (note 8)			
	-6,560				

2019/20					
	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	Adjustment between Outturn and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	Outturn
	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)
Planning and Land Management	1,244	170	1,074	79	995
Corporate and Communication	3,551	-86	3,637	499	3,138
Costs that cannot be allocated	0	-36	36	36	0
Net Cost of Services	4,795	48	4,747	614	4,133
Other Income and Expenditure	-6,131		-6,131	-6,131	0
Surplus / Deficit	-1,336	48	-1,384	-5,517	4,133
Opening Balance	-4,282				
Surplus for the year	-1,336				
Closing Balance	-5,618				
	-659	General Fund			
	-4,959	Earmarked reserves (note 8)			
	-5,618				

1a NOTE ON ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE FUNDING AND ACCOUNTING BASIS

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2020/21				
Adjustments from the General Fund to arrive at the CI&E Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (£'000)	Net Change for the Pensions & Employee Benefit adjustments (£'000)	Other Differences (£'000)	Total adjustments (£'000)
Planning and Land Management	317	-271	0	46
Corporate (incl. Communication)	28	-410	0	-382
Costs that cannot be allocated	0	-43	0	-43
Net Cost of Services	345	-724	0	-379
Other income and expenditure from the Exp and Inc Analysis	0	0	0	0
Difference between the General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	345	-724	0	-379

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis 2019/20				
Adjustments from the General Fund to arrive at the CI&E Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (£'000)	Net Change for the Pensions & Employee Benefit adjustments (£'000)	Other Differences (£'000)	Total adjustments (£'000)
Planning and Land Management	654	-484	0	170
Corporate (incl. Communication)	465	-551	0	-86
Costs that cannot be allocated	0	-36	0	-36
Net Cost of Services	1,119	-1,071	0	48
Other income and expenditure from the Exp and Inc Analysis	0	0	0	0
Difference between the General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	1,119	-1,071	0	48

1b NOTE ON INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ON A SEGMENTAL BASIS

Income Analysed by Segment		
	2019/20	2020/21
	(£'000)	(£'000)
Fees, charges and other service income		
Planning, Cultural Heritage and Land Management	-503	-542
Corporate (incl. Communication)	-1,910	-891
	-2,413	-1,433

Significant "non-cash" costs analysed by Segment						
	Planning, Cultural Heritage and Land Management		Corporate (including Communication)		Totals	
	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21
Depreciation	126	142	465	535	591	677
Revaluation Loss	102	60	104	197	206	257
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	504	588	10	29	514	617
IAS 19 pension adjustment	383	176	434	285	817	461
Employee accrual adjustment	10	52	13	57	23	109
Total	1125	1018	1026	1103	2151	2121

1c NOTE ON EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ANALYSED BY NATURE

Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature		
The Authority's expenditure and income is analysed as follows :		
	2019/20	2020/21
Expenditure/Income	(£'000)	(£'000)
Expenditure		
Employee benefits expenses	5,011	5,265
Other services expenses	5,303	5,996
Non distributable costs	36	43
Depreciation, amortisation, impairment, revaluation losses	797	934
Total Expenditure	11,147	12,238
Income		
Fees, charges and other service income	-2,413	-1,433
Net interest on net defined benefit liability (IAS19 pension adjustment)	196	111
Interest and investment income	-49	-12
Government grants and contributions	-3,988	-5,226
Non specific grant income	-6,219	-6,246
Gain on disposal of assets	-58	5
Total income	-12,531	-12,801
Deficit on the Provision of Services	-1,384	-563

2. Accounting Standards that have been issued but have not yet been adopted

There are no standards that have an effect on the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts.

3. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

In applying the accounting policies set out on pages 11-21, the Authority has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

There is a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. The Authority, however, has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Authority might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.

4. ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT THE FUTURE AND OTHER MAJOR SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Authority about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

Those assumptions made by the Actuary relating to the pension fund are disclosed in note 36.

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Pensions Liability (note 36)	<p>Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and, for the Local Government Pension Scheme, the expected return on pension fund assets.</p> <p>An assessment of the liabilities is provided by Hymans Robertson. Further information is provided within note 36.</p>	<p>Relatively small changes in the assumptions made can have a significant impact on the pension net liability. The pension net liability shown in the balance sheet will only become payable over the retirement period of current and retired employees, so adjustments to the liability can be spread over a number of years through changes in employee and employer contributions. Increases in employer contributions have a direct impact on the budget.</p> <p>The effect of the change in actuarial assumptions is</p>

		referred to in note 5 of the Narrative Report.
Property valuations (note 12)	<p>The Authority revalues its assets every 5 years. The last full valuation was undertaken in 2016-17. It is possible that property values could fluctuate considerably within this 5 years time frame. In this respect an annual review is undertaken by the Head of Finance and Head of Property to identify any interim valuations required.</p> <p>It bases its valuations on assumptions about asset conditions, useful lives, residual values and market conditions.</p> <p>These judgements are underpinned by the best available information and made by qualified valuers but are still based on estimates.</p>	A fluctuation in property values would impact on the values held in the Balance Sheet and on the corresponding depreciation charge.

5. MATERIAL ITEMS OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

The Authority received specific grants from Welsh Government worth £2,131,344 in 2020/21. £849,959 of this sum has been transferred to the Authority reserves whilst £253,000 is held as a grant received in advance under long term liabilities in the balance sheet.

£811,538 support grants were received in lieu of the effect of the pandemic.

6. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

The Statement of Accounts have been approved for publication by the Chief Finance Officer as at 27 July 2021. Events after this date are not reflected in neither the financial statements nor the notes. Where events before this date provide information about the situation before 31st March 2021, the figures in the financial statement and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to show the effect of this information.

7. ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

This note details the adjustments that are made in the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the Authority in the year in accordance with proper

accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Authority to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

2020/21	Usable Reserves				Movement in Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE CAPITAL ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT					
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement					
Charges for depreciation, impairment and revaluation losses on non-current assets	-677	0	0	0	677
Losses on revaluation	-257	0	0	0	257
Net book value of asset disposed	-16	0	0	0	16
Capital grants and contributions applied	905	0	0	0	-905
Revenue Expenditure funded from capital under statute	-272	0	0	0	272
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement					
Capital grant received in previous years and transferred to revenue in 2020/21	-5	0	0	5	0
Capital grant received in previous years and used in 2020/21	0	0	0	357	-357
Capital expenditure charges against the General Fund	172	0	0	0	-172
ADJUSTMENT PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE CAPITAL GRANTS UNAPPLIED ACCOUNT					
Correction on grant classification in 2019/20	0	-10	0	10	0
Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	505	0	0	-505	0
ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE PENSION RESERVE					
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-1,289	0	0	0	1,289
Employers Pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year.	674	0	0	0	-674
ADJUSTMENT PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE ACCUMULATED ABSENCES ACCOUNT					
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	-109	0	0	0	109
TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS	-369	-10	0	-133	512

2019/20	Usable Reserves				Movement in Unusable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE CAPITAL ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT					
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement					
Charges for depreciation, impairment and revaluation losses on non-current assets	-591	0	0	0	591
Losses on revaluation	-206	0	0	0	206
Net book value of assets disposed of	-36	0	0	0	36
Capital grants and contributions applied	525	0	0	0	-525
Revenue Expenditure funded from capital under statute	-375	0	0	0	375
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement					
Capital grants received in previous financial years and used in 2019/20	0	0	0	464	-464
Capital expenditure charges against the General Fund	237	0	0	0	-237
2018/19 surplus adjustment	13	-13	0	0	0
ADJUSTMENT PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE CAPITAL GRANTS UNAPPLIED ACCOUNT					
Capital grant received in 2018/19 and transferred to revenue in 2019/20	-22	0	0	22	0
Capital Grants and Contributions Unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	1,553	0	0	-1,553	0
ADJUSTMENT PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE CAPITAL RECEIPTS RESERVE					
Capital receipts used in 2019/20	-1	0	24	0	-23
Capital receipts in 2019/20 not utilised	35	0	-35	0	0
ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE PENSION RESERVE					
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-1,680	0	0	0	1,680
Employers Pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year.	631	0	0	0	-631
ADJUSTMENT PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE ACCUMULATED ABSENCES ACCOUNT					
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	-22	0	0	0	22
TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS	61	-13	-11	-1,067	1,030

8. TRANSFERS TO/FROM EARMARKED RESERVES

	Balance at 31 March 2019	Transfers out 2019/20	Transfers in 2019/20	Balance at 31 March 2020	Transfers out 2020/21	Transfers in 2020/21	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Earmarked Revenue & Capital reserves (approved as earmarked revenue and capital expenditure)	-508	499	-363	-372	50	-234	-556
Specific Risks Reserve (to meet probable budget pressures)	-324	0	-100	-424	0	0	-424
Capital projects reserve (to fund one - off capital commitments)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Planning Reserve (To meet costs of Public Inquiry)	-225	0	0	-225	0	0	-225
Match Funding Revenue Reserve (For Convergence Fund Purposes)	-794	160	-429	-1,063	297	-298	-1,064
Match Funding Reserve - NRW (For Convergence Fund purposes)	-9	9	0	0	0	0	0
Revenue Grants reserve	-845	256	-1,131	-1,720	313	-702	-2,109
Bequest reserve	-93	93	0	0	0	0	0
Pen y Pass Income reserve (for facilities related to Snowdon)	-56	0	0	-56	0	0	-56
Section 106 reserve (for purposes related to affordable housing)	-230	0	-10	-240	50	-105	-295
Projects reserve	-393	297	-309	-405	190	-289	-504
Asset Management reserve	-305	71	0	-234	29	-239	-444
Staff Resilience reserve	-100	0	-20	-120	0	0	-120
Commercial Risk reserve	-120	20	0	-100	0	0	-100
Liability relating to the Pension Reserve	67	0	-67	0	0	0	0
	-3,935	1,405	-2,429	-4,959	929	-1,867	-5,897
Other Reserves				0			
General Fund	-347	0	-312	-659	0	-4	-663
Capital :							
Capital Grants Unapplied	-1,190	824	-1891	-2,257	1344	-1477	-2,390
Usable Capital Receipts reserve (to only finance capital expenditure)	-153	124	-135	-164	20	-20	-164
	-5,625	2,353	-4,767	-8,039	2,293	-3,368	-9,114

9. OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
-58	Gains/losses on disposal of non-current assets	5

10. FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
196	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	111
-50	Interest receivable and similar income	-12
146	Total	99

11. NON-SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
-3,745	National Park Grant	-3,745
-1,248	Levies on Constituent Authorities	-1,249
-1,226	Capital Grants and Contributions	-1,252
-6,219	Total	-6,246

12. PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Movement on Balances

2020/21	Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000	Community £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets under Construction £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation						
At 1 April 2020	18,702	1,951	108	0	147	20,908
Additions	615	332	0	0	208	1155
De-recognition						0
Disposals	0	-106	0	0	0	-106
Re-classification : Assets under construction to operational assets	122	0	0	0	-122	0
Revaluation loss to the CIES	-296	0	0	0	0	-296
Revaluation loss to the Revaluation Reserve	-250	0	0	0	0	-250
At 31 March 2021	18,893	2,177	108	0	233	21,411
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairments						
At 1 April 2020	-1791	-1,493	0	0	0	-3,284
Depreciation	-485	-180	0	0	0	-665
Disposals	0	90	0	0	0	90
At 31 March 2021	-2,276	-1,583	0	0	0	-3,859
Net Book Value at 31 March 2021	16,617	594	108	0	233	17,552
Net Book Value at 31 March 2020	16,911	458	108	0	147	17,624

2019/20	Land and Buildings £'000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £'000	Community £'000	Surplus Assets £'000	Assets under Construction £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation						
At 1 April 2019	18,701	1,742	108	0	0	20,551
Additions	384	341	0	0	147	872
Disposals	0	-132	0	0	0	-132
Revaluation loss to the CIES	-204	0	0	0	0	-204
Revaluation loss to the Revaluation Reserve	-179	0	0	0	0	-179
At 31 March 2020	18,702	1,951	108	0	147	20,908
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairments						
At 1 April 2019	-1,336	-1,497	0	0	0	-2,833
Depreciation	-455	-124	0	0	0	-579
Disposals	0	128	0	0	0	128
At 31 March 2020	-1,791	-1,493	0	0	0	-3,284
Net Book Value at 31 March 2020	16,911	458	108	0	147	17,624
Net Book Value at 31 March 2019	17,365	245	108	0	0	17,718

Depreciation

Depreciation of fixed assets is charged on a straight line basis to write off their cost less any projected residual value in equal instalments over the expected useful life of the asset using the following bases:-

Operational Land & Property	: between 10 – 60 years
Community Assets	: nil
Information Systems Equipment	: 3 years
Vehicles	: over 7 years to nil value.
Furniture & Other Equipment	: estimated operational life

Revaluations

There were two revaluations during 2020/21 following work on Dôl Idris and Nant Peris TAIS Schemes. Otherwise, there were assessments on those capital expenditures which did not increase the book value of a property.

Capital Commitments

The only capital commitments on tendered contracts the Authority have as at 31/3/2021 are :

- Dolgellau Heritage Townscape Scheme – £57k (31/3/2020 - £201k).
- Morfa Dyffryn SLSP Grant Scheme - £23k
- Cultural Heritage Schemes - £28k
- New Authority Website - £69k

13. HERITAGE ASSETS

The Authority's classification of tangible heritage assets relates to :

- **Ynys y Pandy Slate Mill** - a listed building with no operational use, and removed from the land and buildings valuation in 2011/12 due to being below the de-minimis level.
- **Craig Yr Aderyn** - a Site of Special Scientific Interest and retained for its environmental qualities. Valuation at "existing use value"
- **Yr Ysgwrn** - home of the poet Hedd Wyn having been purchased to protect its cultural heritage. Main house valued at "depreciated replacement cost" and bungalow at "existing use value" (using the "investment method")

2020/21	Ynys y Pandy Slate Mill	Craig yr Aderyn	Ysgwrn	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or valuation				
1 April 2020	0	28	818	846
Additions	0	0	7	7
Revaluation loss to the CI&ES	0	0	-7	-7
31 March 2021	0	28	818	846
Depreciation and Impairment				
1 April 2020	0	0	-36	-36
Depreciation	0	0	-12	-12
31 March 2021	0	0	-48	-48
Net Book Value at 31 March 2021	0	28	770	798
Net Book Value at 31 March 2020	0	28	782	810

2019/20	Ynys y Pandy Slate Mill	Craig yr Aderyn	Ysgwrn	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or valuation				
1 April 2019	0	28	818	846
Additions	0	0	2	2
Revaluation loss to the CI&ES	0	0	-2	-2
Revaluation loss to the Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0
31 March 2020	0	28	818	846
Depreciation and Impairment				
1 April 2019	0	0	-24	-24
Depreciation	0	0	-12	-12
31 March 2020	0	0	-36	-36
Net Book Value at 31 March 2020	0	28	782	810
Net Book Value at 31 March 2019	0	28	794	822

14. ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

As at 31st March 2021 there were no assets held for sale. (As at 31/03/2020 no assets were designated as Assets for Sale).

15. SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS

As at 31st March 2021 the Authority held term deposits worth £5,334k. (£5,468k as at 31st March 2020).

16. INVENTORIES

Stocks are brought into account at cost price. Stocks held on 31st March 2021 consisted of :-

		Balance as at 31/3/2020 £'000	Balance as at 31/3/2021 £'000
Information Centres	Goods for resale	79	82
Access	Snowdon maps	4	4
	Stones and Bags	16	5
Plas Tan y Bwlch	Bar	2	1
	Goods for resale	7	6
	Catering and cleaning	3	0
Administration and Customer Care	Protective Clothing	4	3
Agriculture	Trees	10	10
Ysgwrn	Café and shop goods	3	3
Pen y Pass	Goods for resale	2	2
Llyn Tegid	Goods for resale	1	1
Total		131	117

17. DEBTORS

2019/20 £'000		2020/21 £'000
	Amounts falling due within one year :	
332	Trade	96
137	Prepayments	119
1,335	Other	2,931
1,804		3,146
	Long Term Debtors (amounts falling due after on year)	
37	Car loans to employees	25
37		25

18. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The balance of Cash and Cash Equivalents is made up of the following elements :

31 March 2020		31 March 2021
£'000		£'000
3	Cash held by the Authority	2
1,051	Bank current accounts	921
1,587	Short-term deposits with banks	2,936
2,641	Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,859

19. CREDITORS

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
-742	Trade	-1,507
-1,019	Other	-1,378
-1,761		-2,885
	Long Term Creditors (amounts payable after one year)	
-430	Grants received in advance	-743
-430		-743

The £743k under Long Term Creditors represents :

- £346k contribution relevant to the LIFE – Celtic Rainforests scheme.
- £253k Welsh Government grant for works on Hafod Eryri
- £95k ERAMMP grant.
- £48k contributions relating to the Dark Skies project.
- £1k relating to the Nant Peris TAIS scheme

20. USABLE RESERVES

Movements in the Authority's usable reserves are as noted in the Movement in Reserves Statement (and note 8).

21. UNUSABLE RESERVES

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
-8,424	Revaluation Reserve	-7,967
-10,035	Capital Adjustments Account	-10,408
4,589	Pensions Reserve	7,317
177	Accumulated Absences Account	286
-13,693		-10,772

THE REVALUATION RESERVE

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Authority arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment (and Intangible Assets).

The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

- Revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost,
- Used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation, or
- Disposed of and the gains are realised

The reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1st April 2007, the date that the Reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account.

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
-8,809	Balance at 1st April	-8,424
0	Upward revaluation of assets	
214	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	296
214	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	296
171	Depreciation on revaluation gains written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	161
-8,424	Balance at 31st March	-7,967

CAPITAL ADJUSTMENT ACCOUNT

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Authority as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Authority.

The Account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1st April 2007, the date that the Revaluation reserve was created to hold such gains.

Note 8 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account, apart from those involving the Revaluation reserve.

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
-9,788	Balance at 1st April	-10,035
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement :	
591	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	677
206	Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	257
3	Book value of equipment disposals	16
375	Revenue Expenditure Funded from capital under statute	272
-2	Estimated cost of sale of an "asset held for sale"	0
-8,615		-8,813
	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	
-171	Depreciation adjustment	-161
-8,786	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	-8,974
	Capital financing applied in the year :	
-23	Use of capital receipts to finance new capital expenditure	0
-525	Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	-905
-464	Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	-357
-237	Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund balances	-172
-10,035	Balance at 31st March	-10,408

PENSIONS RESERVE

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Authority accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require

benefits earned to be financed as the Authority makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Authority has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
7,752	Balance at 1 April	4,589
-4,212	Actuarial gains / losses on pensions assets and liabilities	2,113
1,680	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	1,289
-631	Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year.	-674
4,589	Balance at 31 March	7,317

ACCUMULATED ABSENCES ACCOUNT

The Accumulated Absences Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund Balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year e.g. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31st March. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund Balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the Account.

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
154	Balance at 1 April	177
-154	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year.	-177
177	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	286
23	Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	109
177	Balance at 31 March	286

22. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – OPERATING ACTIVITIES

The “adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements” comprises of :

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
-591	Depreciation and impairment	-677
-207	Revaluation losses on Property Plant & Equipment	-257
-36	Revaluation gains against past losses	-16
1,168	Movement in creditors	-1,298
688	Movement in debtors	1,423
3	Movement in stock	-14
-1,049	Provision of Services costs for post employment benefits	-615
-24		-1,454

The cash flows from operating activities includes bank interest received of £11k (£48k in 2019/20).

23. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – INVESTING ACTIVITIES

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
874	Purchase of property, plant and Equipment, investment property and intangible assets	1,162
-95	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	-10
1,571	Proceeds from short term and long term investments	-133
-1,196	Other receipts from investing activities	-1,753
1,154	Net cash flows from investing activities	-734

24. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – FINANCING ACTIVITIES

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
-23	Car loan repayments and related interest together with finance lease interest	-24
18	New car loans advanced	10
-5	Net cash flows from investing activities	-14

25. MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

The Authority paid the following amounts to members of the Authority during the year.

The allowances paid to members were:-

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
80	Members Allowances	91
11	Travel & Subsistence	0
91		91

Further information is available on the Authority's website. See the following link :

[HTTPS://WWW.SNOWDONIA.GOV.WALES/AUTHORITY/PUBLICATIONS/MEMBER-ALLOWANCES](https://www.snowdonia.gov.wales/authority/publications/member-allowances)

26. STAFF REMUNERATION

Regulation 7A of The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2010 requires disclosures of employees' remuneration.

The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 require the Authority to disclose a remuneration ratio between the median remuneration of all the authority's employees during the year and that of the authority's chief executive.

2019/20		2020/21
(£'000)		(£'000)
88.1	Chief Executive Officer	90.5
21.2	SNPA Median Salary	23.5
4.16	Ratio	3.85

The remuneration paid to the Authority's senior employees is as follows:

2019/20				2020/21		
Salary	Employer Pension Contribution	Total		Salary	Employer Pension Contribution	Total
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
88	17	105	Chief Executive Officer	91	18	109
6	2	8	Chief Finance Officer (Section 151)*	7	1	8
62	12	74	Director of Corporate Services	63	13	76
62	12	74	Director of Planning and Land Management Services	63	13	76

* The Chief Finance Officer is also Gwynedd Council's Head of Finance, this relationship has been disclosed under note 29 – Related Parties.

One officer received a sum of over £60k (excluding Pension and Employer National Insurance Contributions) including a redundancy payment in 2020-21. (No other Officers received over £60k in 2019/20).

Number of Officers that received over £60k including salary and redundancy benefits.							
2019-20				2020-21			
Planning and Land Management	Corporate	Total	Range	Planning and Land Management	Corporate	Total	
0	0	0	65,000 - 69,999	0	1	1	

Termination Benefits

The number of exit packages with total cost per band and total cost of the compulsory and other redundancies are set out in the table below:

exit package cost band	number of compulsory redundancies		number of other departures agreed		Total number of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21
£'000							£'000	£'000
0-40	0	0	0	0	0	42	0	42
40- 60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
60 - 80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
80 - 100	0	0	0	0	0	84	0	84
100 - 150	0	0	0	0	0	130	0	130
Total	0	0	0	0	0	256	0	256

27. EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

The Wales Audit Office audit plan stipulates the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and statutory inspections and to non-audit services provided by the Authority's external auditors :-

2019/20 £'000	Regulatory area	2020/21 £'000
34	Fees payable to the Wales Audit Office with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor	28
17	Fees payable to the Auditor General for Wales in respect of statutory inspections and the LG Measure 2009	17
52	Total	45

Figures as noted in the Annual Audit Plan 2020-21 (including an adjustment to the financial audit cost and total cost figures for 2019/20).

28. GRANT INCOME

The Authority credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2020/21.

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
	REVENUE GRANTS	
	Credited to Services	
	Planning and Land Management	
68	Natural Resources Wales	409
12	National Trust	14
11	RSPB	10
364	LIFE	653
2,234	Welsh Government	2,485
93	Local Authorities	85
199	Heritage Lottery Fund	212
13	Welsh Water	0
10	Woodland Trust	10
232	National Grid	59
21	WCVA	121
0	HMRC (furlough scheme)	29
5	Other	1
3262		4088
	Corfforaethol	
0	Natural Resources Wales	5
0	Welsh Government	572
0	Local Authorities	72
0	HMRC (furlough scheme)	225
20	Other	2
20		876
3,282	Total Revenue Grants	4,964

2019/20		2020/21
£'000		£'000
	CAPITAL GRANTS	
	Credited to non-specific grant income	
	Planning and Land Management	
18	Heritage Lottery Scheme	40
366	Welsh Government	245
0	Other	48
384		333
	Corporate (including Communication)	
842	Welsh Government	913
0	Other	6
842		919
1,226	Sub-total	1,252
	Credited to Services	
	Planning and Land Management	
802	Welsh Government	416
20	CADW	0
25	Natural Resources Wales	0
45	British Mountaineering Council	0
91	Heritage Lottery Fund	187
0	Other	-1
983	Sub-total	602
	Corporate	
8	Welsh Government (TAIS)	0
8		0
991	Sub-total	602
	Capital Grants received in advance - used in 2020/21	
464	Welsh Government	316
0	Heritage Lottery Fund	34
0	British Mountaineering Council	7
464	Sub-total	357
2,681	Total Capital Grants	2,211

29. RELATED PARTIES

The Authority is required to disclose material transactions with related parties – bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Authority or to be controlled or influenced by the Authority. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Authority might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the Authority.

The Authority has adopted a materiality level of £5k for disclosure of Related Party Transactions relevant to Members and Staff.

Welsh Government

The Welsh Government exerts significant influence through legislation and grant funding. The relevant sums are disclosed in notes 11 (“non-specific grant income”) and 28 (“grant income”).

Members

Members of the Authority have direct control over the Authority's financial and operating policies. Details of members' interests are recorded in the Register of Members' interests, open to public inspection at the Authority's offices during working hours. The total of members' allowances paid in 2020/21 is shown in note 25.

Other Public Bodies

The Constituent Local Authorities within whose boundaries the Authority's own boundary runs, contribute to the finances of the Authority by means of a statutory levy, determined by the Welsh Assembly Government. Each of these authorities provides a number of councillors to serve as members of the National Park Authority, broadly in proportion to the size of the levy they contribute and their area within the National Park. The representation of the 18 members of Snowdonia National Park Authority is as follows - Gwynedd Council (9), Conwy Council (3) and Welsh Government (6). Further detail is available from the Authority agenda for the Annual General Meeting held in June each year.

Grants for specific purposes are also received from or via local authorities and the total of these is shown in note 28.

Officers

The Authority's Chief Finance Officer has declared an interest as he is Gwynedd Council's Head of Finance. The Authority received circa £1.1m (including the levy) from Gwynedd Council in 2020/21 (£1.1m in 2019/20)

Entities controlled or significantly influenced by the Authority

The Authority gives grants for specific purposes to organisations under the Eryri Partnerships Fund but it is not considered that the Authority has control, joint control or significant influence over the entities assisted.

The Authority had contracts with Gwynedd Council to provide the following services during 2019/20:

- Pension Fund administration & Payroll Support Service (£4,930)
- Internal audit Service (£7,616)

The Authority has an interest in a Limited Liability Partnership (National Parks Partnership) together with 13 other UK National Park Authorities for the purpose of generating income mainly from sponsorship. A charitable body has been established which is ancillary to the National Parks Partnership for the purpose of raising monies for the national parks.

30. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the table below, together with the resources that have been used to finance it.

2019/20 £'000		2020/21 £'000
0	Opening Capital Financing Requirement	0
	Capital Investment	
	Property, Plant & Equipment	
	Planning and Land Management	
23	Ysgwrn	61
1	Pen y Pass & Llyn Tegid	0
1	Lidar scheme (Carneddau)	53
103	Vehicles	79
14	Boat (Llyn Tegid)	0
61	Equipment	30
106	Equipment for Access works	0
0	Mobile Observatory and Dark Skies projects	42
16	Planning System	0
325		265
	Corporate (including Communication)	
1	New website	23
77	Dol Idris (TAIS scheme)	31
78	Ogwen Centre (TAIS scheme)	7
45	Nant Peris (TAIS scheme)	30
15	Visitor Monitoring Equipment	0
0	Vehicles	70
31	I.T. General Replacement programme	113
18	Plas Tan y Bwlch improvements	23
5	Electricity charging points	54
3	Water Refill Stations	0
85	Main Offices Heating System	351
83	Hafod Eryri	27
10	Translation Equipment	0
8	Betws y Coed Information Centre	30
82	Energy Efficiency Measures (grant scheme)	5
8	Snowdon Partnership Scheme	29
0	Morfa Dyffryn Boardwalks	104
549		897
874		1,162
	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under Statute	
	Planning and Land Management	
0	Built Environment schemes	94
146	Dolgellau Townscape Heritage Scheme	253
64	Caer Gai	0
0	Cadair Idris	7
0	Ffridd Uchaf	33
0	Dark Skies projects	25
0	Bwlch Mawr - Brithdir	43
0	Gorseddau	2
0	Nantlle Lake (SLSP grant)	9
0	Woodlands (Welsh Govt. grant)	18
0	Woodlands (SLSP grant)	28
257	St Davids Hotel	1
11	Works related to Ogwen (TAIS scheme)	0
37	Access Improvements	104
515		617
	Historic Creditors Cancelled	
0	Planning and Land Management - Dolgellau Townscape Heritage Scheme	-47
0	Corporate (including Communication) - Ogwen Centre	-46
0		-93
1,389	Total Expenditure	1,686
	Sources of Finance	
-2,218	Government Grants and other Contributions	-1,854
-464	Grant received in previous years and applied in 2020/21	-357
0	SLSP grants Administration Fee	99
1,553	Grant received in advance in 2020/21	505
-23	Capital Receipt applied	0
0	Historic creditor sums cancelled and appropriated to reserves	93
-237	Sums set aside from revenue: Direct revenue contributions	-172
-1,389		-1,686
	Closing capital financing requirement	
0	Increase/decrease in Capital Financing Requirement	0

From the total spend of £1,686k (£1,389k in 2019/20), £617k (£515k in 2019/20) relates to expenditure on fixed assets not owned by the Authority. The relevant grants and contributions finance amounts to £345k (£140k in 2019/20). The net revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute is therefore £272kk (£375k in 2019/20).

31. LEASES

AUTHORITY AS LESSEE

Finance Leases The Authority as lessee has no finance leases.

Operating Leases The Authority has operating leases relating to vehicles, photocopiers and franking machines.

The future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable leases in future years are:

31 March 2020		31 March 2021
£'000		£'000
111	Not later than 1 year	91
246	Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	210
11,058	Later than 5 years	10,105
11,415	Total	10,406

Lease costs of £28,355 (£34,613 in 2019/20) on **equipment** were charged to the Corporate Directorate within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year.

Lease costs of £7,159 (£7,293 in 2019/20) on **Authority vehicles** were charged to the Corporate Directorate in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year.

Lease costs of £83,266 (£90,476 in 2019/20) on **properties** were charged to Corporate (£57,157) and Planning and Land Management (£26,109) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year.

The main reason for the reduction in the forecast is the use of the 2019/20 figure for Cae Llan car park. The terms of the lease agreement for Cae Llan will change, however, the effect is not quantifiable as the terms will be determined at that time. For the purposes of this Statement it is assumed that there is no significant change in annual cost.

AUTHORITY AS LESSOR

Finance Leases

As at 31st March 2021 the Authority has no finance lease as lessor.

Operating Leases

The Authority leases out property under operating leases for the following purposes: commercial, ground rents on chalets at Plas Tan y Bwlch, office accommodation, grazing and recreational/access.

The income receivable for 2020/21 was £32,581 (£141,122 in 2019/20). The reduction due to the effects of the pandemic.

The estimated minimum lease payments receivable under non-cancellable leases in future years are :

31 March 2020		31 March 2021
£'000		£'000
52	Not later than 1 year	62
471	Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	427
75,887	Later than 5 years	75,785
76,410	Total	76,274

The figure for 31 March 2020 includes the reduction given due to the effect of COVID -19. Figures are subject to the effect of rent reviews, and income generated and also the number of visitors for Hafod Eryri. The Hafod Eryri rental has been projected on the basis of 2019/20 figures, whilst acknowledging no income for 2020/21 nor 2021/22.

The associated depreciation charge on the assets relevant to operating leases is £37,659 (2019/20 £37,569).

32. IMPAIRMENT LOSSES

There were no impairment losses arising on property, plant and equipment during 2020/21

33. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

At 31st March 2021 the Authority had the following material contingent liability:

Although the Authority was successful in High Court proceedings and an appeal to the Court of Appeal in relation to the ability of the owner of Hillside, Aberdyfi to implement a historical planning permission, the owner is now in the process of seeking permission to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court. If unsuccessful the Authority will face a costs order for the Appellant's costs as well as its own costs. The total costs liability are difficult to ascertain at this stage as they are dependent on whether or not the Authority is successful in defending its position.

34. CONTINGENT ASSETS

At 31st March 2021 the Authority had no material contingent assets.

35. NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Authority's activities can expose it to a variety of financial risks:

- **Credit risk** – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Authority,
- **Liquidity risk** – the possibility that the Authority might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments,
- **Market risk** – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Authority as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates. Changes in the foreign exchange rate can constitute a significant risk within the Celtic Rainforest (LIFE) project.

The above risks were managed through the Authority's debt recovery arrangements and Annual Treasury Management Strategy, with no significant negative impacts in 2020/21. The value of the Authority's financial instruments is the same as their fair value.

36. PENSION FUND

PARTICIPATION IN PENSION SCHEMES

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers, the Authority makes contributions towards the cost of post-employment benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Authority has a commitment to make the payments that needs to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The Authority participates in two post-employment schemes:

- The Local Government Pension Scheme, administered locally by Gwynedd Council – this is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Authority and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets.
- Discretionary post-retirement benefits upon early retirement. This is an unfunded defined benefit arrangement under which liabilities are recognised when awards have been made. No investment assets were built up to meet these pensions liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet the actual pensions payments as they fall due. The Authority has an annual liability based on past awards made under these arrangements, but has not added to that liability in recent years. Rather, any extra pension liability ensuing from granting early retirement is recognised and paid off in that specific year.

TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

We recognise the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge we are required to make against the General Fund is based on cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-

employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year.

CHANGE IN THE FAIR VALUE OF PLAN ASSETS, DEFINED BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS AND NET LIABILITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021.

Period ended 31 March 2021	Assets	Obligations	Net (liability) / asset
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fair Value of employer assets	32,215	0	32,215
Present value of funded liabilities	0	36,436	(36,436)
Present value of unfunded liabilities	0	368	(368)
Opening position as at 31 March 2020	32,215	36,804	(4,589)
Service cost			
- Current service cost *	0	1,135	(1,135)
- Past Service Cost (including curtailments)	0	43	(43)
Total Service Cost	0	1,178	(1,178)
Net interest			
- Interest income on plan assets	741	0	741
- Interest cost on defined benefit obligation		852	(852)
Total Net Interest	741	852	(111)
Total defined benefit cost recognised in Profit or (Loss)	741	2,030	(1,289)
Cashflows			
- Plan participants' contributions	209	209	0
- Employer contributions	646	0	646
- Contributions in respect of unfunded benefits	(843)	(843)	0
- Benefits paid	(28)	(28)	0
- Unfunded benefits paid	28	0	28

Expected closing position	32,968	38,172	(5,204)
Remeasurements			
- Change in demographic assumptions	0	10,557	(10,557)
- Change in financial assumptions	0	547	(547)
- Other experience	0	(324)	324
- Return on assets excluding amounts included in net interest	8,667	0	8,667
Total remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income (OCI)	8,667	10,780	(2,113)
Fair value of employer assets	41,635	0	41,635
Present value of funded liabilities	0	48,550	(48,550)
Present value of unfunded liabilities	0	402	(402)
Closing position as at 31 March 2021	41,635	48,952	(7,317)

The current service cost includes an allowance for administration expenses of 0.5% of payroll

CHANGE IN THE FAIR VALUE OF PLAN ASSETS, DEFINED BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS AND NET LIABILITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020.

Period ended 31 March 2020	Assets	Obligations	Net (liability) / asset
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fair Value of employer assets	35,421	0	35,421
Present value of funded liabilities	0	42,756	(42,756)
Present value of unfunded liabilities	0	417	(417)
Opening position as at 31 March 2019	35,421	43,173	(7,752)
Service cost			
- Current service cost *	0	1,448	(1,448)
- Past Service Cost (including curtailments)	0	36	(36)

Total Service Cost		1,484	(1,484)
Net interest			
- Interest income on plan assets	852	0	852
- Interest cost on defined benefit obligation	0	1,048	(1,048)
Total Net Interest	852	1,048	(196)
Total defined benefit cost recognised in Profit or (Loss)	852	2,532	(1,680)
Cashflows			
- Plan participants' contributions	198	198	0
- Employer contributions	603	0	603
- Contributions in respect of unfunded benefits	28	0	28
- Benefits paid	(804)	(804)	0
- Unfunded benefits paid	(28)	(28)	0
Expected closing position	36,270	45,071	(8,801)
Remeasurements			
- Change in demographic assumptions	0	(1,447)	1,447
- Change in financial assumptions	0	(3,450)	3,450
- Other experience	0	(3,370)	3,370
- Return on assets excluding amounts included in net interest	(4,055)	0	(4,055)
Total remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income (OCI)	(4,055)	(8,267)	4,212
Fair value of employer assets	32,215	0	32,215
Present value of funded liabilities	0	36,436	(36,436)
Present value of unfunded liabilities	0	368	(368)
Closing position as at 31 March 2020	32,215	36,804	(4,589)

The current service cost includes an allowance for administration expenses of 0.5% of payroll

This liability comprises of approximately £402k in respect of LGPS unfunded pensions and £0 in respect of Teachers' unfunded pensions. For unfunded liabilities as at 31st March 2021, it is assumed that all unfunded pensions are payable for the remainder of the member's life. It is further assumed that 90% of pensioners are married (or cohabiting) at death and that their spouse (or cohabitee) will receive a pension of 50% of the member's pension as at the date of the member's death.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEFINED BENEFIT OBLIGATION

	Liability split		Weighted Average Duration at Previous Valuation
	£'000	Percentage (%)	
Active members	2,788	75	52
Deferred members	262	7	50
Pensioner members	645	18	67
Total	3,695	100	

(Figures are for funded obligations only and do not include the unfunded pensioner liabilities. The durations are effective as at the previous formal valuation as at 31st March 2019).

SCHEME HISTORY

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Present value of liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme	(31,775)	(37,044)	(38,018)	(43,173)	(36,804)	(48,952)
Fair Value of Assets in the Local Government Pension Scheme	26,022	31,283	32,666	35,421	32,215	41,635
Surplus / (deficit) in the scheme :	(5,753)	(5,761)	(5,352)	(7,752)	(4,589)	(7,317)

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Authority has in the long run to pay post-employment (retirement) benefits. The total liability of £48,952k has a substantial impact on the net worth of the Authority as recorded in the Balance Sheet i.e. reducing it by £7,317k. Statutory provisions for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Authority remains healthy :

- the deficit on the local government scheme will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees (i.e. before payments fall due), as assessed by the scheme actuary,
- finance is only required to be raised to cover discretionary benefits when the pensions are actually paid.

The total contributions by the Authority, as estimated by the Actuary, for the year to 31st March 2021 is £674k. The Actuary estimates employers contributions for the period to 31st March 2022 at £644k.

The Discretionary Benefits arrangements have no assets to cover its liabilities. The Local Government Pension Scheme's assets consist of the following categories, by proportion of the total assets held :

31 March 2020		31 March 2021
(%)		(%)
73	Equity investments	70
17	Debt investments (bonds)	21
10	Property	8
0	Cash	1
100		100

THE MAJOR CATEGORIES OF PLAN ASSETS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PLAN ASSETS

The actuary has provided a detailed breakdown of Fund assets in accordance with the requirements of IAS19. This analysis distinguishes between the nature and risk of those assets and to further break them down between those with a quoted price in an active market and those that do not. The asset split for Snowdonia National Park Authority is assumed to be in the same proportion to the Fund's asset allocation as at 31st December 2019. The split is shown in the following table. The actuary estimates the bid value of the Fund's assets as at 31st March 2021 to be £41,635k based on information provided by the Administering Authority and allowing for index returns where necessary.

FAIR VALUE OF EMPLOYER ASSETS

The asset values below are at bid value as required under IAS19.

Asset category	31 Mar 2021				31 Mar 2020			
	Quoted prices in active markets	Prices not quoted in active markets	Total	%	Quoted prices in active markets	Prices not quoted in active markets	Total	%
	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)		(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	
Equity Securities :								
Consumer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manufacturing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Energy & Utilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Institutions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health & Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Information Technology	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Debt Securities :								
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private Equity :								
All	0	2,588.80	2,588.80	6	0	1,872.6	1,872.6	6
Real Estate :								
UK Property	0	3,302.20	3,302.20	8	0	3,175.3	3,175.3	10
Overseas Property	0	0	0	0	0	3.8	3.8	0

Investment Funds & Unit Trusts :								
Equities	0	26,675.70	26,675.7	64	0	21,604.2	21,604.2	67
Bonds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infrastructure	0	733.9	733.9	2	0	740.8	740.8	2
Other	0	8,094.10	8,094.10	19	0	4,658.7	4,658.7	14
Cash & Cash Equivalents								
All	240.3	0	240.3	1	159.6	0	159.6	0
Totals	240.3	41,395	41,635	100	159.6	32,055	32,215	100

BASIS FOR ESTIMATING ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels etc., Both the Local Government Pension Scheme and Discretionary Benefits liabilities have been assessed by Hymans Robertson, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the Authority Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31st March 2019.

The principal assumptions used by the actuary have been :

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2020/21	2019/20
Long term expected rate of return on assets in the scheme :		
Equity	2%	2.3%
Bonds	2%	2.3%
Property	2%	2.3%
Cash	2%	2.3%
Mortality Assumptions :		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners :		
• Men	21.5 years	21.3 years
• Women	23.9 years	23.4 years
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners :		
• Men	22.7 years	22.2 years
• Women	25.9 years	25.1 years
Rate of inflation (CPI)	2.85%	1.9%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.15%	2.2%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.85%	1.9%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.00%	2.3%
Take up of option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum	50% pre 1/4/2008 service and 75% post 1/4/2008 service.	50% pre 1/4/2008 service and 75% post 1/4/2008 service.

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. In order to quantify the impact of a change in the financial assumptions used, the actuary has calculated and compared the value of the scheme liabilities as at 31st March 2021 on varying bases. The approach taken is consistent with that adopted to derive the IAS19 figures provided in this note. To quantify the uncertainty around life expectancy, the actuary has calculated the difference in cost to the Authority of a one year increase in life expectancy. For sensitivity purposes this is assumed to be an increase in the cost of benefits of

broadly 3-5%. In practice the actual cost of one year increase in life expectancy will depend on the structure of the revised assumption (i.e. if improvements to survival rates predominantly apply at younger or older ages). The figures in the table below have been derived based on membership profile of the Authority as at 31st March 2019, the date of the most recent actuarial valuation. The approach taken in preparing the sensitivity analysis shown is consistent with that adopted in the previous year.

Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme		
Change in assumption	Approximate increase to Employer 31 March 2021	Approximate monetary amount 31 March 2021
	(%)	(£'000)
0.5% decrease in real discount rate	11	5,186
0.5% increase in salary increase rate	1	586
0.5% increase in the pension increase rate	9	4,486

PROJECTED DEFINED BENEFIT COST FOR THE PERIOD TO 31ST MARCH 2022

	Assets	Obligations	Net (liability) / asset	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	% of pay
Projected Current Service Cost*	0	1,750	(1,750)	(53.8%)
Past Service Cost including curtailments	0	0	0	0
Effect of settlements	0	0	0	0
Total Service Cost	0	1,750	(1,750)	(53.8%)
Interest income on plan assets	831	0	831	25.5%
Interest cost on defined benefit obligation	0	988	(988)	(30.4%)
Total Net Interest Cost	831	988	(157)	(3.6%)
Total Included in Profit and Loss	831	2,738	(1,907)	(58.7%)

* The current service cost includes an allowance for administration expenses of 0.5% of payroll. The monetary value is based on a projected payroll of £3,253k.

The contributions paid by the Employer are set by the Fund Actuary at each triennial actuarial valuation (the most recent being as at 31st March 2019), or at any other time as instructed to do so by the Administering Authority.

The independent auditor's report of the Auditor General for Wales to the members of Snowdonia National Park Authority

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of Snowdonia National Park Authority for the year ended 31 March 2021 under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

Snowdonia National Park Authority financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the accounting policies and the related notes.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020-21 based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Snowdonia National Park as at 31 March 2021 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020-21

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing in the UK (ISAs (UK)). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require me to report to you where:

- the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the responsible financial officer has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about Snowdonia National Park Authority's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The responsible financial officer is responsible for the other information in the annual report and accounts. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated later in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by me in the course of performing the audit. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies I consider the implications for my report.

Report on other requirements

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of my audit:

- the information contained in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Narrative Report has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020-21;
- The information given in the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Annual Governance Statement has been prepared in accordance with guidance.

Matters on which I report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Authority and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Narrative Report and the Annual Governance Statement.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters, which I report to you, if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

Certificate of completion of audit

I certify that I have completed the audit of the accounts of Snowdonia National Park Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Auditor General for Wales' Code of Audit Practice.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the responsible financial officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts set out on page 10, the responsible financial officer is responsible for the preparation of the statement of accounts, which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the responsible financial officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of

statements of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the statement of accounts, the responsible financial officer is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless deemed inappropriate.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

ADRIAN CROMPTON

Adrian Crompton
Auditor General for Wales
.....2021

24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ

Snowdonia National Park Authority Annual Governance Statement 2020-21



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

1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. The Purpose of the Governance Framework

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

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve

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

3. The Governance Framework

The Governance Framework comprises the seven principles of good governance:

- **Principle 1:** Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law
- **Principle 2:** Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement
- **Principle 3:** Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits
- **Principle 4:** Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes
- **Principle 5:** Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it
- **Principle 6:** Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management
- **Principle 7:** Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability

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

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

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

Governance Structure

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

- Snowdonia National Park Authority has 18 appointed Members and during 2020/21 had 8 scheduled meetings.
- The Performance and Resources Committee was held 3 times during 2020/21. As part of its remit it undertakes audit committee functions in accordance with CIPFA requirements.

- The Planning and Access Committee was held 7 times during 2020/21. This committee is responsible for carrying out the Authority's statutory planning functions.
- The Authority's Standards Committee was held once during 2020/21. Membership of the committee, whose remit it is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members, comprises of 3 Authority Members and 3 independent members.

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

Management Team

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

Standards

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

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

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

Risk Management

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

Internal Audit

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

External Audit

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

Monitoring Officer

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

Financial Management

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

4. Significant Governance Issues and Actions Undertaken During the Year

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

The Authority was also required under the Local Government (Wales) Measure to publish an improvement plan, which sets out its arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions through improvement objectives. However, at the end of the 2020/21 financial year, the Measure was dis-applied to National Park Authorities, Unitary Local Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales.

Therefore, the Authority's agreed well-being objectives were also (for the last time), the improvement objectives for 2020/21.

Due to the exact date of the dis-application of the Local Government (Wales) Measure not being known at the time, the Authority's well-being objectives (and corresponding improvement objectives) were extended for 2020/21 by the Authority without change in its meeting on the 11th of December 2019, which were:

1. [Our Communities](#)

Working with our communities to develop the economic, cultural and social well-being of Snowdonia.

2. [Plans and Policies](#)

Review and implement both the Local Development Plan and the National Park Management Plan (Cynllun Eryri) and ensure that the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 are fully integrated into the work of the Authority.

3. [Health and Well-being](#)

Snowdonia National Park is recognised as an area which contributes to the nation's physical and mental well-being.

4. [People, Places and Partners](#)

Over the next five years we aim to further the opportunities to work with people, volunteers and partners in a collaborative manner. This will enable us to continue to contribute to the appreciation and management of what makes Snowdonia valued and special.

5. [Balancing our Resources and Efforts](#)

The Authority targets its resources to deliver its priorities within the reduced resources available.

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

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

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting national lockdown at the end of March 2020, committee meetings were temporarily suspended whilst an appropriate and effective virtual platform was established. Due to this, the Corporate Plan for 2020/21 was not adopted by the Authority until the 3rd of June 2020.

Although the Authority's core well-being objectives (as outlined above) remained unchanged; changes were made to some service priorities and corresponding activities to reflect new priorities and mitigating actions resulting from the pandemic. At the same meeting, the Corporate Work Programme for 2020/21 was presented for approval by the Members. The Programme sets out the projects, initiatives and specific actions that will be undertaken in order to fulfil the Authority's improvement and well-being objectives, which again included changes to some work activities to reflect requirements emerging from the pandemic.

Progress against the Programme has been reported to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 18th of November 2020 and on the 24th of March 2021. The full annual report on the Corporate Work Programme is due to be reported to the Performance and Resources Committee in July 2021.

5. Effectiveness of the Governance Framework

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

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

<p>Code of Corporate Governance</p>	<p>The Code was last reviewed in February 2018 by the Director of Corporate Services, and presented to the Authority for approval.</p> <p>The Code received minor modification mainly by way of updating terminology, but also included one major change to ensure that the revised Code now fully incorporates the Sustainable Development Principle and the Wellbeing Goals as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015.</p> <p>The Code of Corporate Governance has not been subject to further review since this time, and no specific issues have arisen with regards to the Code itself during 2020/21.</p>
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Standards Committee	<p>One meeting of the Standards Committee took place during the year on the 16th of October 2020.</p> <p>During this meeting, it considered a number of matters including a Grant of Dispensation to Members of both Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council.</p> <p>Members also reviewed the Ombudsman's Annual Report for 2019/20, and were advised of the developments applicable to this Authority.</p> <p>The Annual Complaints Monitoring Report was also submitted to the Standards Committee, for information.</p>
Whistle Blowing Policy	<p>The last detailed review of the Policy was undertaken by the Standards Committee in September 2016, with subsequent changes approved at the Authority meeting in December 2016.</p> <p>During 2020/21, no reports or concerns were raised in relation to any Member or Officer of the Authority under the Whistle Blowing Policy.</p>
Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy	<p>During 2020/21, no complaints of alleged fraud or corruption were made regarding any Member or Officer of the Authority, and Internal Auditors did not identify any areas of concern through their auditing work.</p>
Model Code of Conduct	<p>During 2020/21, no amendments or revisions were made to the Model Code of Conduct.</p>
Complaints – Officers	<p>During 2020/21, the Authority received a total of 7 formal complaints.</p> <p>The Authority was not subject to a formal investigation of alleged maladministration by the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales during 2020/21.</p>
Complaints - Members	<p>During 2020/21, the Authority's Monitoring Officer did not receive any formal complaints relating to the Members, and no complaints were submitted directly by the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales.</p>

<p>Standing Orders</p>	<p>The Standing Orders were last reviewed and amended by the Authority on the 26th of April 2017, following receipt of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2017.</p> <p>No complaints were received during 2020/21 in relation to the Authority's compliance with its Standing Orders.</p>
<p>Scheme of Delegation</p>	<p>The Scheme of Delegation was last revised and amended by the Authority in its meeting on the 13th of December 2017.</p> <p>During 2020/21 no issues arose relating to the implementation of the Scheme.</p>
<p>Members' Register of Interests</p>	<p>The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 places a requirement on the Authority to publish the current Members' Register of Interests on the Authority's website.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of each Authority Member to keep their record of personal interests up to date and to report on any changes in a timely manner. Nonetheless, the Member Services Officer sends each Member a copy of their current record after each AGM of the Authority, and requests that they be reviewed and updated if required.</p> <p>During 2020/21, no issues or complaints arose regarding the Members' Register of Interests.</p>

Principle 2: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

<p>Strategic Equality Plan</p>	<p>The Annual Report on the Strategic Equality Plan was presented to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 18th of November 2020.</p> <p>The Authority's progress on its action plan for reaching its Equality Objectives was reported, along with the Equality Impact Assessments undertaken during the year, equal pay monitoring data and staff equality data.</p>
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	<p>The Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 requires that the Authority publishes a new Strategic Equality Plan every 4 years.</p> <p>The Authority's new Strategic Equality Plan for the period 2020-24 was due to be presented to the 25th of March 2020 Performance and Resources Committee, which had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 lockdown. The Plan was subsequently adopted on the 15th of July 2020 by the Performance and Resources Committee.</p>
<p>Direct Consultation</p>	<p>During what has been an unprecedented year, the Authority has had to find new and innovative solutions to enable it to continue with some aspects of its work effectively. Developing appropriate and effective online solutions to enable direct communication, consultation and engagement has been one of these areas.</p> <p>During 2020/21 the Authority has sought to continue to engage with local communities and stakeholders through a range of means, from traditional written consultations and online questionnaires to webinars and online meetings and workshops. Whilst Fforwm Eryri, the Annual Agriculture Liaison Group and the Annual Planning Agents meetings to name but a few, have taken place virtually, some have not taken place (the Town and Community Council Open Evenings) or have had a reduced number of meetings during the year (North and South Access Forums).</p> <p>However, outside of the normal direct consultations on the Authority's business that has taken place i.e. new Supplementary Planning Guidance, Draft Well-being Objectives etc., engagement has also taken place with local communities to enable information to be shared and to give people an opportunity to give their views over numerous challenges the National Park Authority and its communities have faced due to Covid-19.</p> <p>As the first lockdown was eased last summer, engagement took place with local communities on the reopening and the inevitable problems that could be foreseen by a mass influx of visitors into the area. The Snowdon Partnership have since stepped up their work on developing a Sustainable Parking and Transport Strategy, building on the experience and lessons learnt from implementing measures in partnership with other agencies over the Summer of 2020. Online community</p>

	workshops were held at the start of 2021 to develop solutions for the coming season, and further engagement work was then undertaken with some communities who had raised concerns. The engagement work will continue at pace during the present financial year.
Engagement Strategy	<p>Communication and engagement is an essential element in everything the Authority does. It is also something that can always be improved upon, and the Authority's Strategy reflects this.</p> <p>Fast paced technological advancements and the continuing growth in social media platforms and participation levels, means that the Authority needs to be fully focused on engaging effectively through the correct channels at the correct time with a wide range of audiences. This has been very evident over the past year, when clear unambiguous communication and engagement has been essential.</p> <p>The work on developing the new Strategy has not progressed as to the original timetable due to the pressure of reactive work on the service since the start of the pandemic. However, the Strategy is now in its final draft following a thorough consultation process and subsequent changes, and will be presented to Members for final approval and adoption at the next available opportunity.</p> <p>The development of a new website for the Authority is ongoing. A Content and Brand Manager was appointed in July 2020. Work continued on the development and completion of a comprehensive tender document and specification for the new website, and the tender was announced in November 2020.</p> <p>31 tenders were received with a high percentage being of very high quality that confidently and creatively addressed the Authority's needs. The contract was awarded to the Cardiff based company Creo who will develop the website.</p> <p>Production of the website began in March 2020 starting with an audit phase. A series of workshops were held with Authority staff on issues of importance to the Authority in the context of the website - issues such as visitor management, waymarked routes and digital mapping.</p>

	<p>The exploration phase is now nearing completion and Creo will move on to the next phase which is the design.</p>
Wellbeing Statement	<p>The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets out a duty on the Authority to publish a Well-being Statement setting out how its well-being objectives contribute to the Welsh Government's Well-being Goals and how it will incorporate the sustainable development principle in all that it does.</p> <p>The Authority's Corporate Plan for 2020/21 includes the Authority's Well-being Statement and Service Priorities.</p> <p>During the year, work has progressed on developing new Well-being Objectives as part of the work for developing the Authority's Well-being Statement for the period 2021-26.</p> <p>A Task and Finish Group was established to develop three main outcome areas, which were then approved by Members for informal consultation over the summer. Consultation responses were considered at a Members Working Group meeting and draft Well-being Objectives were developed, which were approved by Members at the Performance and Resources Committee meeting on the 11th of November 2020.</p> <p>Following a formal consultation period, the Well-being Statement and Well-being Objectives for 2021-26 were formally approved and adopted by the Members at the Performance and Resources Committee meeting on the 24th of March 2021.</p>
Freedom of Information	<p>The Authority has adopted the Information Commissioner's Model Publication Scheme and has published a guide to information, both of which are available on the website.</p> <p>During 2020, 33 requests were received of which 24 received all the information requested (73%).</p> <p>The Information Commissioner issued a Decision Notice on the 30th of September 2020 relating to a request submitted in October 2019 regarding access to pre-planning advice on a proposed housing development.</p>

	<p>At the time the request had been made, no formal planning application had been submitted by the developer. The request was refused on the grounds that anyone should be able to seek advice from this Authority on a confidential basis for their draft proposals. The developer had paid a significant amount of money for the advice, and at that stage the information was commercially sensitive.</p> <p>The requestor was informed that if the pre-application advice resulted in a formal planning application being submitted, the information would then be made public. The Information Commissioner upheld the Authority's decision to refuse access to the information.</p> <p>The Information Commissioner issued a second Decision on the 28th of October 2020, which again upheld the Authority's decision to refuse access to information.</p> <p>The complaint related to a request for access to the legal advice received by the Authority on the planning application NP2/62/399 Llanbedr Access Road. The Authority refused access to this advice, as it was classed as legal professional privilege under Regulation 12(5)(b) of The Environmental Information Regulations 2004.</p> <p>The Authority acknowledged that there is a public interest in a disclosure that would promote public debate in respect of proposals affecting the community. Releasing the advice would go some way towards furthering the understanding and insight of the public into the approach the Authority took with this planning application.</p> <p>For the Authority itself, it is vital that it is able to obtain full and frank legal advice in a safe space, to aid Officers in complying with legal obligations. It was the Authority's opinion that there was not sufficient public interest arguments in favour of releasing this information which would outweigh the strength of argument in maintaining LPP, which remains a fundamental cornerstone of the administration of justice in the UK.</p> <p>The Commissioner agreed and concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighed the public interest in disclosure of the information.</p>
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<p>Committee Agendas and Associated Reports</p>	<p>The Authority's Committee agendas and associated reports are published on the website at least 3 clear working days before each meeting.</p> <p>An archive of past Committee meetings agendas and associated papers is also available on the website.</p>
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Principle 3: Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits

<p>Cynllun Yr Wyddfa Partnership Plan</p>	<p>The Partneriaeth Yr Wyddfa Partnerships Officer presented an update report on the projects within Cynllun Yr Wyddfa to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 18th of November 2020.</p> <p>The report included an update on the pilot parking pre-booking system at Pen y Pass in August 2020, the launch in July 2020 of the new GPS enabled App covering the 6 main routes up Yr Wyddfa, the Eryri Ambassadors Scheme, the development of a litter campaign with the Snowdonia Society, and the development of a Communication Plan for the Partnership.</p> <p>The easing of lockdown and the restrictions on international travel last summer has meant that visitor numbers to Eryri and in particular Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) area have been unprecedented. The pandemic has served to intensify the chronic problems that already existed, and has placed additional pressure on Partneriaeth Yr Wyddfa to step up the development of sustainable and innovative solutions to the current problems.</p> <p>Details already outlined under the Direct Consultation heading earlier in this report, summarises the engagement work undertaken over the winter on sustainable parking and transport solutions. Building on the pilot scheme, a new pre booking parking system has also been launched at Pen y Pass for April 2021.</p>
<p>Cynllun Eryri (Snowdonia National Park Partnership Plan)</p>	<p>Cynllun Eryri – the new National Park Partnership Plan for 2020 – 25, was formally adopted by the Authority at its Annual General Meeting on the 23rd of September 2020.</p>

	<p>The Plan was officially launched by Lesley Griffiths, the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs at Welsh Government, in an online event on the 26th of November 2020.</p> <p>At the same event, one of the important projects within the Plan was also launched - The Eryri Ambassador Scheme. The scheme celebrates the National Park Special Qualities and informs and educates through a series of modules. Upon completion of the modules, participants become ambassadors for the National Park. The scheme has been incredibly successful, with hundreds of people completing the modules in the first few months. Numbers of ambassadors are growing daily.</p> <p>Fforwm Eryri will now be responsible for ensuring that the Plan is implemented and to monitor progress going forward. During 2020-21 the forum met 4 times.</p>
<p>Eryri Local Development Plan 2016-2031</p>	<p>Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Welsh Government did not require Local Planning Authorities to submit an Annual Monitoring Report during 2020-21, and expect the next AMR to be submitted in October 2021.</p> <p>However, officers felt that it was important to continue with data collection to monitor the Eryri LDP performance and prepared an Interim Annual Monitoring Report. This was presented to Members at the Planning and Access Committee on the 20th of January 2021.</p>
<p>Corporate Plan 2020/21</p>	<p>The Authority will be provided with the final results of the Corporate Plan for 2020/21 through the Annual Report and Improvement Plan 2020/21, which will be presented to Members in September 2021.</p> <p>Members were however given updates on progress made on implementing the actions to fulfil the Well-being Objectives (which are outlined in the Corporate Work Programme for 2020/21) and the corresponding performance indicators.</p> <p>Progress made up until the end of the third quarter of the financial year (31/12/20) was as follows:</p> <p>Of the 56 actions / initiatives / projects outlined in the Corporate Work Programme, 39 were rated green</p>

	(progressed and within timetable), 9 were rated amber (to be progressed next quarter and / or to be completed by March 2021) and 8 were rated red (not progressed and / or not on target).
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Principle 4: Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes

Budget Strategy 2020/21	<p>The Authority's revenue budget for 2020/21 was confirmed in the Chief Finance Officer's report to the Authority on the 5th of February 2020. The report also confirmed the levy on constituent authorities.</p> <p>An update on the Budget was presented to the Authority on the 23rd of September 2020. The report outlined the financial assistance received to mitigate some of the effects due to Covid-19, which have included Welsh Government grants, business support grants from Gwynedd and Conwy Councils, rate rebates and rebates from staff salaries through the furlough scheme.</p>
Mid Term Financial Plan 2020/21 – 2023/24	<p>In its meeting on the 3rd of February 2021, the Chief Executive presented the revised Medium Term Financial Plan for 2020/21 – 2023/24 to the Authority, which outlines a range of financial situations that could face the Authority over the next four years. The Plan outlines a model of the financial resources required by the Authority for the service levels it hopes to provide in the mid term.</p> <p>The Plan reported that the current projection for 2020/21 showed an overspend against budget due to Plas Tan y Bwlch redundancy costs and the financial implications of the pandemic. The Plans also notes that the National Park Grant settlement figure is expected to show an increase of 10% for 2021/22, although this was not confirmed.</p> <p>A wide range of possibilities were set out in the report – these were set in the context of Westminster Government's 'Comprehensive Spending Review' due to take place before 2022/23; with the expectation that the outcome would most probably be towards the centre path.</p>

Performance Management	<p>The Authority's Performance Indicators outturn for 2019/20 along with progress made on the actions within the Corporate Work Programme for the year was reported to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 15th of July 2020.</p> <p>The first half year of results for the Performance Indicators and Corporate Work Programme for 2020/21 was reported to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 18th of November 2020.</p>

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

Members' Attendance	<p>Covid-19 made it necessary to conduct all meetings virtually during the year.</p> <p>No official committees took place during April 2020, whilst a viable and secure online platform which could accommodate translation services was established. Official committees were recommenced in May.</p> <p>Members' attendance at meetings during 2020/21 was 90%, compared to 81% in 2019/20 and 83% in 2018/19.</p>
Member Training	<p>At the start of 2020/21, The Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (Wales) Regulations 2020 came into force, which amongst other things allows for remote committee meetings to be conducted by public authorities in Wales.</p> <p>The training needs focus for Members at the start of the year therefore turned to IT use and support, with particular emphasis on using technology to conduct remote meetings.</p> <p>In 2020/21, member attendance at training events was 69% (52.5% in 2019/20). As personal development opportunities for Members had been effected by the pandemic, officers were asked to consider providing other methods/training options such as webinars, in the Performance and Resources Committee held on the 18th of November 2020.</p>

<p>Staff Performance Appraisals and Training</p>	<p>Learning and development needs are identified in annual performance appraisal reviews and a training plan is produced by the Head of Personnel, which outlines training priorities for the year ahead.</p> <p>During the year, concern was raised at the Performance and Resources Committee meetings that the percentage of staff appraised in 2019/20 continued to be low (75%), and the annual target is constantly missed. The significant drop to only 32% of staff being appraised in 2020/21, which no doubt is due partly to Covid-19, will compound this concern.</p> <p>In a staff survey undertaken in 2020/21, 81.5% of staff agreed that they have opportunities to develop their skills (89.8% in 2019/20).</p>
<p>Human Resources Strategy</p>	<p>The Annual Updating Report on implementing the Authority's HR Strategy for 2017-20 was presented to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 18th of November 2020.</p> <p>The report gives data on the gender pay gap, staff gender split by services, age profile, staff turnover rates etc. It was noted that sickness absence was up from 8.9 days FTE in 2018/19 to 11.5 days FTE in 2019/20.</p> <p>The Action Plan covers leadership and management development, performance management, recruitment and retention, absence management and equality and diversity.</p>

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

<p>Financial Statements</p>	<p>Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the draft Statement of Accounts were completed within the extended timeline and certified (subject to audit) by the Authority's Chief Finance Officer on the 21st of August 2020.</p> <p>Prior to this, Members had approved the Outturn Report for 2019/20 at the Authority meeting on the 15th of July 2020.</p>
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	<p>The Statement of Accounts was audited by Audit Wales, and the final version (post-audit) of the Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 along with the Final Letter of Representation was presented to Members at the Authority meeting on the 18th of November 2020 for approval in accordance with The Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.</p> <p>At the same meeting, the Wales Audit Office presented its annual ISA260 report to the Authority. The Auditor confirmed that he would be presenting an unqualified opinion on the Authority's financial statements and related notes.</p>
Risk Management	<p>The Risk Register is reviewed and updated quarterly by the Heads of Service and Management Team.</p> <p>Identified risks as noted in the Risk Register are allocated as a responsibility to named officers and target dates are set for mitigation. The Risk Register is reviewed by Members at the Performance and Resources Committee as well as the Authority meeting.</p>
External Audit	<p>At the Authority meeting on the 20th of May 2020, Audit Wales presented its report setting out its findings following its Review of Involvement. Full details of the findings are set out under Section 6 (Significant Governance Issues) below.</p> <p>Audit Wales presented their Audit Plan for 2020 at the 3rd of June 2020 Authority meeting. The Audit Plan had incorporated the possible effects of Covid-19 on the work of the Authority as well as on Audit Wales' ability to carry out its work.</p> <p>The Audit Plan set out revised arrangements for the Audit of Financial Statements, which would be dependent on when the Authority could complete the accounts. It also set out the intention of carrying out a performance audit on corporate resilience and sustainability. This work would build upon the last review around involvement.</p> <p>At the Authority meeting on the 23rd of September 2020, Audit Wales presented a Certificate to confirm that following its audit of the Improvement Plan for 2020/21, the Authority had discharged its duty under section 15(6) to (9) of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.</p>

	<p>Further to this, at the Authority meeting on the 3rd of February 2021, Audit Wales issued a Certificate to confirm that following an audit of the Authority's Assessment of its performance for 2019/20, the Authority had discharged its duty under section 15 (2) (8) and (9) of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.</p> <p>At the Authority meeting on the 28th of April 2021, Audit Wales presented an Annual Audit Summary of the work undertaken during 2020-21. The report noted that the Authority was unable to meet the statutory deadlines for completion of the financial statements and they presented for audit on the 21st of August 2020. An amended timetable was agreed, and the audit was completed in accordance with this revised timescale and within the Welsh Government's amended expected timetable.</p> <p>At the same meeting, Audit Wales presented their Audit Plan for 2021-22 and confirmed (subject to Covid-19 restrictions) that the performance audit examination for the coming year would focus on value for money.</p> <p>Also at that meeting, the outcome report on the audit work surrounding Resilient and Sustainable Services was presented. Full details are outlined under Section 6 (Significant Governance Issues) below.</p>
Internal Audit	<p>The Internal Audit Manager reports on the previous financial year's work to the Performance and Resources Committee in July.</p> <p>There were four internal audits scheduled to be undertaken during 2020/21, namely Yr Ysgwrn, Cyber Security, Returning Equipment and Performance Indicators.</p> <p>Both the Cyber Security and Returning Equipment audits were given a "Restricted" rating - although rules are in place, there is a need to improve compliance with the rules and / or introduce new controls to reduce the risks to which the service is exposed.</p> <p>As a result of the ratings given, specific action points and a timetable for completion were agreed by relevant officers to address the weaknesses identified.</p>

	<p>The audit on Performance Indicators was given a “Satisfactory” rating – there are controls in place to achieve the objectives but there are aspects where the arrangements can be tightened to further mitigate the risks.</p> <p>Due to Covid-19 restrictions it was not practically possible to plan an audit of Yr Ysgwrn. The remaining days will be transferred to audit a Sustainable Management Scheme (SMS) grant project, which was given a “High” rating - Assurance of propriety can be expressed as the internal controls in place can be relied upon to achieve the objectives.</p>
Health and Safety	<p>The Health and Safety Group meets quarterly to monitor health and safety issues within the Authority.</p> <p>The Annual Health and Safety Report presented to the Performance and Resources Committee details the training courses undertaken during the year and the incidents / accidents that were recorded.</p> <p>During 2019/20, 13 incidents were recorded, of which one was reported to the Health and Safety Executive under the ‘Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)’.</p>
Information Centres	<p>The Authority has 3 Information Centres in Betws y Coed, Beddgelert and Aberdyfi, which are managed by the Centres Commercial Manager, whose main objective is to ensure that the Centres are commercially viable / self-financing.</p> <p>The Visitor Centres Business Plan was presented to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 24th of March 2021.</p> <p>It was reported that the Plan had been revised to take into account the anticipated future changes to the customer base and footfall due to effect of Covid-19 travel restrictions.</p> <p>Savings on expenditure lines during lockdown, the receipt of grants and the furlough scheme have meant that the Centres have come within budget for 2019/20.</p>

	<p>The report demonstrates that the Authority's Information Centres are well run with robust financial management processes in place.</p>
<p>Borrowing and Investment Strategies / Treasury Management</p>	<p>The Annual Report providing the actual Treasury Management (borrowing and investment) of the Authority during 2019/20, was presented to the Authority meeting on the 3rd of June 2020.</p> <p>During 2019/20, the Authority's activity remained within the limits that were originally set. There has been no borrowing.</p> <p>In 2019/20, the total interest received from investments was £48,077. Interest received from car loans of £1,419 increases the total to £49,496 against a revised budget of £29,300.</p> <p>The bank and building society interest sum of £48,077 for 2019/20 is higher than the corresponding amount of £35,980 in 2018/19. The main reason being that HSBC MoneyMarket, Nationwide and Santander UK continued to pay a higher interest rate on term deposits throughout 2019/20.</p> <p>An oral Interim Treasury Management report was given to the Authority on the 9th of December 2020. The Chief Finance Officer advised that the continuing low interest rates meant the Authority would not achieve its target of £23K in 2020/21, the sum would be nearer £13K.</p> <p>To date, the Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22 had not been presented to the Authority for approval.</p> <p>The Chief Finance Officer presented the Capital Strategy for 2021/22 at the Authority meeting on the 3rd of February 2021.</p> <p>The report gives a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of National Park services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability.</p> <p>The report confirms that the Authority commences 2021/22 debt free. Members approved no change in the authorised borrowing limit and the operational boundary, and approved both the Capital Borrowing Strategy and</p>

	Investment Strategy for 2021/22, and noted the content with regard to the Prudential Code.
Plas Tan y Bwlch Study Centre	<p>The Authority's Study Centre has been consistently missing targets set out in its Business Plan and running at a loss for a number of years.</p> <p>Attempts to diversify and look for new income streams and markets have not been successful, and the advent of Covid-19 resulted in the total loss of existing business, necessitating difficult decisions over the future of the Centre.</p> <p>Alternative business models were analysed and the case for re-opening the Centre as a bed and breakfast accommodation provider was approved, following consideration of the financial risks, the staff restructuring required and the accuracy of future business projections.</p> <p>At the Special Authority meeting held on the 23rd of October 2020, Members resolved to continue operating Plas Tan y Bwlch as a B&B in the short to medium term; to proceed with staff restructuring; to continue the dialogue with a range of possible future partners; and to report on progress to each meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee.</p> <p>The risks of failing to reach the income generating target and to securing a long term future of the Centre have been mitigated as much as possible, and are currently rated medium. Going forward, it is essential that the Authority employs robust internal control and financial management measures in managing the Centre.</p>

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

Pay Policy Statement	Section 38 (1) of the Localism Act 2011 places a requirement on Local Authorities to prepare pay policy statements. Whilst National Park Authorities are exempt from this requirement, it has been considered good practice to adopt such a statement, and accordingly this is done annually by the Head of Personnel.
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	<p>The Authority's Pay Policy Report for 2020/21 and Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22 was presented to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 24th of March 2021, ensuring transparency in staff remuneration at the Authority.</p> <p>At the time of reporting the Pay Award for April 2021 has not yet been agreed. Early indications are that there will be no increase apart from salaries below £24,000 per year however this is to be confirmed.</p>
<p>Annual Report and Improvement Plan 2019/20</p>	<p>The Annual Report and Improvement Plan for 2019/20 was presented to the Authority meeting on the 23rd of September 2020, before being published on the website and distributed to the Authority's main centres, public libraries etc., within the National Park.</p> <p>It contains the Chairman's Annual Report for the year, which sets out what was achieved, not achieved and any problems that were encountered.</p> <p>It also contains details of the Authority's Service Priorities and the Authority's Objectives set on an annual basis that feed into and show how it is intended to take the National Park forward in order to attain the Authority's vision; a summary evaluation of progress made in attaining the Authority's Objectives, the key work activities for 2019/20, and performance management (including performance indicator results for the year).</p> <p>Out of the 5 improvement areas, the Authority had been successful in the progress that had been made on 2 objectives, has been partially successful in 2 objectives, whilst the remaining 1 objective has made limited progress over the year.</p>
<p>Broadcasting Committees</p>	<p>Although local authorities do not have to broadcast their meetings, the Welsh Government encourages webcasting.</p> <p>During 2019/20, Members agreed not to proceed with broadcasting committees as the cost was prohibitively high.</p> <p>Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all meetings were conducted virtually using Zoom software during 2020/21. Due to both the security issues with the software and the fact that only 1 language channel live feed can be</p>

	broadcast (meaning that the Welsh and English language could not be treated equally); access to the public as observers to these meetings was not possible during 2020/21, and they were not broadcast live on the Authority's website. Recordings of the Planning and Access Committees only were subsequently broadcast on the Authority's YouTube channel.
Member Scrutiny	<p>At the Performance and Resources Committee on the 18th of November 2020, the Chief Executive presented a Strategic Scrutiny update, which reported on the progress made by Traffic Management Task and Finish Group and Carbon Account Task and Finish Group.</p> <p>Members resolved to agree a further 2 scrutiny areas, namely a Governance Task and Finish Group and a Welsh Place Names Task and Finish Group.</p>

6. Significant Governance Issues and Actions Proposed for 2021/22

At the start of the 2021 financial year the nation was only just beginning to experience the profound impact that Covid-19 was going to have on everyday life for the foreseeable future. Once full lockdown was announced in the UK, the Authority moved very quickly to reprioritise its work to deal with the emergency, to enable staff to work from home where possible, and to put systems in place to enable the remainder of the day to day business of the Authority to continue where possible.

After a year of lockdowns and varying degrees of restrictions to try and control the spread of the infection, the Authority has had to combine reactive work pressures whilst at the same time proactively plan and develop solutions to combat the medium to long term negative impacts of visitor numbers, which Covid-19 has exasperated due to restrictions on international travel.

The impact of Covid-19 on the economy along with the financial resources spent by UK and Welsh Government to deal with the emergency, will have huge implications on the funds available for the public sector for some time to come.

The adoption of Cynllun Eryri (Snowdonia National Park Partnership Plan) during 2020/21 will ensure that going forward the Authority and its partners will have a clear focus on its work priorities over the next few years. The key principle of sustainability flows through the Plan, and the three key areas of the Environment, Health and Well-being and Communities and the Economy will now more than ever be vital to prioritise, whilst moving ahead to re-building after the pandemic.

The Authority's adopted Well-being Objectives for 2021-26 as set out in the Corporate Plan, with the resulting Action Plans and projects will work towards realizing Cynllun Eryri's Vision.

Audit Wales: Review of Involvement

Audit Wales are charged with reviewing how public bodies in Wales give consideration to the long-term impact of their decisions on their communities, as required under the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

Building upon the initial examination and audit work on this area carried out in 2019, Audit Wales then took a more detailed look at how the Authority was involving stakeholders when proposing service and policy changes, with particular emphasis on the development of Cynllun Eryri (National Park Management Plan). A report of the conclusions was presented to the Authority on the 20th of May 2020.

Audit Wales concluded that the Authority had "established an effective partnership-led approach in developing Cynllun Eryri and is well placed to build on this going forward, but needs to address its financial and capacity challenges to ensure its involvement work is sustainable".

The report highlights areas of good practice and exemplary work carried out by the Authority. Audit Wales did not make any proposals for improvement but rather have produced a self-assessment for staff and Members to use to identify strengths and weaknesses of its current approach to involvement.

Audit Wales: Resilient and Sustainable Services

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

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

The conclusions drawn from the findings from the five key areas looked at were:

Finance: "the Authority's sound financial position masks a need to embed the legacy of short-term grant funded projects to maximise their impact".

Governance: "the Authority has sound governance systems but there are opportunities to learn from the dynamic decision-making adopted during the pandemic".

Workforce: "the Authority has a skilled and committed workforce, but capacity and resilience have been stretched".

Assets: "the Authority has a diverse portfolio of assets, but in light of the pandemic it needs to re-evaluate its strategic intent and future role in managing these".

Business continuity: "the Authority did well to maintain services during the pandemic, but it needs to capture corporate learning to help boost resilience".

Proposals for Improvement

The table below sets out the proposals for improvement identified by Audit Wales whilst undertaking the review. During 2021-22, the Authority will look at how it can move forward effectively with implementing these improvements.

PFI1	To support resilience the Authority should consolidate and appraise its new ways of working in relation to governance, business continuity and remote working.
PFI2	To maximise the impact of grant funded projects the Authority should develop a framework to appraise their potential contribution to progressing Cynllun Eryri and to ensure appropriate legacy planning takes place.
PFI3	To support greater resilience the Authority should consider how and when to expose officers to new experiences in wider services and teams to build skills, knowledge and capacity.

The Authority's Risk Profile

The four highest risks to the Authority as updated in March 2021, is as follows:

Risk	Result	Action Identified / Progress to date
Income Generating Target (Car Parks)	Failure to keep within the Authority's budget.	In the wake of the further lockdown in October and November and the national lockdown which has been in place since December 2020, there is a shortfall of £63k against the annual target after taking into account the support received towards the lost income in Quarter 1. 91% of the target income was realised during the year. Reserves can be used to make up the shortfall for this year, however the risk will still remain high for the next financial year due to Covid-19, therefore a close eye will need to be kept on the situation.
Risk (publicity) as a result of the Traffic Scheme / Snowdonia Green Key Policy	Mismanagement leading to lack of credibility in the Authority and its partners.	Development of the Snowdon Plan has established a better relationship between the individual elements relating to management on Snowdon, including the Sherpa service. A sub-group to the Snowdon Plan has been formed to review the Sherpa service and transport / parking issues in the area. A traffic management study for Snowdon and Ogwen has

		<p>been commissioned and received. The partners are now considering the report's recommendations with Welsh Government, and reflecting on the lessons learned over the busy summer period.</p> <p>A public consultation with the communities is taking place in February / March 2021 on the report. Unprecedented numbers of UK day visitors are expected again this summer as lockdown eases, which will cause problems for local communities. Although a partnership approach is taken, the public perception of responsibility will fall on the Authority.</p>
<p>Aspects of financial risk associated with LIFE Celtic Rainforest project including non-compliance with procurement rules or spending on ineligible costs resulting in the grant not being awarded, or fluctuation in the Euro / pound exchange rate.</p>	<p>SNPA and other partners required to self finance aspects of project expenditure to date.</p>	<p>A Mid-Term Progress Report and accompanying payment request was submitted to the European Commission in December 2020 (delayed from January 2020). Feedback is expected from the Commission in February 2021. The last report to Welsh Government will be presented in April 2021 for the period October 2020 to March 2021 – again, the project is expected to reach the £2m expenditure by the end of the financial year, which will enable a claim to be submitted to the Welsh Government for their full contribution.</p> <p>The project is expected to reach the expenditure target of £2m by the end of the 2020/21 financial year in order that the WG contribution can be claimed in full, however if strict restrictions are operational during winter 2020/21 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, this will put some pressure on staff to reach the target.</p>
<p>The effect of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) on the National Park and on the Authority's work.</p>	<p>The Authority fails to operate in terms of accomplishing its daily and statutory duties. Financial losses, failing to pay suppliers, and a general failure to</p>	<p>There is a need to ensure that measures are in place for the Authority's main systems and to enable key staff to accomplish their duties. The Management Team and Heads of Service are discussing specific measures in this respect.</p>

	<p>maintain usual systems. The Authority fails to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake its statutory duties, • To deliver against its corporate work programme, • To pay its staff and suppliers, • To generate income against agreed targets, • Support the socio and economic wellbeing of the area, • Support the wellbeing of its staff. 	<p>Alternative working arrangements have been developed and these will need to be reviewed as the winter period commences.</p> <p>There will be an additional risk for the Authority during 2020/21 in terms of achieving target income.</p>
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7. Opinion

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



EMYR WILLIAMS

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK
AUTHORITY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

DATE 9/06/2021



WYN ELLIS JONES

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK
AUTHORITY CHAIR**

DATE 9/06/2021

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACCRUALS

The concept that income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid.

CAPITAL CHARGE

A charge to service revenue accounts to reflect the cost of fixed assets used in the provision of service.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on the acquisition of a fixed asset or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of an existing fixed asset.

CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Proceeds of not less £10k from the sale of fixed assets. They may be used to finance new capital expenditure or repay debt. They cannot be used to finance normal day to day revenue spending.

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Assets that the authority intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life, and that may have restrictions on their disposal.

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES/ASSETS

These arise from a past event which is dependent upon future uncertain events and timing prior to being recognised in the accounts.

REVENUE EXPENDITURE FUNDED FROM CAPITAL UNDER STATUTE

Expenditure classified as capital for funding purposes but which does not result in the expenditure being carried on the balance sheet as a fixed asset. These items are generally grants and expenditure on property not owned by the Authority.

DEFINED BENEFIT SCHEME

A pension scheme where the scheme rules define the benefits independently of the contributions payable, and the benefits are not directly related to the investments of the scheme.

FINANCE LEASE

A lease that transfers all of the risk and rewards of ownership of a fixed asset to the lessee.

OPERATING LEASE

A lease other than a finance lease.

FIXED ASSETS

Tangible assets that yield benefits to the authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

USEFUL LIFE

The period over which the authority will derive benefits from the use of a fixed asset.

ABBREVIATIONS

CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
LASAAC	Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standard
IAS	International Accounting Standard

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	13 October 2021
TITLE	ANNUAL REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2020-21
REPORT BY	Director of Corporate Services
PURPOSE	To recommend the adoption of the Annual Report and Improvement Plan and approve its publication by 31 st October 2021

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Authority produces an Annual Report and Improvement Plan in two stages each year. The first stage, known as the Corporate Plan (published in April 2020), is a brief document that refers to the plans for the forthcoming year and contains the following information:

- the authority's Well-being Statement and the Sustainable Development Principle;
- the authority's Objectives; and
- performance indicators and targets

1.2 The second stage of the Annual Report and Improvement Plan has to be presented to the Authority by no later than 31 October and this second stage report contains greater detail on how the Authority has performed during 2020/21 and what was achieved from that set out to be achieved in the Corporate Plan.

1.3 The Annual Report and Improvement Plan appended to this report contains the following information:

- Chairman's Report / Annual Report for the period 2020/21 which sets out how the Authority has performed during the previous year (April to March), what was achieved, what was not achieved and problems encountered;
- Details as to the area covered by the Park as well as the statutory basis for the Snowdonia National Park Authority;
- Details of the Authority's Corporate Vision which sets out what we strive to attain and leave for future generations;
- Details of the Authority's Well-being Statement and the Sustainable Development Principle;
- How the Authority's Objectives were set;
- Summary Evaluation of progress made in attaining the Authority's Improvement Objectives;
- The Key Work Activities for 2020/21;
- Performance Management;

- The Improvement Framework setting out how the authority plans to deliver continuous improvement; and
- Details on the Authority's Performance Indicators; and
- Contact Details

2. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

2.1 The Plan sets out how the Authority performed in attaining its priorities during 2020/21 and will not therefore have an impact upon how the Authority's budget is expended.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That the Authority adopts the Plan and approves its publication by the required date.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT AND
IMPROVEMENT PLAN
FOR 2020/21



The National Park Authority is responsible for the preparation of the Annual Report and Improvement Plan, for the assessments set out within it, and the assumptions and estimates on which they are based. The Authority is also responsible for setting in place appropriate performance management and internal control systems from which the information and assessments in the Plan have been derived. The Authority is satisfied that the information and assessments included in the plan are in all material respects accurate and complete and that the plan is realistic

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SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR 2020/21

Section	Page(s)
1. Chairman's Report / Annual Report	
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3. Vision	
4. Well-being Statement and the Sustainable Development Principle	
5. Setting the Authority's Objectives	
6. The Authority's Improvement Objectives with summary evaluation of progress made to date	
7. Key Work Activities for the Improvement Objectives undertaken during 2020/21	
8. Performance Management	
9. The Improvement Framework	
10. Performance Indicators	
11. Contact Details	
Appendix – List of Performance Indicators	

**1. SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - TO FOLLOW

Chairman's report 2020-21

A review of the work of the Snowdonia National Park Authority

April 2020-March 2021

Welcome to the Chairman's report for 2020-21. Reflecting back on the period between April 2020 and March 2021, it has been an unrepresented time for the National Park, but a time which we can be immensely proud of.

The dedication shown by the Authority's staff during this time have been immense. They have responded to the overwhelming visitor numbers and challenging visitor behaviour with professionalism and perseverance. They have continued with the essential day to day work of looking after the National Park and its communities with determination. And collectively, whether it be behind the scenes or on the front line, they have shown the immense value of the National Park and its services to both protecting the environment and the communities of the area.

As Owain Wyn's term drew to a close as Chairman, I had the honour of being appointed as new Chair of the Authority who also appointed a new Vice Chair. Cllr. Annwen Hughes who is the first woman to be appointed to the role and is the Gwynedd Councillor for the Llanbedr & Llanfair ward. We extend our considerable thanks to Owain Wyn for his successful tenure as Chairman and in particular for the dedication and leadership shown during the first few challenging months of the Covid pandemic. His clear and strong leadership was critical during those uncertain times.

This report contains just some of the achievements of 2020-21, from the response to the Covid pandemic, to our action in tackling the climate emergency.

Responding to the Covid pandemic

In March of 2020 the Covid pandemic began to take hold in the UK and on the 20th of March, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that cafes, pubs and restaurants would be closed. There followed one of the busiest weekends in living memory in the National Park with what seemed like the majority of the nation having one final ditch at freedom before the national lockdown was announced on the 23rd of March.

The surge in visitor numbers on that weekend, whilst the country was on the brink of a pandemic, created significant concern amongst local communities, and the National Park worked with Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales in the following days to implement legislation to close down access land to the National Park's most popular areas in order to manage the potential spread of the virus through people congregating. During these few days Park staff worked to produce, print and

install on sites over 200 signs giving information on the closures. The restrictions were reviewed weekly and were lifted in July 2020.

As the countryside re-opened the number of visitors to the area quickly escalated and soon widespread pressure was being felt in relation to visitor management. This included issues with parking; fly-camping; motorhomes; litter and fires to name but a few. The National Park worked closely with partners across Wales including the Police, Natural Resources Wales and local Councils during this time.

The efforts of National Park staff during this challenging summer must be commended, from those working on the frontline to those supporting behind the scenes, and in the way all staff adapted to new ways of working. The sheer effort, energy and hours put in to help protect the area and it's communities is commendable.

The regulation was extended through to end of March 2021 but during the national lockdown from December 2020 onwards the Authority did not close any areas under the regulation but closed car parks in order to assist other public bodies in their efforts to enforce the national lockdown.

Following the successful delivery of the 2020 #BeSafe #TreadLightly #BeKind visitor campaign, the 2021 #PlanDiscoverProtect Campaign was developed during the winter of 2020/21 and launched in March 2021 and has reached over 2 million people so far.

Realising the National Parks value for health and well-being

The Covid-19 has demonstrated strikingly and clearly the value and benefits that access to the outdoors brings, and as a result the nation has discovered a new love of the outdoors and daily exercise. Visitor number following the re-opening of the countryside were higher than ever seen before in Snowdonia, with September seeing a 30% increase in visitor numbers compared to 2019.

A huge drive for volunteers was launched in the summer of 2020 to help with the visitor pressure in partnership with Snowdonia Society and the Outdoor Partnership, and the number of people who came forward to volunteer to look after the area was in the hundreds. There is no doubt that without the efforts of these volunteers and the Yr Wyddfa Volunteer Wardens the natural environment would have suffered significantly.

Following the 2020 season, the Welsh Government provided funding to extend the hours of the Volunteer and Well-being Officer in order to develop and recruit volunteers for the 2021 season. This funding has proved incredibly valuable and the additional capacity allowed the Authority to play a leading role in developing and implementing the hugely successful Caru Eryri volunteer scheme, again in partnership with Cymdeithas Eryri and the Outdoor Partnership.

During this time a new Volunteer Strategy has also been adopted by the Authority and volunteering has quickly become mainstreamed in the work that we do.

In addition, officers continue to work closely through the 'Lets Get North Wales Moving' partnership which brings together the health sector and delivery organisations to collaborate on well-being projects in the outdoors.

Despite the logistical difficulties of operating during the Covid pandemic the warden department have continued to deliver on both access maintenance work and on major access projects, from gates, signage and bridges, to major upland path repairs.

A year of working in partnership

Ambassador Scheme

After over a year of preparation and anticipation, the Eryri Ambassador programme was launched in November. The provision for Eryri Ambassadors includes online training modules that reflect the Special Qualities of the National Park.

Several well-known figures have helped us ensure that the content for our prospective Ambassadors is of the highest possible quality.

Two of those were Cafi Wyn and Lleucu Non. Cafi is a singer and one of Wales' most exceptional voices while Lleucu Non is an animator, who taught herself how to animate digitally by using the traditional method of sketching. Both are local to the area and are two of Wales' most prominent modern artists.

They were the perfect choice for creating something to awaken the senses and to celebrate the Special Quality - Inspiration for the Arts. We celebrated this Special Quality by not only including the traditional and the classics, such as proverbs, legends and poems that connects us to our past (which are of course very deserving of their place within the programme), but also to show how Eryri inspires the arts today, and therefore continues to contribute to our language and heritage.

Carneddau Landscape Partnership

The Carneddau is a special and varied landscape. With the support of a £1.7 million grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund a partnership of organizations have developed a 5 year plan worth over £4 million to help people discover, record, care for and celebrate the Carneddau.

The Carneddau Landscape Partnership has developed a scheme that will help promote a positive future for the Carneddau by increasing understanding and enjoyment of its history, cultural traditions and wildlife. It will conserve the area's heritage by promoting sustainable farming that protects rare habitats, species and archaeological remains, and by recording place names and memories.

The Partnership's vision is to help conserve the threatened heritage of the Carneddau by developing a shared vision for its future through increasing understanding and enjoyment of the cultural and natural heritage of the area across a wide range of communities, individuals and organizations.

The main objectives of the Carneddau Landscape Partnership are:

- To protect rare habitats and species, nationally important archaeological remains and distinctive landscape features.
- To keep the traditions, knowledge, and place names of the landscape alive.
- To promote sustainable land use practices.
- To help as broad an audience as possible to discover, record, conserve and celebrate the Carneddau through events, activities, training, new interpretation and better access.
- To maintain the overall number of visitors within sustainable levels.

One of the aims of the Carneddau scheme is to encourage schools in the area to take part in more outdoor education by offering pupils opportunities to learn about and celebrate the diverse and special landscape of the Carneddau. The team developed a program of training to help teachers bring outdoor learning into the curriculum. Over a six week period in Winter 2020, primary and secondary teachers in the area had the opportunity to join a series of webinars arranged by the team free of charge.

The Partnership also launched the first round of the Cronfa Gymunedol y Carneddau grants programme. Grants of between £200 and £5,000 are available for small to medium-sized community projects that align with the Carneddau Landscape Partnership's aims. The recipients of the grants are decided by the Cronfa Gymunedol y Carneddau panel. The panel is made up of volunteers who live in the area and who are interested in contributing to the aims of the Scheme.

Partneriaeth Yr Wyddfa

The Yr Wyddfa Partnership have worked together to create a plan for the future of the mountain.

Whilst the lockdown was a real challenging time for all, as was widely reported at the time, it did provide an opportunity to prove how resilient the mountain is and provided a perfect opportunity, and possibly a once in a life time chance to survey the condition of the Yr Wyddfa habitats – without people. The Snowdonia National Park Authority, Natural Resources Wales and the National Trust commissioned a survey in seven of their sites.

The second stage of the survey will be done at the same time in 2021 evaluating any changes to the habitats and wildlife. According to our specialist Ben Porter one thing he noticed was the significant lack of litter on the main paths. We'll have to wait until the next survey to compare the full effects of closing the mountain on the fragile environment.

A brand new app designed by Partneriaeth Yr Wyddfa was released during the year. The simple to use GPS-enabled app covers the 6 main paths to the summit of Yr Wyddfa with detailed route maps that tracks your progress as you ascend. This works offline, meaning no internet or phone signal is required when using the app on the mountain. Each map also includes contour information so you can look out for hazardous sections as you climb.

This app will also help you plan ahead before your visit and includes important advice from the Partnership, which will allow you to help us respect, care, and protect this incredible mountain, the surrounding environment and local communities.

Creating plastic free zones is one of the actions in the National Park's partnership management plan – Cynllun Eryri, which goes hand in hand with Partneriaeth Yr Wyddfa's priority to tackle the litter issue in the area. Therefore discussions took place with numerous agencies on the possibilities in the Yr Wyddfa area. One of the many challenges is the lack of running drinking water where visitors can refill their own reusable bottles. To this end, we held a number of discussions with the Welsh Government, Dŵr Cymru, Gwynedd Council and others to assess what's achievable.

Another element of the work is the analysis and research into the behaviour of littering and we're extremely happy to be working with the Wales Centre for Behavioural Change at Bangor University on this work. With their expertise, we hope to gain knowledge into the behaviour and to build our messaging around what is learnt.

Challenges for our centres and sites

Plas Tan y Bwlch

Like many other similar places, Plas Tan y Bwlch experienced an extremely tough time during the pandemic and closed its doors in March 2020 to protect the public and the local communities. The following year was an anxious time for everyone involved with Plas but also provided an opportunity to plan and restructure behind the scenes.

Numerous changes took place before reopening so that people could enjoy Snowdonia's splendour whilst also protecting jobs that are vital to the local economy. The nature of the lockdown was not kind to the fabric of the Grade II* listed building and as a result not all rooms were available to let out on re-opening. Covid restrictions also meant that the season was severely curtailed.

During lockdown the decision was made to extend some services once conditions allowed such as the B&B and room hire. Unfortunately, the demand for educational and other courses arranged by Plas became a victim of the pandemic and so the business model had to be adapted. Plas will no longer offer courses internally but does offer the opportunity for course leaders to arrange courses externally to be

held at Plas. As we hopefully leave the dark days of continuous lockdowns behind us the Plas Tan y Bwlch Board and the Authority will consider how the model of business can be further expanded.

Yr Ysgwrn

Re-opening Yr Ysgwrn after lockdown could be compared to sitting on a see-saw. At first the task of opening in a safe way for both staff and visitors to enjoy Yr Ysgwrn, felt monumental. After consulting with the staff and getting to grips with the guidelines we found a way forward at last which involved a little makeover to the site and the way we run it.

Throughout September 2020 we had enough visitors to keep the site busy, but like every see-saw we saw a fall in both visitors and enquiries. We continued, both on site and digitally, to tell the tales of how people and communities overcome tough times like these. Yr Ysgwrn held numerous digital events such as a Christmas Carol evening and online discussions, vlogs and lectures featuring friends of Yr Ysgwrn such as Myrddin ap Dafydd and Siwan Llynor.

Yr Ysgwrn has stood through several crises such as two World Wars a depression and the Spanish Flu. By listening to the stories of the past we found the hope we needed to get through Covid too.

Visitor Centres

The visitor centres faced an incredibly challenging year in 2020-21 as did much of the businesses and organisations connected to the visitor economy of the UK and yet, despite this, the centres managed to achieve their targets for the year thanks to a combination of a smart approach to the support provided to the tourism sector by government such as furlough, as well as the huge increase in visitor numbers following the re-opening of the tourism sector.

Also in 2021, the Authority adopted a renewed five-year business strategy for the Visitor Centres. The Snowdonia National Park Visitor Centres were given a target in 2014 to reduce their annual cost to the Authority. Since then, the centres have significantly increased their ability to generate revenue and in recent years have been close too, or on target. The new proposals set how we would continue with the substantial progress made and build on the ability of the centres to function within budget by refining and maturing the business model.

A Parking Strategy for Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen

Following the significant parking challenges seen in the Yr Wyddfa area following re-opening of the countryside in the summer of 2020, Gwynedd Council, Snowdonia National Park Authority and North Wales

Police agreed a joint approach to ensure motorists parked responsibly in the Yr Wyddfa area.

Pen-y-Pass became a pre-book car park with drop-offs for buses and taxis only to reinforce the message that walkers should park in Llanberis and Nant Peris and use the regular Sherpa bus services. The Sherpa service was also enhanced to include much more frequent buses, and the new measures have been successful both from a visitor experience and visitor management perspective.

The recommendations made in the Parking and Transport Review by Marin Higgitt Associates set out potential long-term solutions to the parking, traffic congestion, pollution and noise issues in the Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen areas.

During the Winter of 2021, the Snowdon Partnership – led by the Snowdon Partnership Officer who is part of the National Parks Partnerships team – launched a major community consultation on the initial proposals, with support from the Welsh Government through Transport for Wales. The five-week consultation ran from Monday 1 February to Sunday 7 March 2021.

Online community workshops were held for each of the four gateway villages of Llanberis, Betws-y-Coed, Beddgelert and Bethesda (via Zoom). The aim was to gather ideas on the sustainable tourism model and potential solutions for parking, passenger transport and interchange, walking and cycling, and new local services and amenities in these communities.

Further information on the report and progress thus far can be found on the Partnership website:

<https://www.snowdonpartnership.co.uk/parking-and-transport>

Helping in the battle against climate change

Life Celtic Rainforests Project

The LIFE Celtic Rainforests team also looked to adapt the way of engaging with audiences during Covid by working alongside Cofnod (North Wales Records Centre) in hosting a series of online webinars as a result of all field events being postponed during the usually busy summer months. These included lichens, mosses, ferns and bats, and were a great opportunity for beginners and more seasoned ecologists to learn from some of north Wales' finest local experts about some of the valuable ecological treasures of our Celtic Rainforests!

In addition, the project also worked alongside PONT – the conservation grazing organisation - to run a couple of webinars on the topic of conservation grazing which largely focused on the what, why, how, and when of grazing the Celtic Rainforests. Both webinars, titled “Why do Celtic Rainforests need managed grazing?” and “How we graze Celtic Rainforests for integrated farming and habitat restoration?” can be found on the Authority's YouTube channel. The grazing webinars are part of a much larger project focusing on woodland grazing by highland cattle and ponies.

The project also worked with local contractors to undertake some essential work in the restoration of an ancient woodland near Penmaenpool, Dolgellau. The site, partially classified as a Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS), has long been under the cover of coniferous species, with only parts of the woodland retaining native woodland features. However, the project has sought to remove the remaining conifers from the site, which will allow for native species to regenerate from the seeds of the mature native trees which remain there. This will be a very gradual process which will take several decades, but the project is glad to be able to support the all-important initial steps which will allow the long term transition to happen.

Welsh Peatlands Project

Through funding from the Welsh Government's Sustainable Management Scheme, the Snowdonia National Park Authority is leading a £1m partnership project to help bring Wales' peatlands into sustainable management. Restoring them will bring multiple benefits to people, businesses and communities, such as reducing soil carbon emissions, reducing flood risk, improving water quality, and improving the quality of these special places for people to enjoy, discover and cherish for years to come.

Significant peatland restoration work was completed on an area of raised bog near Gledrffordd, Conwy. Through the Welsh Peatlands Sustainable Management Scheme, the work builds on an ambitious programme of peatland restoration in the Carneddau and beyond. Maintenance work, including practical work with volunteers, will follow over the next few years to help lock in carbon, hold water, and protect this important habitat in the long term.

Thanks to funding by the Sustainable Management Scheme, a project led by the Authority, and in conjunction with the Roberts family who have farmed at Pennant Farm, Llanymawddwy for several generations, the 66 hectare peatland restoration project was successfully completed. Over the winter months in 2020 restoration works to re-profile and block the extensive complexes of hags and gullies across the site were carried out by experienced peatland contractors. It is estimated that over the next 35 years, the restoration of the site will halt the loss of 2,335 tonnes of carbon emissions, which roughly equates to the amount of carbon dioxide generated from burning 632* household tanks worth of oil.

Protecting the National Park landscape through development control

The planning function continues to play an important role in delivering on Welsh Government priorities in relation to tackling climate change, and restoring nature and protecting our rural communities.

It has been particularly challenging for the department to respond to the Covid pandemic, but the planning service adapted quickly to a new way of working and was able to provide a fully operational planning service whilst working remotely even during lockdown.

The compliance section continued to resolve cases and for three out of four quarters of the 2020-21 period 100% of enforcement cases were investigated within the target 84 days, and the department continued to perform well in the average time take to determine applications.

What next for the Authority

2020-21 marks a significant milestone in the Authority's strategic priorities with the development and adoption of brand a brand new Corporate Plan for 2021-2026. The process included Members approving draft objectives for progressing to an informal consultation with key stakeholders and partners. The feedback was then reported to Members for further discussion and a formal consultation with stakeholders and partners took place during December 2020/January 2021. Feedback and responses from formal consultation were reviewed, draft objectives developed further and cross referenced against the actions in Cynllun Eryri. A report was presented to members Working Group in March and approval granted for officers to progress the work for final approval of new objectives by members.

The plan and strategic objectives reflect the increased drive to collaborate with our partners as well as to reflect the priorities in "Valued and Resilient" which outlines key priority areas following consideration of the outcomes from the Review of Designated Landscapes, Future Landscapes Wales Programme and responses to the Taking forward Wales' sustainable management of natural resources consultation.

Some of the key priorities for the coming financial year include:

- Ensuring that the objectives in Cynllun Eryri, the National Park Management Plan, are delivered successfully by ourselves, our partners and our stakeholders in order to improve the state of the Park.
- Ensuring that the statutory planning function is adequately resourced and effectively managed in order to meet national policy, customer expectations and support sustainable communities.

- Sourcing new income streams to support Park purposes and the Authority.
- Ensuring that we are fully engaged with and delivering against the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and priorities of Valued and Resilient.
- Demonstrating both locally and nationally the benefits of a National Park Authority to manage such a special place as Snowdonia for both now and for future generations.
- Protecting our staff, residents, users and the National Health Service against the spread of Covid-19 virus at a local, regional and national level.
- Ensuring that both staff and members are adequately supported in their working arrangements in such a period and that the wellbeing of staff is supported.
- Dealing with the operational needs and financial pressures resulting from the constraints and challenges of operating in a challenging environment and the required measures in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic and years beyond. This will include the need to work with partners to address some of the issue emerging visitor management issues such as fly-camping and the huge growth in over-night camping by motorhomes.

It is safe to say that given the dedication and perseverance shown in the way the Authority and its staff responded to the immense challenges of 2020-21, we can be confident that we have the best team possible to deal with the undoubted challenges and opportunities we face now and into the future.

2. SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

2.1. Snowdonia National Park

Snowdonia National Park was designated in 1951 under the National Park and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

The National Park covers 213,200 hectares of varied countryside including mountain, moorland, woodland and coast. About 25,000 people live in the National Park which receives an estimated 10.5 million visitor nights each year.

Approximately 59% of the residents of the National Park are Welsh speaking.

2.2. Snowdonia National Park Authority

Snowdonia National Park Authority was established by the Environment Act 1995 as a single purpose local authority. It has the following purposes as defined by the Act:

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

The Authority has responsibilities for planning, conservation, land management, access and recreation but not for elderly care, schools, highways, emptying bins and other Local Authority duties.

The Act goes on to say that in pursuing National Park Purposes the National Park Authority shall seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park and shall for that purpose co-operate with local authorities and public bodies whose functions include the promotion of economic and social development within the area of the National Park.

Additionally, under the Environment Act 1995 the Authority is the local planning authority for the whole of the National Park. The Authority is therefore responsible for the production of the Park Management Plan, Local Development Plan and for the determination of planning applications.

3. VISION

The vision for the Park was adopted by the Authority in December 2009 following extensive external consultation with the public and our key stakeholders. The vision for the Park during the period reported on here (in the Park Management Plan) is set out below:

By 2035 Snowdonia will continue to be a protected and evolving landscape, safeguarded and enhanced to provide a rich and varied natural environment; providing social, economic and well-being benefits nationally and internationally.

National Park purposes will be delivered through a diverse and prospering economy adapted to the challenges of climate change and founded on natural resources - its landscape qualities, opportunities for learning and enjoyment, cultural and natural heritage. With thriving bilingual and inclusive communities, partnership working will have demonstrated that more can be achieved through working together.

Communities will have adopted innovative solutions in a changing World – a low carbon economy will have strengthened residents' link with the environment, providing a better standard of living and ensuring Snowdonia's reputation as an internationally renowned National Park and one of the nation's breathing spaces.

4. WELL-BEING STATEMENT AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLE

The Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 ("the Act") gives a legally binding common purpose guided by the seven well-being goals. The seven well-being goals are as follows:

1. A prosperous Wales
2. A resilient Wales
3. A healthier Wales
4. A more equal Wales
5. A Wales of cohesive communities
6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
7. A globally responsible Wales

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

For the Authority the core duty in the Act (the well-being duty) is that we must set well-being objectives that maximise our contribution to achieving the well-being

goals set out above. In doing so, we must take all reasonable steps to meet those well-being objectives in accordance with the sustainable development principle. The Authority's well-being objectives should be objectives for change over the long term. We will meet our well-being objectives by a series of steps, and these can themselves be short, medium or long term actions for change or a combination of the same.

The Authority's well-being objectives for 2020-21 were adopted with the Corporate Plan for 2020-21 are set out in Section 6 of this Plan. They are set out in such a way as to clearly show how each and every one of them applies to each of the seven well-being goals. Beneath the individual well-being objectives are the series of steps that were needed to achieve the same and these have, once again, been assessed individually as to how they apply to each of the seven well-being goals. The steps to be undertaken as set out above and in Section 6 have been supported by a detailed annual Corporate Work Programme that has been reported to and audited by the Authority on a regular basis throughout the year. Progress has also been measured by the Local Performance Indicators adopted for that specific purpose.

Supporting the Well-being goals is a parallel duty that each public body must carry out sustainable development. Further details as to what constitutes sustainable development is set out below.

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

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

Having assessed the requirements of sustainable development with the Authority's well-being objectives as reported in the Corporate Plan for 2020-21 sustainable development was an integral part of our well-being objectives, further details of which are set out below:

Long Term

Each of the Authority's well-being objectives encompassed the long-term aspirations of the Authority, in particular how we as an Authority go about our business in the

future and the ethos of our thinking. These involve greater collaboration with our stakeholders, increased awareness of the health benefits of the National Park to people in general, the challenges of climate change, empowering our communities whilst recognising that the Authority must continue to operate within the reduced financial resources available to it.

Integration

Some of our well-being objectives have a greater impact on individual well-being goals than others. As part of the process of adopting our well-being objectives the Authority considered how they meet the well-being goals and these are set out not only in respect for each of the well-being objectives but also for the specific short and medium term actions presently associated with our well-being objectives. These can be found in Section 6 of this Plan.

Involvement

Most of our well-being objectives involve other people. By communicating effectively and broadening the understanding of the public as to the special qualities of Snowdonia it is expected that such communications will reflect the population of Wales. Likewise, the review of the National Park Management Plan will undoubtedly attract national interest but from experience the implementation of the Plan will involve a more local input. The Health and Wellbeing objective should appeal to both the local population as well as the national population who, armed with sufficient information, will be able to enjoy more of what the Park has to offer whilst Our Communities Objective and the People, Places and Partners objectives predominantly involve the local communities as they are centred on empowering said communities, partners and volunteers. Our Resources objective, whilst not directly involving other people is the objective that ensures that the long-term ambitions of the Authority continue to be attainable.

Collaboration

As a relatively small Authority Snowdonia National Park Authority have always recognised the significant advantages that can be gained through collaborating with others and through sustained partnership working. This form of thinking is by now ingrained into the fabric of the Authority and its staff and it comes as no surprise that all our well-being objectives involve collaboration. Four of the well-being objectives will involve a mixture of internal and external collaboration whilst the final well-being objective which revolves around the Authority's resources has a greater internal focus to ensure that by carefully managing our resources the Authority is in a position to continue pushing for what really matters.

Prevention

It should come as no surprise that prevention is a central plank to the Authority's well-being objectives when one considers our statutory purposes. By involving our communities and others in the work of the Authority; by communicating effectively as to the very real opportunities that the National Park offers; by ensuring that we offer favourable conditions for habitat recovery; by taking these and other actions now, we can begin the process of adapting to the challenges of climate change. This needs to be in conjunction with a concerted drive to improve the health of our population now

to avoid a future where the resources of the NHS will be completely insufficient to meet the needs of its population. If resources are not deployed now on these issues, there is a real risk that the challenges facing future generations will prove insurmountable.

The Authority’s well-being objectives set out below are set annually through the Corporate Plan, by no later than the end of April each year. Progress on the implementation of its well-being objectives has been reviewed on a regular basis by the Authority’s Performance and Resources Committee. A final report is considered by the Authority after the financial year has ended, through consideration of this plan, the Authority’s Annual Report and Improvement Plan.

Although the well-being objectives are set annually in order to comply with the Local Government (Wales) Measure, they are intended as long-term objectives, and accordingly the well-being objectives were to continue subject to periodic review of the same. As the requirement that the Authority complies with the Local Government (Wales) Measure has by now been removed, the Authority has also undertaken a review of its Well-Being Objectives, and this will accordingly be the last time that we report on these particular Well-Being Objectives. The Corporate Plan for 2020/21 made clear that the Well-being Objectives for this period were to be a bridging Plan but incorporating changes that were implemented to protect public health against the Covid-19 pandemic and the requirements of dealing with the threat to society.

5. SETTING THE AUTHORITY’S OBJECTIVES

In October 2017 the Authority began the process of reviewing its priorities and identifying improvement objectives.

The process involved:

Early October 2017	Initial consultation with Authority staff
18 October 2017	A facilitated Working Group of Members to scope potential Improvement Areas and Well-being Objectives
Late October 2017	Seven well-being goals based upon the sustainable development principle. Stakeholder engagement including staff, members, partners, Welsh Government, Community Councils, Voluntary sector, private sector and others. This was enabled by a facilitator.
13 December 2017	Authority considered consultation responses and agreed draft service priorities, improvement areas and well-being objectives.
December 2017 – January 2018	Formal consultation with stakeholders.

February 2018	Directors and Heads of Service considered consultation responses and prepared a final draft of the Improvement areas and well-being objectives and to formulate a work programme based thereon.
7 March 2018	Working Group considered final drafts.
21 March 2018	Performance and Resources Committee considered and recommended the improvement areas and well-being objectives for formal adoption by the Authority at its meeting on 25 th April 2018.
25 April 2018	Formal adoption by the Authority of its Objectives and Corporate Plan. The plan included a statement explaining how the objectives help the Authority achieve the well-being goals and how it has applied the sustainable development principle.

Responses from stakeholders, workshops with officers and members as outlined above led to the adoption of Improvement Objectives.

Comments on this or for future versions of the Annual Report and Improvement Plan may be made by e-mail to iwan.jones@eryri.llyw.cymru or in writing to Snowdonia National Park Authority, National Park Offices, Penrhyndeudraeth, Gwynedd LL48 6LF.

The improvement objectives adopted by the Authority for the financial year 2020/21 on the 3rd of June 2020 are set out fully in Section 6 of this document together with a summary of evaluation of progress made to date.

6. THE AUTHORITY'S OBJECTIVES WITH SUMMARY EVALUATION OF PROGRESS MADE TO DATE

OUR COMMUNITIES	Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture	Global responsible
Working with our communities to develop the economic, cultural and social well-being of Snowdonia.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
We will achieve this by:							
Ensure that the Local Development Plan continues to provide affordable housing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Support sustainable economic development within our communities which utilise the qualities and opportunities that Snowdonia provide	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Effectively communicating the benefits of the designation of Snowdonia as a National Park to the well-being of our communities	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Further develop our work in understanding, promoting and managing our cultural heritage	✓	✓				✓	✓

We will know we are succeeding in delivering the improvement objective when:

We have granted planning permission for the number of affordable housing identified annually in the Local Development Plan		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
We have granted planning permission for the number of affordable housing identified annually in the Local Development Plan.	During 2020-21 the Authority has granted planning permission for 14 affordable housing units, which is a sizeable increase from 2 units in 2019-20. This increase is partly attributable to the granting of planning permission for 9 units on an allocated site in Y Bala.	Data to be closely monitored for any trends.

Ensure that all interested parties have had an opportunity to provide input through Fforwm Eryri to the Authority's Park Management Plan		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
% of all interested parties have had an opportunity to provide input through Forum Eryri to the Authority's Park Management Plan.	100%	Achieved.

Benefit to the local economy resulting from the work of the Authority		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
Establish baseline data and methodology on the benefit to the local economy resulting from the work of the Authority.	Not achieved.	Park wide Visitor and Residents Survey by Beaufort Research (2021) has begun – funded by Cronfa Eryri and through Fforwm Eryri – will continue for remainder of 2021. Baseline data not established.

Complete the Snowdon Transport and Parking Review		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
Complete the Snowdon Transport and Parking Review	Completed.	Moving to implementation phase.

Review the Communication Strategy to ensure that the same contains strong reference to the benefit of the National Park designation to our communities and subsequently monitor its effectiveness		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
Undertake a review of the Communication Strategy to ensure that the same contains strong reference to the benefit of the National Park designation to our communities and subsequently monitor its effectiveness.	Almost complete as the Working Group has discussed and provided feedback on the Strategy.	Strategy to be presented to the Authority in June for final approval.

Prepare and implement a strategy for the Authority to protect, enhance and further the understanding of the cultural heritage of Snowdonia and subsequently monitor its effectiveness		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
Prepare and implement a strategy for the Authority to protect, enhance and further the understanding of the cultural heritage of Snowdonia and subsequently monitor its effectiveness.	Delayed. The timetable has been delayed due to the impact of Covid 19 and the Head of Cultural Heritage's maternity leave.	To be progressed in 2022.

Evaluation on progress to date:

Despite current challenges it can be seen that good progress has been made. Given the wide range of work it is perhaps not surprising that there are some aspects that have not commenced as planned particularly when one considers the additional work undertaken during the Covid pandemic and the finite resources available to the Authority. Of the delayed projects one is almost complete, the other is very much work in progress whilst the last will commence upon the responsible officer's return to the office. The Authority continues to show considerable resilience in adapting and continuing to provide a service whilst at the same time planning for the future during these trying times.

PLANS AND POLICIES	Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture	Global responsible
Review and implement both the Local Development Plan and the National Park Management Plan (Cynllun Eryri) and ensure that the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 are fully integrated into the work of the Authority.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
We will achieve this by:							
Working with partners to achieve the sustainable use of Snowdonia's natural resources through integrating our work programme with NRW's Area Statements	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Implement and continuously monitor both the Local Development Plan and National Park Management Plan (Cynllun Eryri)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

PLANS AND POLICIES	Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture	Global responsible
Develop, consult on and agree new strategic objectives for the Authority's Corporate Plan for the period 2021 to 2026	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Develop and adopt relevant SPGs	✓					✓	

We will know we are succeeding in delivering the improvement objective when:

Our projects will be addressing the themes raised in the North West Wales Area Statement		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
Our projects will be addressing the themes raised in the North West Wales Area Statement.	The outcomes of the area statements have been reflected in the adopted Cynllun Eryri (National Park Management Plan). The Area statements have informed or underpinned some of the Sustainable Landscape, Sustainable Place (SLSP) and Sustainable Management Schemes (SMS) projects. Projects sponsored by NRW within Snowdonia also address that identified within Area Statements.	Continue to monitor.

LDP and Park Management Plan – once adopted to present an annual report to the Authority providing an update on progress to date		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
Produce Annual Reports: Local Development Plan Park Management Plan	Cynllun Eryri was officially adopted on 23 September 2020. Annual reports will be produced on first anniversary of Plans.	

LDP – once adopted to assess the areas that require an SPG and thereafter to prioritise the same so that all required SPG’s are adopted within an agreed timescale		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
LDP – once adopted to assess the areas that require an SPG and thereafter to prioritise the same so that all required SPG’s are adopted within an agreed timescale.	The SPG Planning Obligations has now been formally adopted and the SPG on Planning and the Welsh Language has gone out to public consultation, with the SPG in Tele-communications due to go out to public consultation imminently. Work continues to progress with the Historic Environment and Advertisements SPGs.	Continue to review progress.

New Well-being objectives adopted in readiness for 2021 onwards		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
New Well-being objectives adopted in readiness for 2021 onwards.	<p>A formal consultation with stakeholders and partners took place during December 2020/January 2021.</p> <p>Feedback and responses from formal consultation were reviewed, draft objectives developed further and exercise completed to cross reference against the actions in Cynllun Eryri. A report was presented to members Working Group in March and approval granted for officers to progress the work. Members approved the final objectives in the March meeting of P&R Committee.</p>	Completed.

Evaluation on progress to date:

Good progress has been made on this Objective with all showing a clear trend of significant progress.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING	Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture	Global responsible
Snowdonia National Park is recognised as an area, which contributes to the nation's physical and mental wellbeing.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
We will achieve this by:							
Promote the health benefits of Snowdonia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Work with key partners to provide opportunities (including volunteering) that contribute to health and wellbeing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Work with key partners to manage the area in relation to any regulations relevant to the Authority in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓

We will know we are succeeding in delivering the improvement objective when:

Establish what draws people to an area and the activities that they will undertake		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
Undertake an user survey to establish what draws people to an area and the activities that they will undertake.	Visitor and Residents survey was placed on Sell2Wales and Beaufort Research appointed to undertake the work this year. We had an inception meeting with them on 17.03.21. (Visitor survey will begin w/c 10/05/21 Residents survey w/c 01/06/21)	Not achieved within timescale but progressing.

Analyse the health benefits of these combined activities		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
Undertake an analysis of the health benefit of these combined activities.	This work can only be commenced on completion of the above project.	Not achieved within timescale.

Promote the variety of opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of the Park that contributes to both health and well-being and subsequently monitor its effectiveness		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
Utilising the results of the survey and analysis prepare a strategy for promoting the variety of opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of the National Park that contributes to both health and wellbeing and subsequently monitor its effectiveness.	This is reliant on the previous two matters having been actioned.	To progress once the above have been completed.

Volunteering Strategy has been adopted. Monitoring to be undertaken to assess how volunteering opportunities contributes to the individual's health and well-being		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
A Volunteering Strategy has been adopted.	Draft strategy to be presented to members working group in March/April for adoption by Authority in June.	Once adopted monitoring will need to commence to establish its effectiveness.

The Authority has dutifully executed its statutory responsibilities as to any regulations in relation to Covid-19 and has effectively communicated its key messages and statutory compliance achieved		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
The Authority has dutifully executed its statutory responsibilities as to any regulations in relation to Covid-19 and has effectively communicated its key messages and statutory compliance achieved	The Authority worked with Welsh Government, Local Authorities and Natural Resources Wales in relation to the emergency regulation that enabled National Parks Authorities of Wales to close land, to manage potential spread of the virus through people congregating. The restrictions were reviewed weekly and were lifted in July. The current regulation will cease in the new year. The regulation was extended through to end of March 2021. During the national lockdown from	Continue to work with others to minimise the impact of Covid-19.

	December 2020 onwards the Authority did not close any areas under the regulation but closed car parks in order to assist other public bodies in their efforts to enforce the national lockdown.	
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Evaluation on progress to date:

It appears there has been limited progress on this objective during this year of operation. It is hoped that the outstanding matters can be progressed in the next financial year.

PEOPLE, PLACES AND PARTNERS	Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture	Global responsible
Over the next five years we aim to further the opportunities to work with people, volunteers and partners in a collaborative manner. This will enable us to continue to contribute to the appreciation and management of what makes Snowdonia valued and special.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
We will achieve this by:							
Invest in volunteers to add value to the delivery of the Authority's vision	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Assess the effectiveness of the Authority's framework for volunteering	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Support the development of "Place Plans" within Snowdonia	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Enhance the awareness and use of the Welsh language		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Work with our local, national and regional partners to address the challenges and manage the area once regulations controlling movement post Covid-19 are relaxed	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓

We will know we are succeeding in delivering the improvement objective when:

A Volunteering Strategy has been adopted. Monitoring to be undertaken to assess how volunteering opportunities contributes to the individual's health and wellbeing		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
A Volunteering Strategy has been adopted. Monitoring to be undertaken to assess how volunteering opportunities contributes to the individual's health and wellbeing.	Draft strategy to be presented to members working group in March/April for adoption by Authority in June.	Once adopted monitoring will need to commence to establish its effectiveness.

Annual report monitoring the implementation of the framework for volunteering to Members		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
Produce an annual report monitoring the implementation of the framework for volunteering to Members.	Monitoring will begin once strategy is adopted.	Further progress delayed at present.

The Snowdon Partnership Plan is the first adopted Place Plan in Snowdonia. Assess its effectiveness and where a similar approach could benefit other areas of the Park.		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
The Snowdon Partnership Plan is the first adopted Place Plan in Snowdonia. Assess where a similar approach could benefit other areas of the National Park.	Llyn Tegid has been identified as a possible area. No progress to date due to the Covid situation.	To review and progress.

Continue to prioritise the use of Welsh as the working language of the Authority and that all staff who are likely to have dealings with the public can respond to queries in both Welsh and English		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
Continue to prioritise the use of Welsh as the working language of the Authority and that all staff who are likely to have dealings with the public can respond to queries in both Welsh and English. Produce an annual report.	The annual report on the authority's performance in relation to the standards is required to be approved and published by the 30th of June each year. Due to the disruption to the committee schedule caused by the Covid-19 lockdown,	Continue to monitor.

	it was not possible to present the report until the 15th of July 2020 this year. The Performance and Resources Committee duly approved the report on this date, enabling it to be published immediately afterwards.	
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That local, regional and national partners co-ordinate efforts in relation to managing people and messages when restrictions to Covid-19 are relaxed		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
That local, regional and national partners co-ordinate efforts in relation to managing people and messages when restrictions to Covid-19 are relaxed	Close collaboration continues. Head of Engagement attends weekly meetings of North Wales Comms Cell, fortnightly Wales wide Comms Meeting co-ordinated to Visit Wales as well as fortnightly meeting with Welsh National Parks. 2021 #PlanDiscoverProject Campaign has been launched, supported by Snowdonia Society and wider partners. Has reached over 2 million people so far since March. Input video on Addo campaign by Visit Wales input into wider UK National Park campaign on litter and accessing the countryside.	Continue to monitor.

Evaluation on progress to date:

It appears there has been some progress on many of the above during this year of operation but further work is needed if we are to progress matters further during the next financial year.

BALANCING OUR RESOURCES AND EFFORTS	Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture	Global responsible
The Authority targets its resources to deliver its priorities within the reduced resources available.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
We will achieve this by:							
Engage with our staff at all levels including formal annual appraisals to assist performance management	✓			✓			✓
To develop and support our Members to effectively manage the Authority during this period of change	✓	✓		✓			✓
Attract external funding to further the work of the Authority in delivery of its statutory purposes	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Review existing spending commitments in order to protect the Authority against the loss of income streams in this period		✓					
Re-Profile all projects and programmes with our key partners and funders to ensure that all are deliverable following the restrictions on ability to deliver due to Covid-19 pandemic	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓

We will know we are succeeding in delivering the improvement objective when:

Both service priorities and financial strategy adopted but this may need flexibility in these uncertain financial times. Ongoing monitoring and potential review will be required during this period.		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
Both service priorities and financial strategy adopted but this may need flexibility in these uncertain financial times. Ongoing monitoring and potential review will be required during this period. Continue to monitor.	Mid-term financial plan has been reviewed and adopted by members. The finances of the Authority were closely monitored by the Management Team and the Authority was able to deliver within its agreed budget.	

% of staff of the Authority appraised in the past 12 months		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
% of staff of the Authority appraised in the past 12 months – target 95%	By the end of the 4th Qtr. 32% had forwarded completed appraisal forms to the Personnel Service.	Directors and Heads of Services reminded of the importance of undertaking staff appraisals for the 2021 round.

% of staff moderately or very satisfied with their jobs		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
% of staff moderately or very satisfied with their jobs – Annual target for 2020/21 90%	98%	Job satisfaction increased during the year despite the impact of the Covid pandemic will have. The continuing impact of the pandemic will need to be monitored.

% of staff who report that they are satisfied with the level of guidance and support they receive from their immediate line managers		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
% of staff who report that they are satisfied with the level of guidance and support they receive from their immediate line managers – Annual target for 2020/21 – 87%	96%	

100% of new members to the Authority in any 12 month period have attended Induction for new members		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
% of new members to the Authority in any 12 month period have attended Induction for new members	100%	2 SNPA Members attended virtual induction session 15-17 March, 2021.

% of members who have undertaken a Personal Development Review Meeting on their development and support needs		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
% of members who have undertaken a Personal Development Review Meeting on their development and support needs	Target 50% Result 0%	0 completed. This process usually commences following the AGM in June. This year the AGM was not held until September which has caused a delay to the

		process. It should be noted that 2 year assessments have been undertaken with 2 of the WG Appointed Members this year.
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Assess the likely funding streams available to deliver on our statutory purposes and the capacity for delivery over the next five years		
2020/21 Performance Indicator	2020/21 Result	Action Required
Assessment undertaken on the likely funding streams available to delivery on our statutory purposes and the capacity for delivery over the next five years.	Several multi-year projects that contribute to our statutory purposes have some time left to run e.g. LIFE Celtic Rainforest 2025, NLHF Carneddau 2025, TH Dolgellau 2022 etc. Therefore, several existing commitments will continue to contribute to statutory purposes in the short-medium term. It has become apparent that some funding streams are likely to become more competitive in the future e.g. National Lottery Heritage Fund grants. This will need to be closely monitored. Despite this, other opportunities still exist – through Welsh Government (e.g. SLSP, SMS) and other funds such as the National Grid LEI Fund (which has been approved for a further 5 years by OFGEM). Covid is likely to change the funding landscape significantly in the future, although it is currently not clear how this will evolve. Partnership working (e.g. NRW, CADW and the Welsh Government) and jointly funded projects are as important as ever now, and the Authority will place an emphasis on these as well. Some Authority departments have important (albeit relatively small)	Continue monitoring

	capital funds in the baseline budget, and this must continue to be used as 'seed money' to develop new projects in the future.	
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Evaluation on progress to date:

It is reassuring to note that on this Objective performance has been better. Staff satisfaction seems to have held up well despite the difficult times faced during the year. Satisfaction with guidance and support from line managers increased during this period. Overall progress on this Objective is good.

7. KEY WORK ACTIVITIES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES UNDERTAKEN DURING 2020/21

1. OUR COMMUNITIES

Working with our communities to develop the economic, cultural and social well-being of Snowdonia.

To be achieved by:

Ensure that the Local Development Plan continues to provide affordable housing			
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
To ensure the LDP annual Monitoring Report provides an assessment of the Authority's performance with regard to affordable housing – including where appropriate any actions to address missed targets	Throughout 2020/21	We have granted planning permission for the number of affordable housing identified annually in the Local Development Plan	The Interim Annual Monitoring Report was presented to the Planning & Access Committee in January 2021, where Members noted the Report. During 2020-21 the Authority has granted planning permission for 14 affordable housing units, which is a sizeable increase from 2 units in 2019-20.
Supporting sustainable economic development within our communities which utilise the qualities and opportunities that Snowdonia provide			
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
Collaborate with economic development agencies, including local authorities to work towards local economic resilience and economic opportunities, including: Supporting initiatives within the regional growth strategies that improve digital connectivity, whilst protecting the landscape. Work with the economic development departments within local councils to develop shared opportunities related to National Park purposes. Work with partners to diversify the economy including developing a campaign to	Throughout 2020-21 and beyond	Benefit to the local economy resulting from the work of the Authority.	Currently working in Partnership with NRW, NT and Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig to establish and improve digital connectivity in the Ogwen Valley area through the Ogwen Cottage. As members of Gwynedd and Conwy LAG we are actively feeding into improvement initiatives throughout the NP area; Both local councils are members of Fforwm Eryri and are aware of the all actions on Cynllun Eryri, some discussions outside of Fforwm Eryri have taken place, but no clear opportunities have yet

<p>encourage businesses that are able to work remotely (e.g. tech and IT businesses) to establish in the area; Support opportunities in the tourism sector that are high value, high quality and considerate of protecting the National Park's Special Qualities; Ensure Sustainable Tourism principles are embedded across the National Park</p>			<p>arisen. Area wide Ambassador Scheme has been implemented with local businesses in partnership with all local authorities across north Wales – Conwy County borough Council are launching theirs in May, Cyngor Gwynedd yet to set a launch date; Technical specification report being developed as part of the Parking and Transport Strategy for Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen to feed into this work. Early scoping meetings held with BT to ascertain their interest and potential involvement in a Visitor Comms package; Communication Plan for the National Park is grounded in Sustainable Tourism Principles, Parking and Transport Strategy for Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen area is based on a Sustainable Tourism model, Partnerships Manager and Sustainable Tourism Officer are working closely with Gwynedd Council to develop and confirm Sustainable Tourism principles which will apply across the county, and in close collaboration with major and small tourism businesses in the region. See also actions on Cynllun Eryri Outcome A1 and policies A1.1-A1.5 for ongoing progress in this area.</p>
<p>Ensure that Fforwm Eryri meets to provide an input into the Authority's Park Management Plan</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Ensure that all interested parties that have had an opportunity to provide input through Forum Eryri to the Authority's Park Management Plan</p>	<p>Yes – Fforwm Eryri continues to be an effective mechanism for partner input. NPMP has by now been adopted. Progress meetings with individual partners have begun. Partner presentations have been reintroduced at all meetings to update on progress. An online version is available of the Action Plan, via Share Point and Basecamp for Partners to update remotely. First annual report on progress on Cynllun Eryri will be prepared for the</p>

			Authority meeting in autumn 2021.
Continue the implementation of the adopted Snowdon Partnership Action Plan with partners	On-going	Complete the Snowdon Transport and Parking Review	<p>Yes – All the following ongoing projects are included in Cynllun Yr Wyddfa as action points for the first five years of the Plan:</p> <p>Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen Parking and Transport Review and various projects supported by Welsh Government through Transport for Wales: Review completed and work begun to further consult with communities and implement initial recommendations;</p> <p>Exploring connectivity solutions around the Yr Wyddfa area in partnership with Arloesi Gwynedd Wledig: Work on-going;</p> <p>Yr Wyddfa Walks App: Completed but will be updated annually;</p> <p>Development and implementation of the Llysgennad Eryri programme: Programme launched and will evolve as scheme develops;</p> <p>Yr Wyddfa plastic free zone: Team commissioned and work due to be completed by June, 2021;</p> <p>Outside display solution system installed in Nant Peris with funding from the TAIS.</p>

Effectively communicating the benefits of the designation of Snowdonia as a National Park to the well-being of our communities

Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
<p>Review and implement the Authority's Communications/Engagement Strategy including: Assess our means of engagement with stakeholders through a complete channel review (assessment of the different methods we use for communicating) of the Authority's activities; Use the results to feed into the new Communications//Engagement Strategy. Realign the focus to communicate with our most important stakeholders on our key messages; Develop and implement a communication grid (a calendared plan on line and traditional communication activities) for 2020-21 that is inspired by the Special Qualities as set out in Cynllun Eryri and celebrates the Parks 70th Anniversary.</p>	<p>May 2020 – March 2021</p>	<p>Undertake a review of the Communication Strategy to ensure that the same contains strong reference to the benefit of the National Park designation to our communities and subsequently monitor its effectiveness.</p>	<p>Partially completed: This includes all staff survey. Results presented to Management Team in November; Key messages drafted; Communication Grid completed and being implemented. Will be reviewed once new Comms. Strategy in place. Paper on 70th Anniversary plans will be discussed with Members before end of year; Communications/Engagement Strategy: Draft strategy has been discussed with Communication Task and Finish Group. Due to be presented to members at working group in April. Currently also developing and implementing Comms. Strategy for the 2021 season.</p>

Further develop our work in understanding, promoting and managing our cultural heritage

Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
<p>To manage and continuously develop Yr Ysgwrn as a cultural centre and one of the most significant cultural heritage sites within the National Park area for implementation post Covid-19</p>	<p>March 2021</p>	<p>Benefit to the local economy resulting from the work of the Authority AND Prepare and implement a strategy for the Authority to protect, enhance and further the understanding of the cultural heritage of Snowdonia and subsequently</p>	<p>The Coronavirus pandemic led to the closure of Yr Ysgwrn throughout Quarter 1 and the first half of Quarter 2. The site was successfully reopened in mid-August 2020. SLSP Grant work is continuing in various parts of the site – with new LPG boiler and tanks as a back up to the existing biomass boiler. Work will also be starting on enhancements to the shop and servery later in the Year. Consultant commissioned to complete the freelance</p>

		monitor its effectiveness.	marketing work at Yr Ysgwrn from 2021-23 (2 year contract), and she will complete 36 days p.a. It is expected that Yr Ysgwrn will re-open in early Summer.
Prepare and implement a strategy for the Authority to protect, enhance and further the understanding of the cultural heritage of Snowdonia	March 2021	Prepare and implement a strategy for the Authority to protect, enhance and further the understanding of the cultural heritage of Snowdonia and subsequently monitor its effectiveness.	The draft Plan is progressing but the timetable has been delayed due to the impact of Covid 19 on the Head of Cultural Heritage's work programme and impending maternity leave. The draft will be presented to members in 2022.
Continue to manage and develop the THI Dolgellau Project understanding that the project will require an extension of time due to the impact of Covid-19	March 2021 and beyond	Benefit to the local economy resulting from the work of the Authority	The National Lottery Heritage Fund has approved an extension of time for the project due to the Covid-19 impact on the project. The new project completion date is the 31st of December 2022. Restoration work has been completed at Y Sospan along with the re-paving to its perimeter. The contractors restoring the traditional roofing details on the building won a national award in the 'best use of a roofing tile on a heritage building' category. The work to Bod Arran (The Old Stationery shop) has been completed. Internal work to make the first floor accessible to all and improvements to the toilet facilities at Y Ddarllenfa Rhydd is progressing well. Tenders have been returned in connection to Victoria Buildings. Awaiting to hear if the owners will be participating or not. Awaiting the completion of the sale of the former Wilkins Newsagents. Issues with probate have delayed the purchase. The appointed Architect for 4 & 5 Eldon Row is currently working on the drawings to

			progress with a grant application.
Identify archaeological sites for conservation, access and interpretation works and plan those projects for implementation post Covid-19	March 2021	Prepare and implement a strategy for the Authority to protect, enhance and further the understanding of the cultural heritage of Snowdonia and subsequently monitor its effectiveness.	<p>Further works planned to improve infrastructure at Caergai when Covid-19 restrictions allow for the work to be undertaken. Further community consultation and liaison has taken place in regard to proposed works at Ynysypany, Gorseddau and Treforys, Cwmystradllyn and a positive response has been received. Works will require due consideration to local infrastructure and services.</p> <p>Completion of works at Caergai will take place in 2021/22. Work has been delayed due to the impact of Covid 19.</p>
Establish the Ardudwy's Lost Farmstead project with partners and the community of Ardudwy	March 2021	Prepare and implement a strategy for the Authority to protect, enhance and further the understanding of the cultural heritage of Snowdonia and subsequently monitor its effectiveness.	<p>Work has continued on various themes of what is considered to be largely intangible heritage as part of the project, including 'farmstead mapping', place names and their etymology, historical rural communities, local dialect, political and literary landscapes, oral history, local characters. This has been done with several partners organisations and the local community.</p> <p>Discussions have also been held with the National Lottery Heritage Fund about the development of these themes.</p>

2. PLANS AND POLICIES

Review and implement both the Local Development Plan and the National Park Management Plan (Cynllun Eryri) and ensure that the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 are fully integrated into the work of the Authority

To be achieved by:

Working with partners to achieve the sustainable use of Snowdonia's natural resources through integrating our work programme with NRW's Area Statements			
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
Ensure that Cynllun Eryri and NRW Area Statement for NW Wales are in alignment Partnerships Manager to co-ordinate SNPAs response to draft Area Statements and feed in understanding from across various Partnerships co-ordinated by Authority officers	March 2021	Our projects will be addressing the themes raised in the North West Wales Area Statement	Completed and ongoing work as Area Statements developed. The outcomes of the area statements have been reflected in the adopted Cynllun Eryri (National Park Management Plan). The Area statements have informed or underpinned some of the Sustainable Landscape, Sustainable Place (SLSP) and Sustainable Management Schemes (SMS) projects. Projects sponsored by NRW within Snowdonia also address issues identified within Area Statements.
Work with relevant officers to integrate work programmes and progress implementation of Area Plans	March 2021	Our projects will be addressing the themes raised in the North West Wales Area Statement	Senior Wardens appointed in 3rd Quarter. Senior Wardens will review and update current plans during evaluation interviews and complete by the start of April.
Implementing and continuously monitoring both the Local Development Plan and the National Park Management Plan (Cynllun Eryri)			
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
Present an annual monitoring report to the Authority which outlines how the Plans are performing against the monitoring framework	On-going	LDP and Park Management Plan – once adopted to present an annual report to the Authority	First report on Cynllun Eryri will be presented on anniversary of adoption of plan (September 2021).

		providing an update on progress to date	
Ensure that the policies of the Local Development Plan are implemented effectively and ensuring a consistent approach by officers	On-going	LDP and Park Management Plan – once adopted to present an annual report to the Authority providing an update on progress to date	An on-going process that is subject to an annual report.
Develop, consult on and agree new strategic objectives for the Authority's Corporate Plan for the period 2021- 2026			
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
Adopt new objectives in readiness for 2021 onwards including evidence of in-depth consultation and policy development exercises completed for the new statutory National Park Management Plan, Cynllun Eryri, 2020-2025	March 2021	New Well-being objectives adopted in readiness for 2021 onwards	<p>Members approved draft objectives for progressing to an informal consultation. Informal consultation completed with key stakeholders and partners. Feedback reported to Members for further discussion.</p> <p>A formal consultation with stakeholders and partners took place during December 2020/January 2021. Feedback and responses from formal consultation were reviewed, draft objectives developed further and exercise completed to cross reference against the actions in Cynllun Eryri. A report was presented to members Working Group in March and approval granted for officers to progress the work for final approval of new objectives by members.</p>

Develop and adopt relevant Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPGs)			
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
Assess the areas that require an SPG and thereafter prioritise and produce a programme for their production, consultation and adoption	On-going	LDP – once adopted to assess the areas that require an SPG and thereafter to prioritise the same so that all required SPGs are adopted within the agreed timescale	Progress continues to be made with the production of SPGs. The SPG on Planning Obligations has now been formally adopted. The SPG on Planning and the Welsh Language has gone out to public consultation, with the SPG in Telecommunications and Masts due to go out to consultation imminently. Work continues to progress with the Historic Environment and Advertisements SPGs.

3. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Snowdonia National Park is recognised as an area which contributes to the Nation’s physical and mental wellbeing.

To be achieved by:

Promote the health benefits of Snowdonia			
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
Through the Communication/Engagement Strategy, highlight the health and well-being benefits of the natural environment and develop Snowdonia related key messages around these, specifically by producing a web page with key information	November 2020	Promote the variety of opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of the Park that contributes to both health and well-being and subsequently monitor its effectiveness	Content and Brand Manager has been reviewing and improving content on the existing website. Additional materials and content also being developed for the 2021 season. Additional information will be developed as part of the new website due to be launched in September
The dissemination of key messages to the public via digital media, the “Eryri” magazine and the National Park newsletter	On-going	Promote the variety of opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of the Park that contributes to	National Park digital newsletter proving very popular with exponential increase in take up. Eryri

		both health and well-being and subsequently monitor its effectiveness	Magazine to go digital as a one off in order to mitigate against the risks of Covid – paper copies etc. Digital newsletter now sent to a mailing list of around 4000 recipients.
Pilot the development of online content promoting paths and trails and opportunities to improve health and wellbeing in the National Park. The work features heavily in the brief for the preparation of the new website and role of the Brand and Content Manager. Subject to Covid-19 restrictions being applied during this period	May 2021	Establish what draws people to any area and the activities that they will undertake AND Analyse the health benefits of these combined activities	New website due to be launched in September 2021
Review the Recreation Strategy to ensure that residents and visitors can access a variety of routes aimed to improve physical and mental health. Ensuring it supports the strategic objectives outlined in the PMP, Cynllun Eryri	May 2021	Establish what draws people to any area and the activities that they will undertake AND Analyse the health benefits of these combined activities	First draft being finalised to ensure alignment with Cynllun Eryri Delay in submitting first draft to Management Team, now due to be submitted in June 2021.
Working with key partners to provide opportunities (including volunteering) that contribute to health and wellbeing			
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
Review and refresh the Volunteering Strategy with a renewed focus on Well-being	July 2020	Volunteering Strategy has been adopted. Monitoring to be undertaken to assess how volunteering opportunities contributes to the individual's health and well-being	Management Team have had input and given feedback on strategy. Strategy due to be presented to members Working group in March/early April. Strategy discussed at Member Working Group and due to be submitted to the Authority for final approval in June
Adopt criteria to measure the health and well-being benefits of volunteering the Authority provides. Develop	April 2021	Volunteering Strategy has been adopted. Monitoring to be undertaken to assess	Strategy due to be presented to members Working group in March/April and final

a Volunteer Portal as a central point for recording and measuring progress, co-ordinate volunteer activity across the authority, and promoting opportunities for ourselves and partners, in collaboration with other Welsh National Parks		how volunteering opportunities contributes to the individual's health and well-being	approval by Authority in June
The provision and promotion of opportunities to volunteer at Yr Ysgwrn through social media (subject to Covid-19 restrictions)	March 2021	Volunteering Strategy has been adopted. Monitoring to be undertaken to assess how volunteering opportunities contributes to the individual's health and well-being	The site remained closed throughout Quarter 1 and the first half of Quarter 2 and closed over the winter season. Officer's have kept regular contact with volunteers and an invitation has been extended to all volunteers to return to Yr Ysgwrn when they feel safe and confident to do so. We hope to see volunteers return in 2021 and will be attempting to recruit new volunteers for the new season.
Continue to play an active part in "Getting North Wales Moving" and develop further links in order to engage local people, including "Link Workers" and direct links with health services and charities	On-going	Promote the variety of opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of the Park that contributes to both health and well-being and subsequently monitor its effectiveness	Ongoing and working well. Further links and partnerships being developed. Officer Health and Well-being officer continues to attend regular meeting and update the Ho Warden Service.
Prepare a draft Youth Manifesto for discussion and approval by Members	March 2021	Promote the variety of opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of the Park that contributes to both health and well-being and subsequently monitor its effectiveness	No progress to report on. Recruitment of Youth Officer delayed. Recruitment will start April onwards.
Working with key partners to manage the area in relation to any regulations relevant to the Authority in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic			
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
Continue to work with representatives from	March 2021	The Authority has dutifully executed its	This has been considered by National

<p>Designated Landscapes across Wales, Visit Wales and Welsh Government to share good practice and develop policy regarding Sustainable Tourism principles</p>		<p>statutory responsibilities as to any regulations in relation to Covid-19 and has effectively communicated its key messages</p>	<p>Parks Wales and has been raised with the Deputy Minister and Welsh Government Officials. The Green Recovery Task and Finish Group Chaired by NRW Chair will shortly report and will make recommendations on such matters. A joint seminar of Gwynedd Council and this Authority's members was held in the fourth quarter to consider Gwynedd Council policy on tourism. Visit Wales will also consider sustainable tourism principles on a Wales level. Officers are looking at metrics, which could support outcomes of a sustainable tourism sector as opposed to the current STEAM model for tourism.</p>
<p>Continue to work with the North Wales Communication cell group to agree and disseminate key messages</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>The Authority has dutifully executed its statutory responsibilities as to any regulations in relation to Covid-19 and has effectively communicated its key messages</p>	<p>Ongoing and proving very beneficial. Head of Engagement meets weekly with North Wales Comms Cell, with discussions and implementation of shared messaging.</p>

4. PEOPLE PLACES AND PARTNERS

Over the next five years we aim to further the opportunities to work with people, volunteers and partners in a collaborative manner. This will enable us to continue to contribute to the appreciation and management of what makes Snowdonia valued and special.

To be achieved by:

Invest in volunteers to add value to the delivery of the Authority's vision			
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
Continue to monitor to assess how volunteering opportunities contributes to our vision and statutory purposes	On-going	Volunteering Strategy has been adopted. Monitoring to be undertaken to assess how volunteering opportunities contributes to the individual's health and well-being	Volunteering work developing well. New measures will be developed as part of the volunteer strategy. Working in partnership with Snowdonia Society and Outdoor Partnership to launch Welcome Volunteers for 2021 season. Caru Eryri volunteer scheme launched for 2021 season with over 100 volunteers already signed up
To meaningfully engage volunteers in the management of Yr Ysgwrn through regular consultation via e-mail, phone calls and when Covid-19 restrictions ease, through and team meetings	March 2021	Volunteering Strategy has been adopted. Monitoring to be undertaken to assess how volunteering opportunities contributes to the individual's health and well-being	The continued closure of Yr Ysgwrn due to Covid, will mean new opportunities for engagement with volunteers will be limited for the time being. Once an opening date has been secured, plans can be redeveloped with a view to creating new opportunities for the volunteers.
Assess the effectiveness of the Authority's framework for volunteering			
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
Present an annual report monitoring the implementation of the framework for volunteering to Members	March 2021	Produce an annual report monitoring the implementation of the framework for volunteering to Members	To be progressed once Strategy has been reviewed. Final strategy being submitted to Authority for approval in June.

Support the development of “Place Plans” within Snowdonia			
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
The Snowdon Partnership Plan is the first adopted Place Plan in Snowdonia. Assess whether a similar approach could benefit other areas of the Park.	March 2020	The Snowdon Partnership Plan is the first adopted Place Plan in Snowdonia. Assess its effectiveness and where a similar approach could benefit other areas of the National Park	Llyn Tegid has been identified as a possible area. No progress to date due to the Covid situation. Senior Warden South has been appointed and will lead on the work April onwards.
Ensure indicators within the Snowdon Partnership Plan are monitored and reported on to the Authority on an annual basis	March 2021	The Snowdon Partnership Plan is the first adopted Place Plan in Snowdonia. Assess its effectiveness and where a similar approach could benefit other areas of the National Park	Review of parking and transport in the Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen areas: Moving into implementation phase. Review implemented with support from WG through Transport for Wales Production of a Communication Plan for the Snowdon Partnership COMPLETED and in implementation phase. Establishment of an ambassador scheme for local businesses Qtr.1-2: Scheme in development phase for extension to the entire National Park. Qtr. 3-4: Ambassador scheme has been launched and is very successful with over 500 Ambassadors signed up. Production of an App for Snowdon (to be piloted for the expansion to the entire National Park App COMPLETED and in monitoring phase, good practise shared with Ogwen area. Completion of Tais Nant Peris bus stop project will be re-profiled. (Delayed due to Covid-19 implications) Qtr. 1: In implementation phase and due to be

			<p>completed by March 2021.</p> <p>Qtr. 2: Tais Nant Peris bus stop project has been re-profiled and is due to be completed by end of June 2021.</p> <p>Qtr. 3 - 4: Tais Nant Peris project has been COMPLETED</p> <p>Performance Indicators of the Plan have been revised and were presented to the March P&R Committee.</p>
Enhance the awareness and use of the Welsh language			
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
Assess the adopted well-being plans that are applicable to the Authority's area to identify appropriate actions to be undertaken by the Authority in partnership with others in enhancing both the awareness and the use of the Welsh language	March 2020	Continue to prioritise the use of Welsh as the working language of the Authority and that all staff who are likely to have dealings with the public can respond to queries in both Welsh and English. Produce an annual report.	PSB partners to discuss how to enable and resource the daily use and normalisation of the Welsh Language in the workplace.
Continue to prioritise the use of Welsh as the working language of the Authority and that all staff who are likely to have dealings with the public can respond to queries in both Welsh and English. Produce an Annual Report.	On-going	Continue to prioritise the use of Welsh as the working language of the Authority and that all staff who are likely to have dealings with the public can respond to queries in both Welsh and English. Produce an annual report.	The annual report on the authority's performance in relation to the standards is required to be approved and published by the 30th of June each year. Due to the disruption to the committee schedule caused by the Covid-19 lockdown, it was not possible to present the report until the 15th of July 2020 this year. The Performance and Resources Committee duly approved the report on this date, enabling it to be published immediately afterwards.

<p>work with local colleges and the university to ensure active participation in any online content and information sites regarding work placements, volunteering and career opportunities, which would include work on promoting the importance of Welsh Language skills in gaining employment with the Authority. Participate in any online/remote careers and job fairs, events, discussions and webchats, if they are set up as an alternative to the traditional face-to-face opportunities.</p>	<p>2020/21 Academic year</p>	<p>Continue to prioritise the use of Welsh as the working language of the Authority and that all staff who are likely to have dealings with the public can respond to queries in both Welsh and English. Produce an annual report.</p>	<p>Due to Covid-19 no progress has been made with this action. Colleges and Universities are currently prioritising safe classroom and teaching environments for their students, and are not in a position to advance this work. Freshers Fairs were not held this year and no alternative on-line opportunities were offered for the Authority to participate in. The Authority under an Umbrella proposal by 14 of UK's National Parks propose to provide five opportunities for young people under the "Kick start" initiative. No further progress made with this work. However, plans are underway to hold the annual Bangor University Welsh Language Jobs Fair virtually in March/April 2021</p>
<p>To ensure that all communication material is available bilingually</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Continue to prioritise the use of Welsh as the working language of the Authority and that all staff who are likely to have dealings with the public can respond to queries in both Welsh and English. Produce an annual report.</p>	<p>All communication material is available bilingually</p>
<p>To provide opportunities for Welsh learners to participate in activities, including volunteering at Yr Ysgwrn</p>	<p>March 2021</p>	<p>Volunteering Strategy has been adopted. Monitoring to be undertaken to assess how volunteering opportunities contributes to the individual's health and well-being</p>	<p>'Iaith ar Daith' visited Yr Ysgwrn to film in December and it is hoped that the programme will be an excellent marketing tool to appeal to Welsh learners when it is aired in spring 2021.</p>
<p>To promote Yr Ysgwrn as a cultural centre and as a centre to enhance awareness of Welsh language and culture</p>	<p>March 2020</p>	<p>Volunteering Strategy has been adopted. Monitoring to be undertaken to assess how volunteering</p>	<p>A consultant has been commissioned to complete the freelance marketing work at Yr Ysgwrn from 2021-23 (2</p>

		opportunities contributes to the individual's health and well-being	year contract), and she will complete 36 days p.a. It is expected that Yr Ysgwrn will re-open in early Summer, where it is hoped that a programme of various activities will be developed.
Work with our local, national and regional partners to address the challenges and manage the area once regulations controlling movement post Covid-19 are relaxed			
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
Continue to work with the Tourism sector through the North Wales Tourism Forum	On-going	That local, regional and national partners co-ordinate efforts in relation to managing people and messages when restrictions to Covid-19 are relaxed	Ongoing – attending meetings on a quarterly basis (weekly during Covid lockdown).
Undertake a risk register exercise cross-referencing with Policy A3.3 ensuring preparedness and mitigation measures are anticipated (Policy A3.3. Explore the feasibility of implementing a Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) approach to natural and cultural heritage assets of the National Park) With input from key partners consider learnings from the Covid-19 pandemic	March 2021	That local, regional and national partners co-ordinate efforts in relation to managing people and messages when restrictions to Covid-19 are relaxed	Feasibility of the CVI Index is currently being established in Partnership with NRW. Key learnings from the pandemic are being shared with Cyngor Gwynedd, Conwy Council, Visit Wales, other National Parks and Designated Landscapes and NRW. Risk Register not yet begun.

5. BALANCING OUR RESOURCES AND EFFORTS

The Authority targets its resources to deliver its priorities within the reduced resources available

To be achieved by:

Engaging with our staff at all levels including formal annual appraisals to assist performance management and ensure that we support the wellbeing of our staff in such a difficult period			
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
All staff meetings held at least annually and as required	2020/21	% of staff who report that they are satisfied with the level of guidance and support they receive from their immediate line managers AND % of staff moderately or very satisfied with their jobs	An all staff virtual meeting with the Chair and Chief Executive was held on 9th March. A session with an external specialist on taking care of mental health was included in the meeting.
Quarterly service updates issued to all staff and members	2020/21	% of staff who report that they are satisfied with the level of guidance and support they receive from their immediate line managers AND % of staff moderately or very satisfied with their jobs	Regular and frequent staff update bulletins have been issued throughout the Covid-19 period which included updates from the services and current information relevant to staff on the pandemic and working practices.
All Authority staff to have been appraised in the past 12 months	December 2020	% of staff of the Authority appraised in the past 12 months	Due to the number of staff working remotely during the lock-down period the appraisal process commenced later this year. A number of staff were also placed on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (Furlough) during the year. By the end of Quarter 4, 32% of appraisal forms had been forwarded to the Personnel service.

Assessment of training needs undertaken	March 2021	% of staff moderately or very satisfied with their jobs AND % of staff of the Authority appraised in the past 12 months	Training needs are identified as part of the appraisal process. As only 32% of appraisals were submitted it follows that a full assessment of training needs has not been undertaken.
Ensure that Heads of Service undertake regular team meetings with their staff to keep staff informed of development and to assist performance management	2020/21	% of staff who report that they are satisfied with the level of guidance and support they receive from their immediate line managers AND % of staff moderately or very satisfied with their jobs	Heads of Service have held regular virtual team meetings with their staff throughout the past 12 months. Engaging with staff has been particularly important over the past year to ensure and check on the wellbeing of staff members and allow the flow of information both up and down within the Authority.
Facilitate meetings of the Staff & Management Forum	2020/21	% of staff who report that they are satisfied with the level of guidance and support they receive from their immediate line managers	Arrangements will be put in place for these meetings to be held 'virtually' over the coming months. To date, no meetings have been held.
Developing and supporting Members to effectively manage the Authority during this period of change			
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
100% of new members to the Authority in any 12 month period have attended induction for new members	On-going	% of new members to the Authority in any 12 month period have attended Induction for new members	A virtual New Member induction course took place 15 - 17 March 2021. Two of the most recently appointed SNPA Members attended.
Members have undertaken a Personal Development Review meeting on their development and support needs	September 2020 onwards	% of members who have undertaken a Personal Development Review Meeting on their development and support needs	None completed. This process usually commences following the AGM in June. This year the AGM was not held until September which has caused a delay to the process. It should be noted that 2 year assessments have been undertaken with 2 of the Welsh

			Government Appointed Members this year.
Attract external funding to further the work of the Authority in delivery of its statutory purposes			
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
Work within Partnership to deliver National Park purposes and develop further opportunities for external funding	On-going	Assessment undertaken on the likely funding streams available to delivery on our statutory purposes and the capacity for delivery over the next five years. AND Both service priorities and financial strategy adopted but this may need flexibility in these uncertain financial times. Ongoing monitoring and potential review will be required during this period. Continue to monitor.	External funding opportunities are continually being investigated and progressed. The Authority has been successful in attracting significant additional funding from Welsh Government via the Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places (SLSP) programme and other initiatives.
Reviewing existing spending commitments in order to protect the Authority against the loss of income streams in this period			
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
Assess and re-purpose where possible un-spent Welsh Government spending pressures funding	March 2021	Monitor both spending commitments and income generation in this period AND Services have reviewed and re-profiled current expenditure commitments so as to reduce the pressure on our reserves	In agreement with Welsh Government, programmes have been reviewed and adjusted; quarterly meetings have been established to monitor progress.
Assess options re. the Commissioning Fund	March 2021	Monitor both spending commitments and income generation in this period	Assess options re. the Commissioning Fund: Options assessed:

		<p>Ear marked funding for a comprehensive NP residents and visitor survey (45k) can be released as it will not be possible for the scope of this work to be completed in 2020. We would aim to re-tender at the beginning of 2021 for the work to be completed by the end of 2021.</p> <p>Further funding earmarked for projects under Cynllun Eryri (15k) can also be released as it will not be possible to begin these projects until after the recovery of the National Park area after COVID-19.</p> <p>For the financial year 2020-21 Cronfa Comisiynu Eryri could be used to ensure that infrastructure within the National Park is resilient in order to begin implementation of the projects outlined in the new National Park Management Plan, which was adopted in 2020.</p> <p>March 2021 Partnerships Manager Re-tendering has been completed and Beaufort Research have been commissioned to carry out a comprehensive visitor and residents' survey in 2021.</p> <p>Work will commence in May 2021 (visitor survey) and June (residents' survey) and will continue for the remainder of the year. A further 15K has been earmarked for piloting a new methodology for</p>
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			measuring Tranquillity in partnership with Winchester University. This is expected to take place in the Autumn of 2021.
Realise cost savings from reduced operations in car parks and public toilets to reduce the income deficit from car parks during Covid-19 lockdown.	March 2021	Monitor both spending commitments and income generation in this period AND All programmes and projects impacted by Covid-19 identified and suitable mitigation enabled to counter any slippage AND Services have reviewed and re-profiled current expenditure commitments so as to reduce the pressure on our reserves	Operating cost savings realized during the national lock-down period and offset against the loss of income for Quarter 1. Public toilet cleaning costs increased in Quarter 2 due to increased cleaning frequency in line with guidance issued by the Welsh Government. Cost savings continued with move to card only payments in car parks prior to further lockdown periods. Further national and local (Conwy) lockdowns had a severe impact on income for Quarter 4. Savings within service moved to cover some losses.
Review maintenance works and postpone non urgent works to 2021/22 to reduce budget pressures	March 2021	Monitor both spending commitments and income generation in this period AND All programmes and projects impacted by Covid-19 identified and suitable mitigation enabled to counter any slippage AND Services have reviewed and re-profiled current expenditure commitments so as to reduce the pressure on our reserves	Urgent works prioritised so that planning and programming of work can progress in accordance with the budget in Quarters 3 and 4. All non-urgent work halted due to financial pressures arising from further lockdowns and loss of car park income during Quarter 3 and likely for the most of Quarter 4. Non urgent work not progressed due to loss of car park income. Will need to be re-prioritised in 21/22 along other existing maintenance requirements.

Revise Asset Management Plan and defer adoption of new Plan for 12 months	For adoption prior to March 2022	Monitor both spending commitments and income generation in this period AND All programmes and projects impacted by Covid-19 identified and suitable mitigation enabled to counter any slippage	No progress made due to other work pressures as a result of Covid-19. Work will progress for adopting and actioning a new Asset Management Plan as from 1st April 2022 onwards Works on SLSP Decarbonisation projects which will feed into the new Asset Management Plan have been progressed and further bids for SLSP 2021/22 F/Y to include facilities improvements submitted. Revised Asset Acquisition and Disposal Policy adopted by the Authority with work ongoing to revise Asset Management Plan. Recruiting for a supporting Property Officer to assist with the work of completing site condition surveys.
Re-profile all projects and programmes with our key partners and funders to ensure that all are deliverable following the restrictions on ability to deliver due to Covid-19 pandemic			
Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions	Timetable	How will success be measured? (detail specific outcomes)	Was the project successful?
TAIS Nant Peris will require an extension period beyond January 2021	March 2021	Monitor both spending commitments and income generation in this period	The project has been completed.
Adjust all field work accordingly by an estimated 3 month delay in WG grant spend profile accordingly	Summer 2022	All programmes and projects impacted by Covid-19 identified and suitable mitigation enabled to counter any slippage	All field work assessed, and time adjustments applied for accordingly. Following assessments of Covid-19 regulations SNPA protocols were put in place and subject to a risk assessment being undertaken field work re-commenced in mid

			May by planning staff initially and extended to project work staff early in June and continued throughout Quarters 3 and 4.
Review all partnership based projects. Review expenditure profiles, which projects will be/are likely to be delayed, anticipated slippage and subsequent consequences	March 2021	All programmes and projects impacted by Covid-19 identified and suitable mitigation enabled to counter any slippage	An update on all current SNPA projects was presented to P&R Committee in November. All time extensions and/or funding profiles addressed.

8. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Each year, the Auditor General reports on how well Welsh councils, fire and rescue authorities, and national parks are planning for improvement and delivering their services.

The report is known as The Annual Improvement Report. The report draws on the work of the Wales Audit Office and relevant Welsh Inspectorates and presents a picture of improvement over the last year. The report covers the planning, delivery and evaluation of improvement by Snowdonia National Park Authority (the Authority).

The Report confirmed that the Authority is meeting its statutory requirements in relation to continuous improvement but that given the wide range of services provided by the Authority and the challenges it is facing, it would be unusual if they did not find things that can be improved.

During the course of the year, the Auditor General did not make any formal recommendations. However, a number of proposals for improvement have been made and these were repeated in the report. Wales Audit office will monitor progress against them, and relevant recommendations made in the national reports as part of their improvement assessment work.

9. THE IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Members of the Authority have an integral part to play in ensuring that the improvement framework provides a robust process for ensuring that we succeed in delivering successful outcomes.

As part of this process, data on our Performance Indicators, both Core and Local, are recorded and reports are generated for the scrutiny of the Performance and Resources Committee on a quarterly basis.

The Corporate Work Plan, an annual plan with specific tasks to underpin each of the Authority's Objectives is also reported to the Performance and Resources Committee on a quarterly basis.

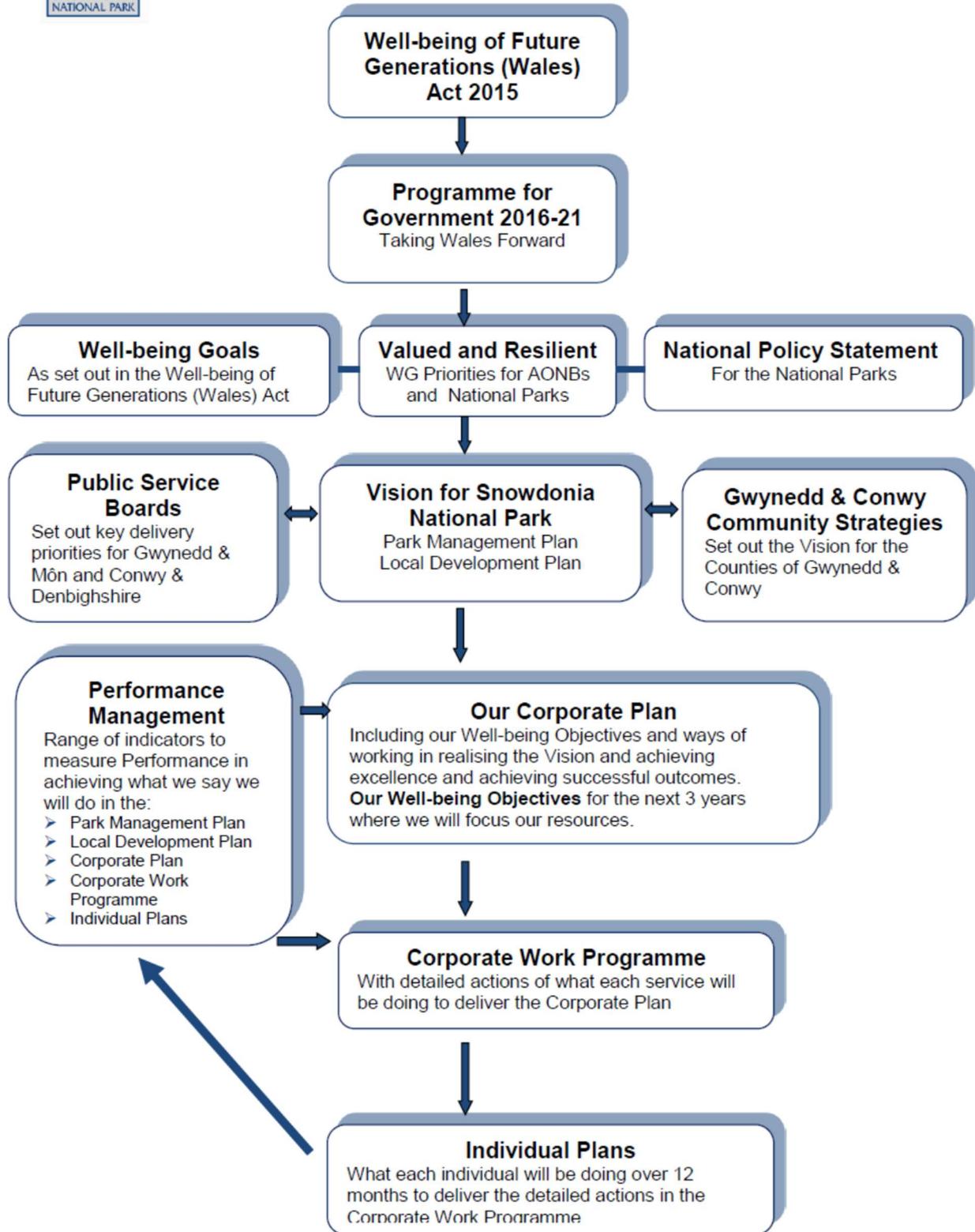
The appraisal process undertaken with all Authority staff ensures that performance is monitored and also allows staff the opportunity of reporting on completion of their individual tasks in relation to the Objectives as well as any problems encountered.

The improvement framework is set out below.



THE GOLDEN THREAD

SNPA's CORPORATE PLANNING FRAMEWORK



10. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Authority has a number of statutory performance indicators on which it must report every year.

Together with the Welsh Government's core indicators, the Authority has developed a key set of local indicators, and also collates data on agreed Welsh Language indicators. In addition, the Authority collects service data, which does not indicate performance, but rather attempts to show each directorate's work in context by showing workload, numbers etc.

Full details of the Authority's local indicators used to support the Authority's Improvement Objectives have previously been set out in Section 6 of this document and so will not be repeated here. A full list of the Authority's Core Performance Indicators together with details on performance arising thereon is set out in the Appendix.

11. CONTACT DETAILS

We welcome your input and suggestions on setting new and challenging improvement objectives for the next financial year. Please contact Iwan Jones with your comments.

Further information on the details set out in this Improvement Plan can be obtained by writing or e-mailing:

Iwan Jones

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol / Director of Corporate Services

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Appendix – Performance Indicators

SERVICE DATA: CORPORATE INDICATORS

No.	Performance Indicator 2020-21	Annual Result 2019/20	Annual Target for 20/21	Annual Result 2020/21	Comments (if required)
CHR/001	The percentage of employees who leave the employment of the authority, whether on a voluntary or involuntary basis.	7.4% (9)	7%	12.5% (16)	A change in the business model for Plas Tan y Bwlch resulted in 5 of the 16 leavers. Another was due to the end of a period of maternity leave cover, another due to the completion of a placement period and a further due to the completion of an SMS project.
CHR/002	The number of working days/shifts per full time equivalent (FTE) authority employees lost due to sickness absence.	11.5 days	6 days	3 days	-
CHR/006	The percentage of undisputed invoices which were paid within 30 days of such invoices being received by the authority.	98.95%	98%	99.28%	-

WELSH GOVERNMENT PLANNING DIRECTORATE

MEASURE	GOOD	FAIR	IMPROVE
Plan making			
Is there a current Development Plan in place that is within the plan period?	Yes		No
Annual Monitoring Reports produced following LDP adoption	Yes		No
The local planning authority's current housing land supply in years	>5		<5
Efficiency			
Percentage of "major" applications determined within time periods required	>60	50.1-59.9	<50

WALES AVERAGE 2019-20	SNPA LPA 2019-20	SNPA Qtr.1 April - June 2020-21	SNPA Qtr. 2 July – Sept. 2020-21	SNPA Qtr. 3 Oct. - Dec. 2020-21	SNPA 4 th Qtr. Jan. – Mar. 2020-21
Yes	Yes	YES		YES	YES
Yes	Yes	Due 2021 – interim Monitoring Report to be reported to member Working Group in Jan. 2021.		Interim Monitoring Report noted by Members at the Planning & Access Committee January 2021	
6 of 25	5.0	End of Year Result		End of year result	Replaced by the Housing Trajectory
68	0	N/A (No majors determined)	N/A (No majors determined)	N/A (No majors determined)	N/A (No majors determined)

MEASURE	GOOD	FAIR	IMPROVE
Average time taken to determine “major” applications in days	Not set	Not set	Not set
Percentage of all applications determined within time periods required	>80	70.1-79.9	<70
Average time taken to determine all applications in days	<67	67-111	112+
Percentage of Listed Building Consent applications determined within time periods required	>80	70.1-79.9	<70
Quality			
Percentage of Member made decisions against officer advice	<5	5-9	9+
Percentage of appeals dismissed	>66	55.1-65.9	<55
Applications for costs at Section 78 appeal upheld in the reporting period	0	1	2+

WALES AVERAGE 2019-20	SNPA LPA 2019-20	SNPA Qtr.1 April - June 2020-21	SNPA Qtr. 2 July – Sept. 2020-21	SNPA Qtr. 3 Oct. - Dec. 2020-21	SNPA 4 th Qtr. Jan. – Mar. 2020-21
232	370	N/A (No majors determined)	N/A (No majors determined)	N/A (No majors determined)	N/A (No majors determined)
88	76	55.5%	48%	62%	64%
77	67	67	109	92	91
75	7%	0%	10%	44%	14%
9	5	0	0	0	0
68	60	No Appeal Decisions	100% (3/3)	No Appeal Decisions	67%
0	0	0	0	0	0

MEASURE	GOOD	FAIR	IMPROVE
Engagement			
Does the local PA allow members of the public to address the Planning Committee?	Yes		No
Does the local PA have an officer on duty to provide advice to members of the public?	Yes		No
Does the local PA web site have an online register of planning applications, which members of the public can access, track their progress (and view their content)?	Yes	Partial	No
Enforcement			
% of enforcement cases investigated (determined whether a breach of planning control has occurred and, if so, resolved whether or not enforcement action is expedient) within 84 days	>80	70.1-79.9	<70
Average time taken to take positive enforcement action	<100	101-200	200+

WALES AVERAGE 2019-20	SNPA LPA 2019-20	SNPA Qtr.1 April - June 2020-21	SNPA Qtr. 2 July – Sept. 2020-21	SNPA Qtr. 3 Oct. - Dec. 2020-21	SNPA 4 th Qtr. Jan. – Mar. 2020-21
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	YES	YES
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	YES	YES
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	YES	YES
77	68	100%	100%	79%	100%
167	198	No cases closed	411 days	124	201

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	13 October 2021
TITLE	SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT – PLACE NAMES
REPORT BY	Director of Planning & Land Management
PURPOSE	To summarise the Scrutiny Process on the protection and promotion of Snowdonia’s Place Names

1. Introduction

- 1 In late 2020, the Authority commenced a series of Scrutiny Panel sessions, to scrutinise particular topic areas. One of these ‘deep dives’ was to assess Snowdonia’s place names and their protection and promotion.
- 2 The Head of Cultural Heritage previously presented a paper to the Working Group in October 2020 on this topic, within which it was highlighted that:
 - Place names are intrinsic to the cultural heritage of all nations and cultures throughout the world. Place names are linguistic and cultural references and this ring true in all cultures around the world.
 - There is broad agreement on the significance of Welsh and Welsh language place names but how they should be protected is often debated.
 - Cynllun Eryri has identified place names as part of the special qualities of the Snowdonia National Park. They are directly related to the Special Qualities of the Vibrancy of the Welsh Language (SQ3), Historic Landscapes (SQ7) and are relevant in a broader context to Varied Landscapes (SQ1), Community Cohesion (SQ2), Inspiration for the Arts (SQ4) and Leisure, Learning and Recreation (SQ6).
- 3 Following the above Working Group, Welsh place names was put on the topic list for the Authority’s Scrutiny Panel meetings. 3 Members were nominated on to the group – Cllr Judith Humphreys (Chair), Cllr Elwyn Edwards and Cllr Alwyn Gruffydd. The Director of Planning & Land Management and the Head of Cultural Heritage provided officer support to the group.
- 4 In the initial meeting in March, it was decided that the focus should be on ensuring the use of place names by the Authority is consistent and based on a standard approach, and that appropriate promotion of the significance of these place names is undertaken.

- 5 It should be emphasised that this standardisation of approach to place names is not by any means intended to undermine the potential diversity and complexity of place names. It is accepted that there may be several different names, spellings and pronunciations of particular places, and this is all part of the heritage and cultural wealth of a geographic area. However, as a public sector organisation, it was agreed that the National Park Authority should have a consistent approach to the use of place names – and ultimately this will help with their promotion and protection. Lack of consistency has led to some confusion in the past, as different people have used different names for the same place.
- 6 It was considered that this ‘standardisation’ was an important initial step in the protection of place names within Snowdonia. Further work is also required on how these place names are ‘promoted’, along with how the Authority should deal with the more ‘complex’ examples where there may be more than one place name in common use. These latter 2 point will have be addressed in further work, and this will be addressed at the end of the report.
- 7 **Process Followed**
- 8 Therefore, the initial task was to attempt to standardise the approach to place names by the National Park Authority, with the emphasis on geographic features (mountains, lakes etc). Officers approached Dr Dylan Foster Evans, Head of the School of Welsh at the University of Cardiff and Dr Eleri James, Development Officer with the Welsh Language Commissioner to develop this further.
- 9 The Authority does not have its own database of place names, therefore the database of place names that the Authority holds from the Ordnance Survey was used. There are about three and a half thousands place names on this database.
- 10 In developing a methodology in order to standardise place names for the Authority, Dr Evans applied the principles established in the *Gazeteer of Welsh Place-Names* (3rd edition, Cardiff, Gwasg Prifysgol Caerdydd, 1967) and the *National Standardisation Guidelines used by the Welsh Language Commissioner’s Place-names Standardisation Panel*. Whilst these guidelines are intended primarily to deal with the names of settlements (rather than names of landscapes / landform), the principle established within them remain will be useful for this exercise.
- 11 Time constraints only allowed a ‘sample’ of the three and a half thousand place names to be used, and it was agreed to focus on Snowdonia’s lakes as an initial subset – within which there were about 200 lake names on the database. Dr Evans’s methodology is set out in Appendix 1. The application of this methodology to Snowdonia’s lakes is included in Appendix 2.
- 12 Provided that the Authority is satisfied with this approach, it would then be the intention to present the 200 lake names that have been subject to this exercise to the Commissioner’s Place-names Standardisation Panel. It would also be the intention to present the remainder of the place names database through the same procedure. Aligned to this work, it is also recommended that some specific local research is undertaken to ‘iron out’ any issues that the main database may have missed.

- 13 The methodology applied does not provide an answer to the issue of dealing with place names that have more than one name in use. Dealing with these issues can be addressed in a subsequent meeting, and it is hoped that Dr Evans and Dr James would be able to provide further advice to the Authority on ways of dealing with this. The outcome of such a discussion will be brought back to the Authority for subsequent approval.
- 14 It should also be noted that Gwynedd Council are looking at this subject matter, and their officers also attended the Scrutiny Panel. The Authority and Gwynedd Council will continue to collaborate closely on this.
- 15 Finally, the group also recognised that once the above work has been progressed, there will be a need to discuss how the Authority promotes the use and appreciation of place names. This could be in the context of the standardised place names that has been subject to the above methodology, as well as to other projects that are collecting place names through oral history etc e.g. LLeisiau'r Carneddau project which is currently taking place.
- 16 Given the likely ongoing nature of this work, it was suggested that this initial work by the Scrutiny Panel should be transferred to a Steering Group that meets every few months to discuss progress. Such a group would still of course report any conclusions and recommendation to the Authority. This will allow 'closure' to the scrutiny process, but for the work to continue in a different capacity.
- 17 **Conclusions**
- 18 The Scrutiny Panel has looked into the standardisation of place names for the Authority to have a single database of place names, based on an approved methodology. This will enable a consistent and coherent approach by the Authority, that will ultimately help protect place names in the National Park. Alternative place names or spellings may exist for certain places – and the Authority will continue to recognise and celebrate these, although in official communication the standard agreed name will be used.
- 19 In time it is anticipated that the Authority will apply this methodology to the entire OS database of Snowdonia place names, and these will subsequently be sent to the Commissioner's Place-name Standardisation Panel. There is potentially several weeks worth of work here, and this work will have to form part of an on-going process.
- 20 Further work will be necessary on the Authority's approach to the places that have 2 names in common use, and the Panel will seek further guidance from both Dr Evans and Dr James on this topic. This will be the subject of a future meeting, with any conclusions brought back to the Full Authority meeting for approval.
- 21 A future meeting will also be required on how the Authority intends to use and promote this standardised list of place names, which will also be brought back to the full Authority meeting for approval.

- 22 Recommendations:**
- 23 It is recommended that:**
- 24 The Authority to support the use of the methodology proposed by Dr Evans in arriving at a standardised list of place names to be used by the Authority in any official communication;**
- 25 The database of place names to be sent to the Commissioner's Place-names Standardisation Panel (starting with the 200 lakes that has already been assessed, but over time to include the full database);**
- 26 The Panel to receive further advice from Dr Evans and Dr James on the possible options that may be open to the Authority on how to address place names that have more than 1 name in common use – and address this back to the Authority for approval**
- 27 The Panel discusses the best way for the place names in Snowdonia to be used and promoted, and report this back to the Authority for approval;**
- 28 Given the continuous nature of this work stream, that the Scrutiny Panel be replaced by a Steering Group (with the same Membership) that can address these and any other issue relating to place names that are raised in the future, as and when requested.**

Eryri National Park Place Names Standardisation

Guidelines

(Draft)

- 1 The aim of this document is to provide a model for standardising the place names of Snowdonia National Park, taking the guidelines as a starting point, which is the foundation of the [Panel Safoni Enwau Lleoedd Comisiynydd y Gymraeg / Welsh Language Commissioner's Place-Names Standardisation Panel's](#) work.

- 2 The Welsh Language Commissioner has appointed a Place-Names Standardisation Panel to lead on the work of standardising Welsh place-names. The [Aim](#) of the Place-Names Standardisation Panel is to:
 - aim for national consistency in the spelling of place-names;
 - avoid proliferation of forms;
 - comply with the principles of standard modern Welsh orthography.

- 3 This Panel builds on the work already undertaken by other individuals and organisations. Particular reference should be made to Elwyn Davies', *Rhestr o Enwau Lleoedd / A Gazetteer of Welsh Place-Names* (3rd edition.; Caerdydd: Gwasg Prifysgol Cymru, 1967) [RhELI/Gazetteer] and the work of the Place-Names Advisory Committee and the Welsh Language Board's Place-names Standardisation Team.

- 4 The Panel has already published a [Rhestr o Enwau Lleoedd Safonol Cymru](#) [RhELISC] / [List of Standardised Welsh Place-Names](#) which includes standardised names on a significant number of settlements within the Park boundaries (mainly town and village names). It should be noted that these forms have no statutory force and Local Authorities (for example) do not have to accept the individual forms proposed. In the relatively rare cases where the Local Authority does not accept the RhELISC form, there will be an opportunity for the Commissioner's office and the Local Authority to discuss further whether agreement can be reached. However, a Local Authority (or any other body) may decide to go against the Panel's recommendations.

5 The Commissioner's Place-Name Standardisation Panel bases its work on its published guidelines: '[Canllawiau Safoni Enwau Lleoedd Cymru](#)' [CSELIC] / *Welsh Standardisation of Place-names Guidelines*. Although the main focus of these guidelines are settlement names, the principles set out in them can be used as the basis for standardising the landscape names of Eryri National Park.

6 As noted above, CSELIC in turn are based on earlier work in the field, and in particular on the RhELI / Gazetteer. As stated in the CSELIC §3:

As a starting point, the forms recommended in Elwyn Davies', *Rhestr o Enwau Lleoedd / A Gazetteer of Welsh Place-Names* (3rd edition.; Gwasg Prifysgol Cymru, 1967) should be recognised, together with the previous recommendations of the Welsh Language Board's Place-Names Standardisation Team. This List of Place-Names (or 'Gazetteer' as it is often called) is the national standard directory of Welsh place-name orthography. A good reason would be required to disagree with / contravene it.

7 These draft guidelines follow the main principles of the CSELIC and recommend acceptance of the forms found in the RhELI/ Gazetteer, unless there is good reason to contravene them.

8 Standardising place-names is a multi-stage process. Two initial principles are set out below RhELI/Gazetteer (tt. xiv–xv):

Firstly, place names should, as far as possible, be written in one word. Second, they should be written so that, when read, they can be correctly accented according to the usual rules of the Welsh language; to ensure this, hyphens are used to indicate the position of the accent. An exception is made when a descriptive name such as *afon, bwlch, cefn, cwm, glyn, llyn, moel, morfa, mynydd, nant*, etc., is the first element in a geographic feature name. In these the descriptive name is written separately, as are names which include *betws*, and *capel*, as

the first element except when the definitive article (*y fannod*) follows. But when these geographical names are part of a village or farm name they are written in one word, e.e. *Cwm Aman* for the 'cwm', but *Cwmaman* for the village and the parish.

- 9 *When considering an individual name, therefore, it is necessary to determine what kind of feature that name refers to in the context under scrutiny first of all. For example, 'Nantperis' could theoretically refer to a village or a valley. You can see above that there can be a difference in standardising the names of settlements such as villages and parishes on the one hand, and landscape features such as valleys and lakes, on the other. So it would be normal for Nant Peris to be a valley name, and Nantperis a village name. It follows, therefore, that the nature of what any name refers to must be made clear from the outset.*
- 10 A corpus of names must also be decided upon for moderation. Ordnance Survey has provided a list of around 3,400 names that refer to locations in or near the Park itself. As a pilot project, approximately 200 lake names were considered. But looking at other classes of names may qualify the suggestions made by the work on lake names.
- 11 Further questions arise when a given location has more than one name. This can happen for a number of reasons and not necessarily because of the existence of more than one language.
- 12 Some sites can have more than one Welsh name. For example, *Llyn Bach* a *Llyn y Tri Greyenyn* are names for a small lake in Meirionnydd. Although that lake has largely disappeared as a result of the road being widened, part of it remains (- at least as an area of wet ground), and another part is now a car park (often called the 'Mach Loop'). *Llyn Bach* is probably the most familiar name for this lake. But there are other lakes in the Park that share that name. There is a [wealth of mythoglogy](#) regarding the name *Llyn y Tri Greyenyn*, although the contemporary use of the name is not widespread. That mythology could be of interest in an educational context or in presenting the

area's heritage to tourists who use the car park. Is that a consideration when setting a standard name for the Park and the emphasis on safeguarding heritage? Specifying a name (s) in this case requires a site specific decision.

- 13 When a feature has more than one name, it is not always clear what the language of those names is. For example, it is quite obvious that the Welsh name is *Bwlch Gorddinan* (between Blaenau Ffestiniog and Dolwyddelan). But what about the *Crimea*? That has been a very common name spoken by Welsh speakers for well over a century, so is it not a Welsh name? Or should it be considered an English name? It could be proposed, for example, that there are two names for this 'bwlch / gap', and that both names are Welsh: *Bwlch Gorddinan* and *Bwlch y Crimea*. Or it could be decided that there are two names, one in Welsh and one in English: *Bwlch Gorddinan* and the *Crimea Pass*. Or it could be decided to recommend only one form for official use (although it should be emphasised that this does not mean that the other form has to be disapproved).
- 14 In some cases there may be evidence of use of more than two names over an extended period of time. For example, there is strong evidence to show that *Llyn Myngul* is the historical name of the famous lake in the parish of Tal-y-llyn in Meirionnydd (note also that there are several later variants in that form, e.g. *Llyn Mwyngul*, *Llyn Mwyngil* etc.). But verbally in Welsh, *Llyn Tal-y-llyn* is more familiar, and *Tal-y-llyn Lake* is customary in English (**Myngul Lake* or **Lake Myngul* etc. is never used). So are there three names here, or two? And if so, which two? Is *Llyn Tal-y-llyn* the result of the influence of the English name *Tal-y-llyn Lake*? Possibly, but a number of lakes are named theologically, according to the pattern *llyn* + element that contains the *llyn* element, e.g. *Llyn Bodlyn*, *Llyn Hiraethlyn*.
- 15 Translating Welsh place names into English has been going on for centuries. Sometimes the translation does not become a 'proper' name. But sometimes a translation comes to be regarded as a name in its own right. For example, *Llyn Barfog* in Meirionnydd has been called *Bearded Lake* in English since the first half of the nineteenth century (at least) and appears on OS maps. How do

we choose whether it is appropriate to use such translations? Two possible criteria are: (i) the age of the translation (that is, when it started to be considered a site name), and (ii) the frequency of its use today. It may also be decided to reject translations completely, despite their widespread use.

- 16 Then there are English names that are not translations. Many of these go back to the early nineteenth or eighteenth century, if not earlier, e.e. *Devil's Kitchen* for *Twll Du*, *Bala Lake* for *Llyn Tegid*, *Fairy Glen* for *Ffos Anoddun*. It is not impossible for the English name to be older than the current Welsh name, as is the case with *Happy Valley* and *Cwm Maethlon* in Meirionnydd (formerly *Cwm Dyffryn Gwyn*). But there are several other names in this category that are much more recent coined names. Again, it will be necessary to decide the extent to which such English names are, or are not, desired.
- 17 Names related to mountaineering are a prominent part of the Park's linguistic landscape and many of these were coined in English. It is not always clear whether each of these features have Welsh names, or, if there are Welsh names, those may have been constructed in response to the existence of English names. For example, it appears that the names *Cenotaph Corner* and *Pillar of Elidir* are climbs or 'sub-rocks' on more substantial rocks (*Dinas y Gromlech* and *Craig Cwrwgl*, in that order). But it is not clear whether they have specific Welsh names. (This is one area that needs further research.) So English names do not necessarily 'replace' Welsh names - the relationship between the two languages is complex. Even in the case of a large-scale feature such as *Nantlle Ridge* (say) it is not clear whether *Crib Nantlle* is an 'original' or an adaptation designed to correspond to the existence of *Nantlle Ridge*, a term used in mountaineering and walking especially. Again, further research could shed further light on these matters.
- 18 It is not just the forms of the names that are important but also how they are used. Say, for example, there is a decision to acknowledge *Bala Lake* as the English form for *Llyn Tegid*. This does not mean that both forms must be given equal status. A sign might indicate 'Llyn Tegid (Bala Lake)', for example, to vest the Welsh language. In an English document the name could

be used in a range of ways, e.g. ‘Bala Lake is the largest natural lake in Wales. Bala Lake offers visitors ...’

‘Bala Lake (Llyn Tegid) is the largest natural lake in Wales. Bala Lake offers visitors ...’

‘Llyn Tegid (Bala Lake) is the largest natural lake in Wales. Llyn Tegid offers visitors ...’

This can be as much about editorial policy as it is about standardising names.

- 19 Particular reference was made in §14–18 above to different types of contexts in which English names co-exist with Welsh names. It was noted, therefore, that there were different patterns of English names in the Park. But of course, the Park may wish to consider the use of English place names in a more holistic way, including the use of names of fundamental importance such as Eryri / Snowdonia and Yr Wyddfa / Snowdon. This document does not provide an answer to this fundamental question, but seeks to explain some of the most important considerations.

Dylan Foster Evans

September 2021

Standardisation of the names of the lakes in Eryri National Park and the Surrounding Area (DRAFT)

- 1 Here is a draft list of recommendations for standardising the names of the lakes in the Park and the surrounding area. The list was compiled on the basis of Ordnance Survey data and the names contained in the Ordnance Survey and in Elwyn Davies', *Rhestr o Enwau Lleoedd / A Gazetteer of Welsh Place-Names*, 3rd edition. (Caerdydd: Gwasg Prifysgol Cymru, 1967) [RhELI/Gazetteer].
- 2 The intention, in due course, is to present these to the Welsh Language Commissioner's Place Names Panel.
- 3 It is considered that the names in the light gray boxes are ones that require further discussion. Often local knowledge is required to determine the pronunciation (eg 'Llyn Dubach', 'Llyn Du-bach' or 'Llyn Du Bach') or the form (eg there are several tautological names such as '[Llyn] Hiraethlyn' ; '[Llyn] Bodlyn' ; we need to understand the usual local form]. Names that are not in gray boxes are ones that are not expected to be discussed in detail.
- 4 Unless there is a good reason, the recommended forms follow what is in RhELI / Gazetteer. However, that list is relatively short and a significant number of lake names occurring on the Ordnance Survey list are not included in the RhELI / Gazetteer.
- 5 It should be emphasized that Standardisation of names is an iterative task, and later discussions may mean that some names will need to be reconsidered in due course. Lake names often include elements that name rivers, peaks or other landscape features, so standardising names in those categories will need to keep earlier decisions in mind.
- 6 Please note that several lakes share the same name, e.e. Llyn y Morynion, Llyn y Dywarchen, Llyn Glas, Llyn Du etc.
- 7 Note that 'llynau' is the usual plural form of place names in the area in question, although 'llynnoedd' is the most common form in today's standard language.
- 8 There are few English names on lakes. With regard to 'Bala Lake' and 'Bearded Lake', for example, the Park will need to consider how it will approach such names and English names on other landscape features.

Standard form (recommendation)	English form (x if there is no English form)	RhELI / Gazetteer Form (<input type="checkbox"/> if same as recommended standard form; x if not in RhELI/ Gazetteer)	Ordnance Survey (Welsh) (<input type="checkbox"/> if it is the same as the recommended standard form)	Ordnance Survey (English) (x if there is no English form)	Location
Bodlyn	x	✓	Llyn Bodlyn	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793233
Creiglyn Dyfi	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793641
Glaslyn	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074818937
Gloywlyn	x	✓	Gloyw Lyn	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074797797
Hiraethlyn	x	✓, Llyn Hiraethlyn see. Hiraethlyn	Llyn Hiraethlyn	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793233
Llyn Anhafon	x	✓	Llyn Anafon	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793748
Llyn Aran	x	✓	Llyn Arran	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793735
Llyn Arennig Fach	x	✓	Llyn Arenig Fach	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/doc/4000000074793486
Llyn Arennig Fawr	x	✓	Llyn Arenig Fawr	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/doc/4000000074793436

Llyn Bach [Rhyd-y-main]	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793597
Llyn Bach [Nant Peris]	x	x	Llyn Bâch	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793290
Llyn Barfog	Bearded Lake	✓	✓	Bearded Lake	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074807498
Llyn Bochlwyd	(Australia Lake)	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793787
Llyn Bodgynydd [Llyn Bodgynydd Mawr]	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793287
Llyn Bodgynydd Bach	x	x	x	x	
Llyn Bodwenni	x	x	Llyn Bodweni	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793279
Llyn Bowydd	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793698
Llyn Bryn-du	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793602
Llyn Bwrw-eira	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793329
Llyn Bwrw-eira Pellaf	x	x	Llyn Bwrw-eira-pellaf	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793444

Llyn Bychan	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793328
Llyn Caerwych	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793236
Llyn Cau	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793693
Llyn Clogwyn-brith	x	Llyn Clogwyn Brith	Llyn Clogwyn-brith	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793240
Llyn Clyd	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793200
Llyn Clyd Bach	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793199
Llyn Coch [Rhyd-ddu]	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793244
Llyn Coch [Blaenau Ffestiniog]	x	✓	Llyn Côch	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793324
Llyn Coety	x	x	Llyn Coedty	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793897
Llyn Conglog	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793283
Llyn Conglog Bach	x	x	Llyn Conglog-bâch	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793527

Llyn Conglog Mawr	x	x	Llyn Conglog-mawr	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793526
Llyn Conwy	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793645
Llyn Corn-stwc	x	x	Llyn Corn-ystwc	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793826
Llyn Corsybarcud	x	✓	Llyn Cors-y-barcud	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793528
Llyn Corun	x	x	Llyn y Coryn	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793704
Llyn Cowlyd	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793981
Llyn Crafanc	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793360
Llyn Crafnant	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793745
Llyn Craig-y-tân	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793365
Llyn Croesor	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793239
Llyn Crych-y-waun	x	✓	Llyn Grych-y-waun	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793320

Llyn Cwm-bach	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793442
Llyn Cwmbychan	x	✓	Llyn Cwm Bychan	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793737
Llyn Cwmcorsiog	x	✓	Llyn Cwm-corsiog	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793285
Llyn Cwmdulyn [Nebo]	x	✓	Llyn Cwm Dulyn	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793653
Llyn Cwm-y-foel	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793241
Llyn Cwellyn	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793401
Llyn Cwmffynnon	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793703
Llyn Cwmhosan	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793696
Llyn Cwm-mynach	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793190
Llyn Cwmorthin	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074818340
Llyn Cwm-y-foel	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793241

Llyn Cwmystradllyn	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793565
Llyn Cynwch	x	Llyn Cnwch; Llyn Cynwch, gw. Llyn Cnwch	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793189
Llyn Cyri	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793733
Llyn Cywion	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793242
Llyn Dinas	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793492
Llun Du [Pren-teg]	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793443
Llyn Du [Trawsfynydd]	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793825
Llyn Du [Bronaber]	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793736
Llyn Dubach [Llan Ffestiniog]	x	x	Llyn Dubâch	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793395
Llun Dubach [Maenofferen]	x	✓	Llun Du-bâch	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793783
Llyn Dulyn [Llanenddwyn]	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793231

Llyn Du'r Arddu	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793330
Llyn Dwythwch	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793448
Llyn Dyrnogydd	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793194
Llyn Edno	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793326
Llyn Eiddew Bach	x	✓	Llyn Eiddew-bach	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793235
Llyn Eiddew Mawr	x	✓	Llyn Eiddew-mawr	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793191
Llyn Eigiau	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793660
Llyn Elsi	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793833
Llyn Foeldinas	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793595
Llyn Ffridd-y-bwlch	x	✓	Llyn Ffridd(-y-bwlch)	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793827
Llyn Ffynhonnau	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793447

Llyn Ffynnon-y-gwas	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793331
Llyn Gafr	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793780
Llyn Garnweddwen	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793281
Llyn Geirionnydd	x	✓	Llyn Geirionydd	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793368
Llyn Gelli-gain	x	✓	Llyn Gelli-Gain	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793738
Llyn Glan-gors	x	x	Llyn Glangors	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793367
Llyn Glas [Blaenau Ffestiniog]	x	✓	Llyn Glâs	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793651
Llyn Glas [Rhyd-ddu]	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793289
Llyn Glas [Nant Peris]	x	x	Llyn Glas	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074817207
Llyn Goddienduon	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793286
Llyn Gwernan	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793822

Llyn Gwynant	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793568
Llyn Hafod-y-llyn	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793564
Llyn Hesgin	x	✓	Llyn Hesgyn	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793393
Llyn Hywel	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793695
Llyn Idwal	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793160
Llyn Irdryn	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793232
Llyn Iwerddon	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793284
Llyn Jericho	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793188
Llyn Llagi	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793439
Llyn Llennyrch	x	✓	Llyn Llennyrch	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793488
Llyn Llydaw	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793937

Llyn Llymbren	x	✓, Llyn Lliwbrân, gw. Llyn Llymbren	Llyn Lliwbran	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793278
Llyn Llywelyn	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793566
Llyn Mair	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793563
Llyn Myngul	Tal-y-llyn Lake	✓	Llyn Mwyngil	Tal-y-llyn Lake	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793692
Llyn Nadroedd	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793288
Llyn Nantlle Uchaf	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074794829
Llyn Newydd	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793784
Llyn Ogwen	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793159
Llyn Owen y Ddôl	x	x	Llyn Owen-y-ddôl	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793789
Llyn Padarn	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/doc/4000000074793847
Llyn Pandy	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793441

Llyn Penaran	x	x	Llyn Pen Aran	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793642
Llyn Pencraig	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793196
Llyn Penffriddnewydd	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793204
Llyn Penmoelyn	x	x	Llyn Pen Moelyn	x	
Llyn Penygwryd	x	x	Llyn Pen-y-gwryd	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793656
Llyn Perfeddau	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793694
Llyn Peris	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074795845
Llyn Pryfed	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793781
Llyn Pwlllygele	x	x	Llyn Pwll-y-gele	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793643
Llyn Ruck	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793644
Llyn Sarnau	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793197

Llyn Serw	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793599
Llyn Stwlan	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793193
Llyn Tan-y-graig	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074807127
Llyn Tecwyn Isaf	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793321
Llyn Tecwyn Uchaf	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793529
Llyn Tegid	Bala Lake	✓, Bala Lake, gw. Llyn Tegid	✓	Bala Lake	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793882
Llyn Terfyn	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793325
Llyn Teyrn	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793702
Llyn Tomos Lewis	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793657
Llyn Trawsfynydd	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074790545
Llyn Trefor	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074810566

Llyn Tryweryn	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793524
Llyn Twr-glas	x	x	Llyn Twr-glâs	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793782
Llyn Tynymynydd	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793198
Llyn Wylfa	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793187
Llyn y Bi	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793648
Llyn y Biswail	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793327
Llyn y Cefn	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793438
Llyn y Cŵn	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793788
Llyn y Drum	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793437
Llyn y Drum Boeth	x	x	Llyn y Drum-boeth	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793874
Llyn y Dywarchen [Llan Ffestiniog]	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793598

Llyn y Dywarchen [Rhyd-ddu]	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793400
Llyn y Dywarchen [Trawsfynydd]	x	x	Llyn Dywarchen	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/doc/4000000074793234
Llyn y Fawnog	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793280
Llyn y Fedw	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793237
Llyn y Fign	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793596
Llyn y Foel	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793567
Llyn y Frân	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793647
Llyn y Frithgraig	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793649
Llyn y Gadair [Rhyd-ddu]	x	✓	Llyn y Gader	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793243
Llyn y Gadair [Dolgellau]	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793779
Llyn y Garn	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793525

Llyn y Garnedd	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793530
Llyn y Garnedd Uchaf	x	x	Llyn y Garnedd-uchaf	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793531
Llyn y Graig Wen	x	x	Llyn y Graig-wen	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793364
Llyn y Garreg Wen	x	x	Llyn Gareg-wen	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/doc/4000000074793323
Llyn y Gaseg Fraith	x	x	Llyn Caseg-fraith	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793786
Llyn y Gors	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793600
Llyn y Manod	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793740
Llyn y Morynion [Llan Ffestiniog]	x	✓	Llyn Morwynion	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793396
Llyn y Morynion [Bronaber]	x	✓	Llyn Morwynion	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793697
Llyn y Parc	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793195
Llyn y Tomla	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793646

Llyn y Wrach	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793205
Llyn y Wrysgan	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793238
Llyn yr Adar	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793366
Llyn yr Arddu	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793282
Llyn yr Oerfel	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793394
Llynnau Barlwyd	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793828
Llynnau Cerrig-y-myllt	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793440
Llynnau Cregennen	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793823
Llynnau Cwmsilyn	x	Llynnau Cwm Silyn	Llynnau Cwm Silyn	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793333
Llynnau Diffwys	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074807129
Llynnau Duweunydd	x	✓	Llynau Diwaunydd	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/doc/4000000074793655

Llynnau Gamallt	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793601
Llynnau Mymbyr	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793744
Llynnau'r Cŵn	x	✓	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074802449
Marchlyn Bach	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793569
Marchlyn Mawr	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793534
Melynllyn	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793746
Merddwr Duweunydd	x	x	Merddwr Diwaunydd	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793606
Pwll Vivian	x	x	✓	x	http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/4000000074793607

ITEM NO. 12

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	October 13 th
TITLE	The Placemaking Charter
REPORT BY	Elen Hughes (Planning Policy Officer)
PURPOSE	To formally sign the Placemaking Charter as the Snowdonia National Park Authority

BACKGROUND

Planning Policy Wales along with the publication of *Future Wales 2040* emphasises and places placemaking on a strategic level with the objectives of becoming better connected, reducing travel and boosting local services to enhance identity, character, sense of community and collective ownership through the planning system. Wellbeing is central to the placemaking process and gives importance to the need to work together to build better places. This is achieved by applying a holistic approach to the planning process, that considers the context, function and relationships between a development site and its wider surroundings.

THE PLACEMAKING CHARTER

The Placemaking Charter has been developed by the Placemaking Wales Partnership. This partnership is a multi-disciplinary group representing professions and organisations working within the built and natural environment. Building on strengthening the focus of the Placemaking approach in policy and practice in Wales, the Charter aims to provide a common understanding of the range of considerations that go into placemaking, which has been adopted within PPW (edition 11).

The Charter includes six principles;

1. **People and Community:** The local community are involved in the development of proposals. The needs, aspirations, health and well-being of all people are considered at the outset. Proposals are shaped to help to meet these needs as well as create, integrate, protect and/or enhance a sense of community and promote equality.

2. **Location:** Places grow and develop in a way that uses land efficiently, supports and enhances existing places and is well connected. The location of housing, employment and leisure and other facilities are planned to help reduce the need to travel.
3. **Identity:** The positive, distinctive qualities of existing places are valued and respected. The unique features and opportunities of a location including heritage, culture, language, built and natural physical attributes are identified and responded to.
4. **Movement:** Walking, cycling and public transport are prioritised to provide a choice of transport modes and avoid dependence on private vehicles. Well designed and safe active travel routes connect to the wider active travel and public transport stations and stops are positively integrated.
5. **Mix of Uses:** Places have a range of purposes which provide opportunities for community development, local business growth and access jobs, services and facilities via walking, cycling or public transport. Development density and a mix of uses and tenures helps to support a diverse community and vibrant public realm.
6. **Public Realm:** Streets and public spaces are well defined, welcoming, safe and inclusive with a distinct identity. They are designed to be robust and adaptable with landscape, green infrastructure and sustainable drainage well integrated. They are well connected to existing places and promote opportunities for social interaction and a range of activities for all people.

In signing the Placemaking Charter, an organisation agrees to support placemaking in all relevant areas in working and promoting the six placemaking principles in the planning, design and management of new and existing places. Once, the organisation has agreed and signed the charter, the name of the organisation will be added to the list of signatories on the website and will be sent the Charter logo to use.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The matter of signing the Placemaking Charter has been considered by our Planning Officers along with discussions with Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authorities. The main query raised by officers was on how to implement the charter, as there is no guidance provided on this.

However, stated within PPW p.14 is, *'Placemaking should not add additional cost to a development, but will require smart, multi-dimensional and innovative thinking to implement and should be considered at the earliest possible stage. Placemaking adds social, economic, environmental and cultural value to development proposals resulting in benefits which go beyond a physical development boundary and embed wider resilience into planning decisions.'*

Following consideration and discussion, it is considered that the three National Park Authorities are already implementing the principles of the charter through their respective Local Development Plans and their decision-making process. The principles of the charter do not conflict with the policies and guidance adopted within the Local Development Plan, it rather complements them, and highlights the main considerations in assessing any planning application. Further information on how the Eryri Local Development Plan complements the Placemaking Charter is included within appendix A.

In addition, whilst these are principles that should be applied through the planning process, these principles may also apply to other departments and be considered as 'good practice' to be promoted across the Authority. It is considered that the principles of the charter do not contravene with the vision of the Management Plan, *Cynllun Eryri*. Rather, the principles established within the Charter, compliments, and supports several actions and policies within *Cynllun Eryri*. These include the following:

- Outcome A1: Sustainable Tourism Principles are achieved
- Outcome A2: Biodiversity is being maintained and enhanced, whilst the resilience of ecosystems is increased
- Outcome A3: We are prepared for the impacts of Climate Change and are reducing our Carbon Footprint.
- Outcome A4: Snowdonia is at the forefront internationally in successfully tackling invasive species, pests and diseases that impact on native species.
- Outcome A5: Communities, businesses and visitors play an active role in caring for the National Park's Landscapes Habitats, Wildlife and Cultural Heritage
- Outcome A6: Snowdonia is a leading example in Wales of how to care for and champion Cultural Heritage and the Historic Environment
- Outcome A7: Our Special Qualities are Well Protected.
- Outcome B1: The National Park is having a Positive Impact on Well-being
- Outcome B2: Residents and Visitors can access a variety of routes in the National Park aimed to improve Physical and Mental Health.
- Outcome B3: Our Special Qualities are widely recognised
- Outcome B4: Sustainable Options for Parking and Transport are achieved
- Outcome B5: Our Visitor Facilities are High Quality and Landscape Sensitive
- Outcome C1: The Language, Culture and Heritage of Snowdonia is being celebrated, supported and strengthened
- Outcome C2: Jobs and Opportunities encourage people to remain in the area
- Outcome C3: We are implementing solutions for Affordable Housing to buy and rent
- Outcome C4: Local Communities are supported to thrive in all aspects of Well-being

It is therefore not envisaged that in signing up to the charter that it should generate any additional implications for staff or finance, as it is considered that we are already implementing the principles through the Local Development Plan, as well as through the Management Plan. Furthermore, the Placemaking Charter has also now been adopted within PPW (edition 11). It is therefore considered good practice to sign the Placemaking Charter, to complement National and Local Policies.

RECOMMENDATION

For Members to;

1. grant approval for Snowdonia National Park Authority to sign the charter;
2. formally recognise the approach to implementing the charter to complement National and Local Planning Policies.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A: Eryri Local Development Plan 2016-2031 implementing the principles of the Placemaking Wales Charter

Appendix A: Eryri Local Development Plan Policies 2016-2031 implementing the principles of the Placemaking Wales Charter.

The policies referred to here are primarily those considered during the assessment of every development proposal and/or those considered during particular developments on strategic sites, for instance Development Policy 27: Snowdonia Enterprise Zone.

The Local Development Plan includes strategic policies and development policies. The Strategic Policies provide the overarching approach for development, while the Development Policies help in delivering the strategic policies by providing further detailed guidance against which planning applications will be assessed.

This document should be read considering the following printouts of the discussed policies.

Eryri Local Development Plan 2016-2031 Policies	Explanation	The primary corroborating Placemaking Charter Principles
Strategic Policy A: National Park Purposes and Sustainable Development	<p>This policy sets out the primary purposes of the Local Development Plan in ensuring that new development promotes the principles of sustainable development in ways which further National Park purposes and duty whilst conserving and enhancing the National Park's 'Special Qualities'. Although this policy gives the highest priority to the protection and enhancement of the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; like the <i>People and Community</i> principle, this policy also considers the needs, aspirations, health and wellbeing of people in safeguarding and improving the health, safety, economic and social well-being of local communities.</p> <p>Such as the principle of <i>Location</i> emphasises using land efficiently, criterion (vi) of this policy gives consideration to '<i>Efficient use of land and infrastructure.</i>', and criterion (ix) promotes the '<i>Enablement of inclusive access to services, facilities and employment whilst minimising the environmental impact of transport.</i>' This criteria therefore reflects the principle of location in ensuring that appropriate development is proposed on appropriate sites to improve existing facilities and infrastructure and thus ensuring mindful planning and minimising environmental impact.</p> <p>The principles of <i>Identity</i> and <i>Public Realm</i> are also promoted within this policy. High priority is given to conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the area, that is the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, as well as the characteristic biodiversity, natural resources, the character of settlements, ensuring a provision of good quality sustainable design and promoting and enhancing the linguistic heritage of Snowdonia's communities.</p>	<p>People and Community</p> <p>Location</p> <p>Identity</p> <p>Public Realm</p>
Strategic Policy C: Spatial Development Strategy	<p>Strategic Policy C recognises and emphasises that different parts of the National Park have different characteristics and linkages with other areas. The Spatial Strategy looks to address the relationship of the National Park with the wider area, and develop a suitable framework for meeting generated needs. The Strategy has regard to the spatial and functional relationships between settlements in terms of housing, community services and facilities, employment and any informal support networks. The principles of <i>Location</i>, <i>Public Realm</i>, <i>People and Community</i> and <i>Mix of Uses</i> are therefore primarily recognised and reflected within this policy in ensuring efficient use of land and recognising the connectivity and opportunities of existing places in responding to the needs, aspirations, health and wellbeing of the local communities.</p>	<p>Location</p> <p>Public Realm</p> <p>People and Community</p> <p>Mix of Uses</p>

<p>Development Policy 1: General Development Principles</p>	<p>There are certain broad requirements that all development should meet if it is to be acceptable within the National Park. Proposals must be acceptable in terms of their impact on the landscape, natural environment and cultural heritage, opportunities for understanding and enjoyment, quality and design, sustainable use of resourced, amenity, highway safety, flood risk and infrastructure. Development Policy 1 sets out an important context for the topic based policies contained within the Local Development Plan.</p> <p>This policy therefore reflects the primary corroborating principles of <i>People and Community</i>, <i>Identity</i>, <i>Public Realm</i> and <i>Location</i>.</p>	<p>People and Community</p> <p>Identity</p> <p>Public Realm</p> <p>Location</p>
<p>Strategic Policy Ch: Social and Physical Infrastructure</p>	<p>Furthermore, in ensuring the conservation and enhancement of the Special Qualities of the National Park, the Local Development also has provisions for mitigating any adverse impacts of new development upon natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage. Adverse impacts might include, for example, increased erosion, pressures on habitats and species, changes in landscape character, erosion of cultural and linguistic vitality, noise intrusion and traffic congestion. Where necessary, developments will, therefore, be required to contribute toward infrastructure and mitigation measures through planning obligations or a Community Infrastructure Levy as appropriate. Strategic Policy Ch establishes that any new development of a scale that has wider community and services impact that will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, and where practical and viable will make a contribution to social and physical infrastructure within the National Park.</p>	<p>People and Community</p> <p>Location</p> <p>Mix of Uses</p> <p>Public Realm</p>
<p>Strategic Policy Dd: Climate Change</p>	<p>The Local Development Plan has a crucial role to play in ensuring that its Special Qualities are conserved and enhanced, a task made more difficult by climate change. There is a greater impetus than ever to plan for, manage, adapt to, and mitigate the possible consequences of climate change and its effects on Snowdonia. One of the ways to meet the challenge of climate change is by reducing waste and ensuring careful management of natural resources in a sustainable manner. Among other things, that means using energy much more efficiently, substituting renewable forms of energy for use of fossil fuels, and reducing emissions from the use of fossil fuels for transport.</p> <p>Strategic Policy Dd therefore addresses how the contribution that greenhouse gasses from the National Park make to climate change will be reduced by establishing a set of criteria. The criteria directly reflecting the principles of the charter of <i>Movement</i> and <i>Location</i> is criterion (iv) '<i>Directing development to location which reduces the need to travel, especially by private car.</i>' This criterion therefore ensures that development is situated within appropriate locations to help reduce the need to travel and prioritising walking, cycling and public transport to avoid dependence on private vehicles.</p>	<p>Movement</p> <p>Location</p>
<p>Development Policy 5: Open Space and Green Wedge</p>	<p>Within the towns and villages of Snowdonia, playing fields, village greens, common land, and other green open spaces provide an important community function and a valuable local amenity. Open spaces frequently create the setting for, and influence the character of surrounding buildings and in so doing make a significant contribution to their value. For these reasons, important open spaces within settlements will be protected from development. It is also considered in the interest of retaining openness and preventing further coalescence within relatively small areas and in a National</p>	<p>Public Realm</p> <p>Location</p> <p>Identity</p>

	<p>Park, that new affordable housing would be inappropriate within the green wedges. Such development will be directed to areas outside green wedges as indicated in the affordable housing exceptions policy Development Policy 11.</p> <p>Development Policy 5 therefore establishes that areas of public or private open space within or adjacent to the main built up area of settlements (identified on the inset maps), which contribute to the amenity of residents, the character of Conservation Areas or the setting of historic buildings, will be protected from development. It also establishes that inappropriate development will not be permitted within areas designated as green wedges in order to retain openness and prevent the coalescence of settlements. This primarily reflects the principle of <i>Public Realm</i>, as well as <i>Location, Identity</i>, and <i>People and Community</i> as it establishes that streets and public spaces are well defined, welcoming, safe and inclusive with a distinct identity that needs to be protected in ensuring that places grow and develop in a way that uses land efficiently, supports and enhances existing places whilst focus on the needs, health and wellbeing of the local community.</p>	People and Community
Strategic Policy Ff: Historic Environment	In reflecting the principles of <i>Identity</i> and <i>Public Realm</i> , Strategic Policy Ff provides the overarching approach for development in order to conserve and enhance the Historic Environment of Snowdonia, which is a fundamental part of its Special Qualities. This policy therefore establishes that the distinctive qualities of existing places are valued and respected. These distinctive qualities include heritage, culture, language, and built and natural physical attributes, for instance, Conservation Areas, World Heritage Sites, Candidate World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments and other sites of archaeological importance, Historic landscapes, parks and gardens, Listed Buildings and Traditional Buildings.	Identity Public Realm
Development Policy 6: Sustainable Design and Materials	In order to maintain the distinctiveness and the character of settlements within the National Park, it is important that any new development fits in with the existing settlement pattern and character. Development Policy 6 ensures that with regard to National Park setting and the Authority's commitment to social inclusion, development proposals will be required to take into consideration inclusive design, landscape and biodiversity protection and enhancement, the historic environment, environmental sustainability, cultural identity, and an integrated energy statement. Because of this, it is considered that the primary corroborating principles that this policy reflects are <i>Identity</i> and <i>Public Realm</i> .	Identity Public Realm
Strategic Policy G: Housing	Although Snowdonia National Park Authority is not a housing authority, it does have a role to regulate and facilitate the provision of private and public housing through the planning process and to continue to work in partnership with the public and private sector to help deliver to meet the needs of National Park communities. As part of the process to investigate where housing land might be made available to meet future housing needs, all the settlements in the Park have been evaluated to assess their capacity for housing. This work, along with the spatial development strategy, provides the overarching direction that the Strategy will be guiding the location of housing development. Housing development boundaries have been identified for Local Service Centres, Service Settlements and for Secondary Settlements and are defined on the proposals map. The housing development boundaries indicate the area within which future housing development will normally be directed. The amount of land included within the boundary reflects	People and Community Location Public Realm

	<p>the status of the settlement within the Settlement hierarchy, the anticipated needs for housing and the environmental capacity of the settlement.</p> <p>This policy therefore reflects primarily the principles of <i>People and Community</i>, <i>Location</i> and <i>Public Realm</i>, as this policy directs proposals to help meet the needs and aspirations of local communities; strategic sites are permitted to grow and develop in a way that uses land efficiently, where the location of housing is also planned to help reduce the need to travel; as well as ensuring connectivity to existing places and promote social interaction for all people.</p>	
Development Policy 30: Affordable Housing	The Authority is committed to delivering affordable housing to meet local need, and this is promoted within Development Policy 30. Similar to Strategic Policy G, this policy reflects primarily the principles of <i>People and Community</i> , <i>Location</i> and <i>Public Realm</i> , as the aim of this policy is to help meet the needs and aspirations of local communities; permitting sites to grow and develop in a way that uses land efficiently; as well as ensuring connectivity to existing places and promote social interaction for all people.	People and Community Location Public Realm
Strategic Policy Ng: Community Services and Facilities	The Local Development Plan identifies that access to community services and facilities is an essential element of sustainable and inclusive communities. Community facilities such as schools, post offices, village halls and chapels often serve a network of small settlements and are essential to reduce the amount of travelling to reach alternative community facilities. It is also understood that the loss of local services and facilities will lower community sustainability. The Authority will therefore support and encourage the retention and improvement of community facilities and services that provide an essential facility to support the sustainability of National Park communities, and this is promoted within Strategic Policy Ng. Evidently, the primary principles reflected within this policy and guidance is <i>People and Community</i> , <i>Identity</i> and <i>Location</i> .	People and Community Identity Location
Development Policy 18: The Welsh Language and the Social and Cultural fabric of communities	The Welsh language is fundamental to the cultural richness of Snowdonia, and is part of the social and cultural fabric of all the communities in Snowdonia. The maintenance and the prosperity of the language in the future forms an obvious part of the work of protecting heritage within the Park, and thus fulfilling one of the main aims of the National Parks and their related duty to 'foster the social and economic wellbeing of local communities'. This is the objectives of Development Policy 18 and therefore is considered to reflect primarily the principles of <i>People and Community</i> and <i>Identity</i> in conserving and enhancing the sense of community, and the distinctive qualities of communities that is understood as part of their heritage and identity.	People and Community Identity
Strategic Policy H: A Sustainable Rural Economy Development Policy 19: New employment and training development	Employment in Snowdonia cannot be considered in isolation from the surrounding areas, given the distances people are prepared to travel to work. However, the Local Development Plan recognises that mid-to-long distance commuting, especially by private car, is environmentally undesirable because of the carbon dioxide emissions. It is also recognised that retaining the provision of employment opportunities is a key factor in encouraging young people to stay in the area and therefore maintaining a balanced demography. This is ensured by development proposals adhering to the criteria set out in Strategic Policy H and Development Policy 19.	People and Community Mix of Uses Location

	<p>Strategic Policy H provides the overarching approach for development in order to encourage sustainable economic growth by supporting a rural economy that provides employment opportunities and maintains thriving communities. Development Policy 19 helps in delivering the strategic policy by providing further detailed guidance against which planning applications will be assessed.</p> <p>Evidently, the criteria set out in both policies reflect the primary principles of <i>People and Community</i>, <i>Mix of Uses</i> and <i>Location</i> in considering the needs, aspirations health and wellbeing of the local communities, and ensuring that strategic and economic development provides opportunities for local business growth, and employment in a way that uses land efficiently.</p>	
Development Policy 27: Snowdonia Enterprise Zone (SEZ)	<p>The designation of the SEZ provides the Authority with a unique opportunity to support the provision of new employment within the National Park. The Authority considers that the SEZ can assist in delivering one of the objectives of the ELDP, which is to provide employment opportunities to support sustainable local communities. The SEZ should aim to provide continuing career opportunities that will attract and retain young people while developing their skills and knowledge, reflecting primarily the principle of <i>Mix of Uses</i>, <i>People and Community</i> and <i>Location</i>. Any employment development should be sustainable for the long-term benefit of the community. The guidance for Development Policy 27 establishes that preference will be given to development that will maintain and enhance the skill set of the local population, reflecting the principle of <i>People and Community</i> and <i>Mix of Uses</i> in providing community development and access to jobs echoing the needs and aspirations of the local communities. The SEZ is also located at the centre of the National Park, which provides good links for residents of the National Park to access any employment opportunities that arise reflecting the principle of <i>Location</i>.</p>	<p>Mix of Uses</p> <p>People and Community</p> <p>Location</p>
Development Policy 20: Agricultural Diversification	<p>The Local Development Plan recognises that broadening the economic base of farming activities is a means of improving the viability of the farm economy of the area. The Authority therefore through Development Policy 20 supports those diversification proposals that complement and supplement, rather than replace, livestock farming as the principal long-term farming activity on a holding.</p> <p>In implementing and adhering to this policy it is considered that this policy reflects primarily the principles of <i>Mix of Uses</i>, <i>People and Community</i>, and <i>Location</i> in developing a mix of uses and tenures to help and support a diverse community and vibrant public realm; in considering the health, aspirations and wellbeing of the local communities; and developing in a way that uses land efficiently for the purposes of employment and leisure.</p>	<p>Mix of Uses</p> <p>People and Community</p> <p>Location</p>
Strategic Policy I: Tourism Development Policy 21: Tourism and Recreation	<p>Tourism has been a traditional industry in Snowdonia and the surrounding seaside resorts for at least two centuries. Through tourism it is possible to achieve one of the statutory purposes of the National Park; that is to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the 'Special Qualities' of the National Park. The Authority aims to encourage sustainable tourism and ecotourism, maximising economic and employment benefits while safeguarding the environment as well as the interest of the local communities. This is ensured by development proposals adhering to the criteria set out in Strategic Policy I and Development Policy 21.</p>	<p>Mix of Uses</p> <p>People and Community</p> <p>Location</p>

	<p>Evidently Strategic Policy I and Development Policy 21 ensures this in reflecting primarily the principles of <i>Mix of Uses, People and Community</i>, and <i>Location</i>. It is through these policies that it is recognised that places have a range of purposes which provide opportunities for community development, local business growth, access jobs and services whilst also promoting sustainable modes of transport in situating development within appropriate and efficient locations.</p> <p>Criterion (iii) of Strategic Policy I particularly reflects the principle of <i>Location</i> as it states that the Authority will support development proposal where it '<i>Promote sustainable modes of transport for visitors to and from the National Park.</i>' Furthermore, Development Policy 21 also states that new tourist attractions and the enhancement of current attractions will be supported where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) '<i>It can be accessed by various modes of transport, specifically sustainable modes of transport such as, walking, cycling and public transport.</i>' (ii) '<i>It is located close to the main road network and does not cause an unacceptable increase in traffic in the vicinity.</i>' 	
<p>Strategic Policy L: Accessibility and Transport</p>	<p>It is one of the objectives of the Local Development Plan to encourage new development to locations that reduce the need to travel with reasonable access to community services and facilities and sustainable modes of transport. The Authority therefore supports initiatives aimed at encouraging the use of sustainable modes of transport. Strategic Policy L establishes that the National Park Authority is committed to improving access to local facilities and reduce the need to travel especially by private car.</p> <p>This policy therefore primarily reflects the principles of <i>Movement</i> and <i>Location</i> in ensuring that within the National Park walking and cycling, improved access to public transport and provision of facilities will be encouraged.</p>	<p>Movement</p> <p>Location</p>

Strategic Policy A: National Park Purposes and Sustainable Development (A)

The Local Development Plan seeks to ensure that new development promotes the principles of sustainable development in ways which further National Park purposes and duty whilst conserving and enhancing the National Park's 'Special Qualities'. Proposals which compromise National Park purposes will be refused. The following considerations should be taken into account to help deliver sustainable development in Snowdonia:

- i. Give the highest priority to the protection and enhancement of the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage.
- ii. Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the 'Special Qualities' of the area by the public.
- iii. Safeguarding and improvement of the health, safety, economic and social well-being of local communities.
- iv. Conserve and enhance the characteristic biodiversity of Snowdonia.
- v. Respecting and enhancing the historic environment.
- vi. Efficient use of land and infrastructure.
- vii. Conservation of the quality and quantity of natural resources including water, air, soil and geodiversity.
- viii. Encourage the sustainable development of settlements in ways which respect their character and function within the settlement strategy.
- ix. Enablement of inclusive access to services, facilities and employment whilst minimising the environmental impact of transport.
- x. Provision of good quality sustainable design.
- xi. Promotion of development which meets the housing needs of local communities through a mix of dwelling types, and tenures predominantly through affordable housing to meet local need.
- xii. Encouragement of developments that conserve, promote and enhance the linguistic heritage of Snowdonia's communities.
- xiii. Securing development of previously developed land (brownfield land) where that land is in a sustainable location in preference to greenfield sites.
- xiv. Preventing inappropriate development in areas which are at risk from flooding or which contribute to the risk of flooding.
- xv. Enabling the production of Place Plans and adopting as Supplementary Planning Guidance where appropriate.

Strategic Policy C: Spatial Development Strategy (C)

Spatial development within Snowdonia National Park will be based on the following hierarchy:

Local Service Centres – Dolgellau and Bala

- i. Open market housing and affordable housing for local needs.
- ii. To support existing or provide new employment opportunities to support the rural economy.
- iii. Improve existing and provide new facilities to serve local residents to strengthen its role as a local service centre and to support its role as a visitor destination.
- iv. Retail development located in close proximity to the main retail areas.

Service Settlements

- v. Small scale open market and affordable housing for local needs.
- vi. Small scale employment development to support existing or provide new employment opportunities to support the rural economy in accordance with Development Policy 19.
- vii. Improve existing and provide new community facilities to serve local residents.
- viii. Strengthen its role as a service settlement serving the settlement and the immediate community.
- ix. Support its role as a visitor destination.
- x. Retail development within the retail areas of Harlech, Aberdyfi, Betws y Coed.

Secondary Settlements

- xi. Small scale open market and affordable housing for local needs.
- xii. Small scale employment development to support existing or provide new employment opportunities to support the rural economy in accordance with Development Policy 19.
- xiii. Improve existing and provide new community facilities to serve local residents and strengthen its role in providing services to the rural hinterland.

Smaller Settlements

- xiv. Single units of affordable housing for local needs.
- xv. Improve existing and provide new community facilities to serve local residents where there are no suitable locations in settlements listed in the settlement hierarchy.

xvi. Conversion of buildings to support economic uses.

xvii. In exceptional circumstances new small scale employment and training development in accordance with Development Policy 19.

Open countryside

- xviii. Conversion of rural buildings to support economic uses.
- xix. Conversions of rural buildings for affordable housing for local needs.
- xx. Replacement dwellings.
- xxi. Housing relating to an essential need to live in the countryside in line with national planning policy.
- xxii. Other essential community facilities to serve local residents where there are no suitable locations in settlements listed in the settlement hierarchy.
- xxiii. Agricultural developments which are sympathetically accommodated in the landscape.
- xxiv. In exceptional circumstances new small scale employment and training development in accordance with Development Policy 19.
- xxv. Economic development as part of the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone allocation in accordance with Development Policy 27.

Development Policy 1: General Development Principles (1)

To conserve and enhance the 'Special Qualities' and purposes of the National Park, development will only be permitted where all the following apply:

- i. The nature, location and siting, height, form and scale of the development is compatible with the capacity and character of the site and locality within which it is located.
- ii. A development within the domestic curtilage of a dwelling will not detract from the character and form of the existing dwelling or its setting in the landscape.
- iii. The development is not unduly prominent in the landscape and will not significantly harm the amenity of neighbouring property.
- iv. The development reflects a good sustainable design standard, uses materials that are sympathetic to or enhance their surroundings and conforms with Development Policy 6: Sustainable Design and Materials.
- v. The development will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the characteristic biodiversity of Snowdonia, particularly habitats and species protected under national and European legislation.
- vi. The development does not result in the loss of landscape features, including woodland, and Ancient Semi-Natural woodland in particular, healthy trees, hedgerows, dry stone walls or damage any important open space or public view.
- vii. An appropriate access meeting highway standards exists or can be provided without harm to the character of the locality or neighbouring amenity.
- viii. Adequate provision of car parking and on-site turning areas are provided where necessary which are appropriate to the scale of the proposed development. Car parking surfaces should be permeable where appropriate to the development.
- ix. The traffic implications of the development do not result in volumes or types of traffic which will create highway or safety problems on the local road network, or significantly harm the landscape or amenity of local people.
- x. Appropriate services and infrastructure can be provided without compromising the quality and character of the landscape and cultural heritage.
- xi. The development will not have an unacceptable adverse impact, through increased resource use, discharges or emissions, on public health, surface and ground water (quality, quantity or ecology), air quality, soil and the best and most versatile agricultural land.
- xii. The development is compatible with, and does not cause significant harm, to the environment, neighbouring residential amenity or the amenity of the Park by way of noise, dust, vibration, odour, light pollution, hazardous materials or waste production.
- xiii. The development will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the quiet enjoyment of the area by the public.
- xiv. The development will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on public rights of way, other recreational routes or open country.
- xv. Land stability can be achieved without causing unacceptable environmental or landscape impact.
- xvi. The risks of, and consequences of flooding can be managed on and off site to an acceptable level in line with national planning policy.

Strategic Policy Ch: Social and Physical Infrastructure in new developments (CH)

New development of a scale which has wider community and services impact will be assessed on a case by case basis and should, where practical and viable make a contribution to social and physical infrastructure within the National Park.

Contributions will always be sought, via a 106 agreement, for affordable housing and also possibly, as an example for the following which is not an exhaustive list: Mitigation and enhancement for landscape conservation and biodiversity, sustainable transport initiatives, maintenance or improvements to footpaths, bridleways, cycle ways and car parks; flood alleviation schemes and energy projects.

Strategic Policy Dd: Climate Change (Dd)

The contribution that emissions of greenhouse gases from the National Park make to climate change will be reduced and the impacts of climate change on the National Park will be addressed in this Plan by:

- i. Ensuring that any coastal and flood protection works, including managed realignment, considered to be necessary have no adverse environmental impacts or that they can be satisfactorily mitigated.
- ii. Conserving and enhancing areas of woodland, upland soils and peatland areas to assist in carbon retention, water storage and flood prevention.
- iii. Facilitating species adaptation and migration through protecting habitat connectivity corridors and enhancing biodiversity.
- iv. Directing development to locations which reduces the need to travel, especially by private car.

Development Policy 5: Open space and Green Wedges (5)

Areas of public or private open space within or adjacent to the main built up area of settlements (identified on the inset maps), which contribute to the amenity of residents, the character of Conservation Areas or the setting of historic buildings, will be protected from development.

Inappropriate development will not be permitted within areas designated as green wedges in order to retain openness and prevent the coalescence of settlements.

Strategic Policy Ff: Historic Environment (Ff)

The historic landscape, heritage assets and cultural heritage of Snowdonia National Park will be conserved and enhanced, due to their contribution to the character and 'Special Qualities' of the National Park. Particular protection will be given to the following archaeological, architectural, historic or cultural assets and where appropriate, their settings.

Development will not be permitted that will adversely affect in any way the following Heritage Assets, or where appropriate their settings and significant views:

- i. Conservation Areas
- ii. World Heritage Sites
- iii. Candidate World Heritage Sites
- iv. Scheduled Monuments and other sites of archaeological importance
- v. Historic landscapes, parks and gardens
- vi. Listed Buildings
- vii. Traditional Buildings

Development Policy 6: Sustainable Design and Materials (6)

In order to promote sustainable development within the National Park all forms of new built development will attain at least the national sustainable building requirements.

With regard to National Park setting and the Authority's commitment to social inclusion, development proposals will be required to take into consideration the following:

- i. Inclusive design
- ii. Landscape protection and enhancement
- iii. Biodiversity protection and enhancement
- iv. The Historic Environment
- v. Environmental sustainability
- vi. Cultural identity
- vii. An Integrated energy statement

Within the National Park natural Welsh mineral slate roofing or an approved equivalent material with the same colour, texture and weathering characteristics will be required on new buildings and extensions.

As an exception to the use of mineral slate roofing, alternative appropriately coloured and textured natural materials and appropriately designed and located renewable energy proposals will be considered.

Proposal should also accord with Development Policy 3: Energy.

Strategic Policy G: Housing (G)

The Eryri Local Development Plan has a plan requirement of 770 dwellings and makes provision for approximately 885 new dwellings up to 2031.

New housing within the National Park will be required to meet the need of local communities. Proposals must take appropriate account of local housing needs in terms of size, type and tenure of dwellings. The house types should reflect the results of the Local Housing Market Assessment or appropriate local needs surveys.

Residential developments should make the best use of land. The Authority will seek a density of 30 dwellings per hectare for residential developments (unless there are local circumstances such as the character of the locality that suggests a lower density may be more appropriate).

Housing allocations are listed below and are shown on the Proposals and Inset Maps.

Hierarchy	Allocations	Estimated Units
Local Service Centre	Land behind the Red Lion, Y Bala (80% open market, 20% affordable housing to meet local need). Release of 30 units up to 2021 and, if built, the remaining 25 units from 2026 to 2031	55
Local Service Centre	Land at Cysgod y Coleg, Y Bala (100% affordable housing to meet local need)	10
Local Service Centre	Land behind Wenallt, Dolgellau (100% affordable housing to meet local need)	15
Service Settlement	Former Primary School, Aberdyfi (100% affordable housing for local need)	6
Service Settlement	Land adjacent Penyrhwylfa, Harlech (67% open market 33% affordable housing for local need)	24
Service Settlement	Land adjacent Bro Prysor, Trawsfynydd (100% affordable housing for local need)	10
Secondary Settlement	Land adjacent to Pentre Uchaf, Dyffryn Ardudwy (100% affordable housing to meet local need)	10
Secondary Settlement	Land adjacent to Capel Horeb, Dyffryn Ardudwy (50% open market, 50% affordable housing to meet local need)	5
Secondary Settlement	Land adjacent to Garreg Frech, Llanfrothen (100% affordable housing to meet local need)	6
Secondary Settlement	Land adjacent to Maes y Pandy, Llanuwchllyn (100% affordable housing to meet local need)	7
Secondary Settlement	Land adjacent to Lawnt y Plas, Dinas Mawddwy (100% affordable housing for local need)	6
Secondary Settlement	Land at Former Woolen Mill, Trefriw (50% open market, 50% affordable housing to meet local need)	5
Secondary Settlement	Land adjacent to Rathbone Terrace, Dolwyddelan (100% affordable housing to meet local need)	6
Secondary Settlement	Land at Y Rhos, Llanegryn (50% open market, 50% affordable housing to meet local need)	8
Secondary Settlement	Land adjacent to Bryn Deiliog, Llanbedr (100% affordable housing for local need)	6
Secondary Settlement	Land adjacent Maesteg, Pennal (100% affordable housing for local need)	5
	Total	184

Development Policy 30: Affordable Housing (30)

Development opportunities have been identified within the Plan to provide a target of 375 new affordable homes to meet local needs.

On all sites the following affordable housing contributions will be sought:

- i) Within Local Service Centres 20% on sites of 5 dwellings or more.
- ii) Within Service Settlements 33% on sites of 3 dwellings or more.
- iii) Within Secondary Settlements 50% on sites of 2 dwellings or more.
- iv) Within smaller settlements immediately adjacent to a highlighted property as shown on the inset maps up to two new single dwellings for 100% affordable housing. Exceptionally more than two dwellings will be allowed where need is proven and the character and setting of the settlement is not impaired.
- v) On sites being developed by Housing Associations, Trusts or similar subsidised bodies 100%.
- vi) On conversions anywhere, 50% or a commuted sum contribution for one dwelling. Alternatively the conversion can be a 100% affordable with local occupancy conditions.

Where adjacent and related residential proposals result in combined numbers or site size areas exceeding the above thresholds, the Authority will seek affordable housing based on the affordable housing target percentages set out above.

If it can clearly be demonstrated that the above indicative affordable housing targets cannot be met due to site viability, or could be exceeded in some cases, the Authority will negotiate an appropriate affordable housing contribution on individual sites, which could include an appropriate commuted payment. This however will not apply to exception sites or sites in smaller settlements where a 100% affordable housing contribution will always be sought.

Planning permission for a new affordable dwelling will be subject to a legal agreement to ensure that it remains affordable in perpetuity for a local person in housing need as defined in paragraph 5.26 and 5.27.

New affordable housing units should be fully integrated and be as good, if not better than market housing units in terms of external design quality and materials.

The size of affordable housing units will be commensurate with the needs of the intended household.

Permitted development rights will be removed on all the affordable housing units in order to regulate the manner in which they can be extended in the future.

Strategic Policy Ng: Community Services and Facilities (Ng)

The provision of new health, sport, education and other community facilities will be supported:

- i. Where they are located within the main built up area of a local service centres, service settlements and secondary settlements.
- ii. In other locations where there are no suitable sites in the local service centres, service settlements and secondary settlements and where the development will provide an essential facility to support the local community.

The change of use from a community service or facility will be refused unless it can be shown that the potential for continued use of the facility is un-viable, or unsuitable.

Development Policy 18: The Welsh language and the Social and Cultural fabric of communities (18)

In determining all planning applications within the National Park the needs and interests of the Welsh Language will be taken into account. This will be achieved through:

- i. Supporting development which maintains or enhances the integrity of the Welsh language.
- ii. Refusing development which, due to its size, scale or its location, would cause significant harm to the character and language balance of a community. To be able to make an informed decision on applications that may have an effect on the future of the Welsh language within communities, applicants will be required to submit a:
 - a) 'Community and Linguistic Statement' to accompany a planning application for unanticipated windfall sites of 5 or more residential units; a commercial, industrial or tourist development with an area of 1000m² or more; a development which is likely to lead to the loss of community facilities or employment opportunities and a tourism development creating ten or more holiday units.
 - b) More detailed assessment in the form of a 'Community and Linguistic Impact Assessment' to accompany a planning application where developments are on a larger scale. Larger developments in this case are regarded as proposals which are substantially above the thresholds outlined in criterion (a) and are likely to be located on unallocated sites, have some significance beyond the National Park boundary and be unrelated to specific policies in the Plan.
- iii. Mitigating against any adverse effect through requiring, in appropriate circumstances a financial contribution through a Section 106 agreement.
- iv. Encouraging all signage by public bodies and by commercial and business companies to be bilingual or in Welsh only to protect and promote the distinctive cultural amenity of the National Park.
- v. Encouraging the use of Welsh place names for new developments, house and street names.

Strategic Policy H: A Sustainable Rural Economy (H)

In order to create and retain a sustainable rural economy the National Park Authority will:

- i. Safeguard existing key employment sites at Bala, Dolgellau and Harlech.
- ii. Support new employment and business development and the retention of existing employment in local service centres, service settlements and secondary settlements. The nature and scale of the development must be commensurate with the settlement's size and function.
- iii. Promote the re-use of underused or redundant land or buildings for economic or employment purposes.
- iv. Support the agricultural sector and opportunities for rural diversification that do not negatively impact on the 'Special Qualities' of the National Park.
- v. Support tourism and recreation activity which maximise local economic benefits, minimise environmental impact and safeguard the 'Special Qualities' of the National Park.
- vi. Encourage proposals which would provide appropriate supportive infrastructures to sustain and promote the local economy.
- vii. Support live-work units and home working.

Proposals for the re-use of existing employment land or buildings (other than key employment sites) for other purposes will only be permitted where:

- viii. The new use would result in a significant improvement to the environment which outweighs the loss of employment land, or
- ix. The retention of the employment or business is no longer viable and it cannot be re-used for similar or alternative employment purposes and the employment potential has been advertised on the market for at least one year.

Development Policy 19: New employment and training development (19)

Within or adjacent to the main built up area of a local service centre, service settlements and secondary settlements the following types of small scale employment and training development will be appropriate:

- i. The re-use of existing buildings where the building has sufficient land and storage space attached for the functional needs of the proposed use.
- ii. The expansion of an existing facility or business.
- iii. New buildings where there is no other suitable accommodation available in the locality.

Exceptionally, in the open countryside new small scale employment and training development will be appropriate where:

- iv. The scale and design of the development including its setting respects and conserves the character of the landscape and does not have an adverse impact on the National Park
- v. Robust evidence has been provided to show there are no other suitable alternative sites available
- vi. The location is sustainable in terms of a local workforce
- vii. It utilises the local workforce

The conversion of an existing building for small scale employment and training purposes to meet local needs will be appropriate where:

- viii. The building is of sound construction and its conversion is possible without major or complete reconstruction of the original building.
- ix. The conversion and use of the building or the use of any surrounding land for the provision of access, parking facilities, ancillary structures, on-site facilities or storage areas, has no adverse impacts on the character of the area.
- x. There is sufficient land and storage space attached for the functional needs of the proposed use including parking.
- xi. It accords with Development Policy 9: Conversion and change of use of rural buildings.

Development Policy 27: Snowdonia Enterprise Zone

A landscape led outline Masterplan will need to be produced for both Llanbedr and Trawsfynydd sites and agreed with the Authority. The Masterplan will contain a development brief, a design statement, and a schedule identifying the phasing of development and associated infrastructure improvements required for each stage, before any development commences.

The outline masterplan will need to be supported by a landscape and visual impact assessment and demonstrate how the siting, scale, design and character of the development will minimise adverse effects upon the landscape character, visual amenity, natural environment and cultural heritage of the National Park.

A. Proposals for development in line with Parts B and C of this policy will be supported within the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone provided the following criteria are met:

- i. The design is coherent and of high standard responds positively to the sensitive landscape and visual setting and Special Qualities of the National Park.
- ii. The siting, height, form and scale materials and use of colour within the development assists its landscape integration and minimises significant adverse effects upon the landscape character and visual amenity.
- iii. Development proposals have been considered in view of the requirements of the Habitats Regulations and found to be compliant.

- iv. Development on either site is in line with an agreed outline masterplan for that site.
- v. The employment development maximises the use of the existing local workforce.
- vi. Development on either site does not have and unacceptable impact on the dark skies reserve.

B. Llanbedr

Within the Enterprise Zone Designation at Llanbedr identified on the proposals maps the following uses will be accepted:

- operations and uses associated with the aviation and aerospace industry, including those associated with airfield infrastructure and services and airspace management;
- new uses including employment use (B1, B2, B8) and other uses associated with research and development (including aviation and aerospace industries);
- employment-related training and education purposes;
- other uses ancillary to the uses identified above including accommodation, catering and leisure.

Development proposals should be directed towards the indicative focus area. Where development is proposed outside this area, the following criteria should be met:

- detailed proposals will need to demonstrate that the proposed development incorporates appropriate and acceptable flood risk mitigation measures agreed with NRW;
- there are no unacceptable significant effects on the landscape or visual amenity;
- sufficient evidence has been provided that the site demonstrates the least impact upon the landscape, visual amenity, environmental and cultural heritage;
- the development is not located in an area which will prevent the use of the main runway;
- the development should not adversely affect the integrity of European designated sites ;
- sufficient evidence has been provided to justify why the development cannot be located in the indicative focus area.

C. Trawsfynydd

Within or immediately adjacent to the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone allocation at Trawsfynydd, the following uses will be accepted:

- works and uses associated with nuclear decommissioning;
- new uses including B1, B2, B8 and other uses associated with digital/ICT businesses;
- low carbon energy businesses and energy generation technologies;
- Research and Development (related to ICT, Energy & Environmental sectors), and;
- employment-related training and education purposes.

Should proposed development fall under the definition of major development it will be considered against Strategic Policy B: Major Development by the Authority.

Development Policy 20: Agricultural diversification (20)

Within the National Park support will be given to agricultural diversification proposals, which assist in maintaining the viability of a farm holding and further National Park purposes, where:

- i. The development forms part of an agricultural diversification scheme.
- ii. The proposal is secondary to the use of the remaining land on the holding for livestock or crop production.
- iii. The scheme takes place on a holding which is registered as an existing agricultural business.
- iv. The development complies with Development Policy 9.

Where a new building is required to enable the diversification proposal to be undertaken, the National Park Authority will require the applicant to demonstrate that the re-use of an existing building is not practical. Where the re-use of an existing building is not practical, any new building proposed must:

- v. Be essential for the sole purpose of the operation of the proposed diversification scheme.
- vi. Be of a type and scale which reflects the nature of the diversification proposal.

Where such requirements are satisfied the National Park Authority will use conditions attached to the planning consent or require the applicant to enter into a legal agreement to ensure that the new building is tied in perpetuity to the agricultural holding.

Strategic Policy: I Tourism (I)

In order to create and retain sustainable or eco-tourism within the National Park and extend the visitor period while protecting and enhancing the landscape of the National Park and its special qualities the Authority will:

- i. Support tourism and recreation development that is based on the principles of sustainable tourism.
- ii. Identify and promote areas of the National Park that attract visitors while ensuring that the 'Special Qualities' of the National Park are not affected.
- iii. Promote sustainable modes of transport for visitors to and from the National Park.
- iv. Support the accommodation industry by encouraging the improvement of the sustainability and quality of existing visitor accommodation.
- v. Encourage proposals which will promote the opportunity for the public understanding and enjoyment of the 'Special Qualities' of the National Park including proposals that will assist disabled people.

Development Policy 21 : Tourism and Recreation (21)

Within the National Park existing tourist attractions will be protected and enhanced through adopting the principles of sustainable or eco-tourism. New tourist attractions and the enhancement of current attractions will be supported where:

- i. It can be accessed by various modes of transport, specifically sustainable modes of transport such as, walking, cycling and public transport.
- ii. It is located close to the main road network and does not cause an unacceptable increase in traffic in the vicinity.
- iii. The development would not have an adverse impact on the 'Special Qualities' of the National Park.
- iv. It promotes opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the 'Special Qualities' of the National Park, while not detracting from the quiet enjoyment, experience of visitors and the quality of life of the local residents.
- v. The facility is designed or modified to improve accessibility for all, in particular disabled people.
- vi. It does not have an adverse impact on the views to and from the National Park and does not generate a significant increase in noise or light pollution which could adversely affect the integrity of the Snowdonia Dark Skies Reserve.
- vii. Current facilities will be improved or conversion of a vacant or underused building is proposed.

Strategic Policy L: Accessibility and Transport (L)

The National Park Authority is committed to improving access to local facilities and reduce the need to travel especially by private car. Within the National Park walking and cycling, improved access to public transport and provision of facilities will be encouraged.

Development will be supported where:

- i. The provision of services are located so as to minimise the need to travel.
- ii. There is convenient access via footpaths, cycle paths and public transport, thereby encouraging the use of these modes of travel for local journeys, reducing the need to travel by private car and improving the accessibility of services to those with poor availability of transport.
- iii. There is an improvement in accessibility for all, in particular disabled people.
- iv. Changes to the road network do not damage or cause detrimental effects to ProW, listed buildings or historic monuments or cause adverse effects to environmental designations. The highest priority will be given to the conservation and enhancement of the characteristic biodiversity of Snowdonia, particularly habitats and species designated under national and European legislation. Where possible, these improvements to the road network will feature provision for segregated pedestrian and cycling uses.
- v. It will reduce or remove vehicle traffic from within town centres and where possible from rural areas.
- vi. The natural environment of the park is not adversely affected.
- vii. Secure cycle parking facilities are provided where appropriate.

The National Park Authority will continue to support appropriate sustainable transport and community transport initiatives.

The recreational routes identified on the proposals map will be safeguarded from development which would prevent their use as recreational routes.

The track bed of the Corris Railway within the National Park will be safeguarded from other forms of development so that it may be reinstated as a railway.

That part of the disused railway which runs from Trawsfynydd to Blaenau Ffestiniog which is within the National Park will be safeguarded from inappropriate development which would prevent the future use of the railway line as a transport corridor.

REPORT OF THE MEMBERS' WORKING GROUP HELD ON 19th MAY 2021

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

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

Member appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

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

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Ms. Tracey Evans, Mr. Owain Wyn;

Officers

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

Apologies

Councillor Gethin Glyn Williams; Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones.

Mr. Dafydd Edwards, Section 151 Officer.

1. Chairman's Announcements

1. The meeting was subject to the Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business, and that:-
 - the meeting was not open to the general public.
 - the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes.
2. The Chairman confirmed that Councillor Freya Bentham had resigned from Gwynedd Council and consequently, was no longer a Member of the Snowdonia National Park Authority.

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 14th April 2021 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.

4. Statutory Purposes of National Park Authorities

Submitted – Letter from Lesley Griffiths MS, Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, for information.

Reported – The Chairman and the Chief Executive presented the letter and background.

The Chief Executive reminded Members that the Minister's letter was in response to the Chairman's letter, sent in accordance with the Authority's decision on the 9th December 2020, to request that the Welsh Government revisit the recommendations of the Review of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks 2015 (Marsden Report), and to include purposes that promote people's well-being and sustainable forms of economic and social

development in our communities, as well as protecting and enhancing the special qualities of our landscapes and biodiversity. Members noted that following the recent Senedd election, the Authority's response would be sent to Julie James MS who was now the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs.

Members considered the letter in detail, and made the following observations:-

- the former Chairman advised there was a desire by the National Parks Wales Executive Committee to review National Park purposes, including the need to strengthen the third purpose. As this was only a duty, there was no power for the National Park Authorities to stimulate the economic and social well-being of its communities, which the Covid pandemic had highlighted as a weakness.
- as the Minister was unable to make any commitments on policy and legislation due to the upcoming Senedd elections, the Authority should prepare a response to the question in paragraph 5 of the letter, which asks for more detail as to what the SNPA felt would be the advantages of amending the purposes at this time and how it would enable the Authority to undertake new activities or work differently. Also, to what extent Eryri were speaking on behalf of the other NPA's and AONBs.
- Members asked officers to:-
 - o discuss experiences with the Scottish National Parks.
 - o raise the matter at the Welsh National Parks Executive Committee.
 - o capitalise on the Labour manifesto commitment to create a fourth National Park in Wales - whilst welcoming that the Welsh Government now recognise the value of the National Parks, there was some concern regarding future funding.
 - o assess any post-covid benefits, implications of Brexit, and include statistics on employment and incomes, which are below average in the National Parks.
 - o consider the current biodiversity and climate targets and economic benefits to support businesses.
- the Chief Executive outlined the process for creating a new National Park, which could take 5 to 8 years, and advised that it was the role of Natural Resources Wales to make the recommendation.
- the Chief Executive advised that the Valued and Resilient priorities document was due to be published in the next few months and would be assessed for ways to stimulate the green economy.
- the Member who presented the motion had done so in order that 'the language and people' has equal status with the 'environment and biodiversity'.
- the Chief Executive agreed to present a draft response to a future Members' Working Group, prior to undertaking discussions with other organisations.
- a Member read a quote from the Marsden Report that 'the National Landscapes of Wales are valued by the nation as important "factories of well-being", improving the lives of current and future generations through their three purposes. Their special qualities are maintained, enhanced and widely appreciated. They are areas for innovative, place-based collaborations that address the economic, social and environmental challenges facing Wales, and are recognised internationally as leaders in the delivery of sustainable development' and suggested this could be used to demonstrate the barriers of the existing purposes and how wider purposes could achieve this vision.
- a Member felt that the Authority needs to strengthen the third purpose in order to attract suitable businesses to Llanbedr and Trawsfynydd and, if there was sufficient funding, to enable the running of larger grant schemes and increase efficiency in supporting communities.

RESOLVED

- 1. to write a letter of thanks to Lesley Griffiths MS for her work.**
- 2. to write to Julie James MS to congratulate her on her recent appointment and provide a holding reply advising that a full response was in the process of being prepared.**
- 3. to report to a future meeting of the Members' Working Group prior to undertaking further discussions with other bodies.**

5. Communications and Engagement Strategy

Submitted – A report by the Head of Engagement to present for feedback, a copy of the new Communications and Engagement Strategy for the Authority.

Reported – The Head of Engagement presented the report in detail and thanked the Members of the Communications Task and Finish Group for their input, which was incorporated into the document. The Head of Engagement would welcome further input from Members with regard to the target audience and key messages.

Members considered the Communications and Engagement Strategy in detail and made the following observations:-

- Members welcomed the document which was clear and well written.
- bearing in mind how the Welsh Government is funded and in order to get the right message to Westminster from a Welsh perspective, the political target audience should encompass more than just Welsh Members of Parliament.
- another target audience could be individuals with very little knowledge about National Parks, and why they were created, bearing in mind the importance of terminology and language.
- would it be beneficial to include a metric on how non-Welsh speakers regard the Welsh language and whether this becomes more positive over time?
- monitoring the use of Welsh place names should be an essential part of the Strategy.
- was there an opportunity to use the Donaldson curriculum for Wales to include a module on National Parks for secondary school pupils with the emphasis being on local?
- sources of news were discussed in detail and Members agreed that they also have a responsibility to share good news stories.
- hard to reach groups should be included under desired communication outcomes.

RESOLVED subject to noting the above amendments, to recommend that the Communications and Engagement Strategy be presented to the next meeting of the Authority for formal adoption.

The meeting ended at 15.05

REPORT OF THE MEMBERS' WORKING GROUP HELD ON 30th JUNE 2021

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Edgar Owen, Elfed Roberts, John Pughe Roberts;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

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

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

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

Officers

Emyr Williams, G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Dafydd Edwards, Eiliw Owen, Jane Jones, Geraint Evans, Sion Roberts, Anwen Gaffey;

Apologies

Councillor Gethin Glyn Williams; Mr. Tim Jones.

1. The Director of Corporate Services outlined the procedure for electing a Chair for the Working Group and advised that the meeting was subject to Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business:-
 - the meeting was not open to the general public.
 - the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes.
2. **Election of Chair**
RESOLVED to elect Councillor Annwen Hughes as Chair of the Members' Working Group.
The Chair thanked Members for their support.
3. **Declaration of Interest**
Arising from unforeseen discussions, Mr. Emyr Williams, Mr. G. Iwan Jones and Mr. Dafydd Edwards declared an interest in item 5 on the Agenda (point 6 of the resolution) and left the meeting whilst the matter was being discussed. Mr. Jonathan Cawley was not present when the matter was being discussed and for that reason was not required to declare an interest.
4. **Minutes**
The minutes of the Members' Working Group meeting held on 19th May 2021 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.

Arising thereon,

4. Statutory Purposes of National Park Authorities

The Chief Executive advised that he was yet to contact the Scottish National Parks, although he had written to both Lesley Griffiths MS and Julie James MS. He further advised that the English National Parks were seeking to strengthen nature recovery, which was in direct contrast to Snowdonia, and that he had asked for a meeting with officers from the Welsh Government to discuss their thoughts on what was being proposed in England. He

confirmed that the National Parks in Wales were continuing with their request to the Welsh Government to strengthen the third purpose.

5. **Funding 2021-22**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive to provide an update on the Authority’s funding position for Members to make informed decisions on matters relating to the Authority’s staff, allocation of the baseline budget for 2021/22 and the implications for the following years.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report and asked Members to note the one-off funding details as outlined in paras. 2.2 and 2.3 of his report. The Chief Executive stated that the Chief Finance Officer had been consulted and that he had also contributed to the report.

Arising thereon, the Chief Finance Officer confirmed that as outlined in para. 2.4.2, he had similarly been reassured by Welsh Government Officials that the baseline, as adjusted, was now permanent, and that he fully supported what was being proposed.

Members considered the report and made the following observations:-

- para. 2.7.3 – Members agreed that officers should further investigate amending the Job Evaluation Panel’s ruling and change the Welsh language element from being a ‘requirement’ to a ‘skill’ which may improve matters when assessing future salary levels.
- para. 2.7.9 – Members agreed that officers should commission an external evaluation of the Authority’s needs going forward. This work should be awarded to a public sector organisation/local authority with experience of such matters, rather than employing consultants from the private sector.
- Members were reassured that all staff, with the exception of the Management Team, were to be included in the evaluation, and agreed that core grant should be used to address resilience issues going forward.
- Para 2.6.2 - Members discussed the need for flexibility when setting conditions of employment. Options for job sharing with other organisations/authorities in the area, the benefits for some of being able to work from home etc., should all be factors for the future.
- a Member, with background in recruitment and retention considered that the Chief Executive had been too conservative with his figures in para. 2.7.6., and whilst agreeing that the salaries were not competitive, thought that rates of pay may not be people’s biggest motivator. The Chief Executive agreed that the figure in para. 2.7.6 was only a rough estimate.
- Members discussed the lack of suitably qualified and experienced people who were applying for vacancies with the National Park Authority. Some Members felt that in order to increase the number who apply, officers should consider how the posts are advertised in terms of language requirements. There was a need to make clear the necessity for a certain level of Welsh, whilst not stipulating fluency which could discourage some people, without compromising on the Authority’s requirements.
- a Member noted that exit interviews were not always the best indicators as to why people leave the Authority’s employ. Staff shortages can put pressure on existing team members and erode their good will. Pay and conditions could be the final tipping point.

- a Member asked whether there was a culture in the Authority where staff did not feel able to say no. The Chief Executive felt that the Project Management Toolkit was helpful in this regard.
- the Director of Planning and Land Management noted that in the past, Planning graduates would aim to work in the public sector. This was no longer the case, and the Authority was now having to compete with the private sector.
- a Member noted that Audit Wales have referred to the Authority's resilience many times, and expressed a view that one reason, which was beyond the Authority's control, was funding for Welsh pupils to attend Universities in England, which often means they leave Wales and further reduce the pool of talent.
- a Member further stressed that Welsh needs to be 'essential' and that it was not a barrier to getting the best people for the posts.
- in response to a question, the Chief Executive confirmed that the Authority operates a system of annualised hours at the Tourist Information Centres and at Plas Tan y Bwlch.
- the Chief Executive confirmed that background work will be undertaken over the summer months, a further report would be presented to Members early in September, and that all being well, the new pay structure would be in place by Christmas 2021.
- arising thereon, Members discussed the pressures on the Management Team and the Chief Finance Officer, not only in terms of capacity to deal with the breadth of work, but the extra pressure on specific areas. Members were not advocating the matter be considered at this time, but agreed this was a matter for future discussion.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the position in relation to SLSP grant award for 2021/22 (para. 2.1).**
- 2. to note the position in relation to one-off revenue funding for 2021/22 (para. 2.2).**
- 3. to note the position in relation to one-off capital funding for 2021/22 (para. 2.3).**
- 4. to commission a report by a public sector organisation/local authority in relation to the Authority's staff capacity, retention and recruitment of staff and the Authority's pay spine (Green Book terms and conditions) (para. 2.7.9) with the addition that the Welsh language is regarded as a 'skill' and not a 'requirement' going forward.**
- 5. to support, in principle, the allocation of the baseline budget for 2021/22 and the implications for the following years (table in para. 2.8.2).**
- 6. as a separate matter, to be considered independently from this process, to await a report on the capacity/role of the Management Team in due course.**

6. Eryri Local Development Plan – Background Papers Update

Submitted – A report by the Principal Planning Officer to discuss and provide a steer on the work to update the Local Development Plan background papers and evidence base.

Reported – The Principal Planning Policy Officer presented the report and background and advised that the Annual Monitoring Report will be presented to Members in October 2021.

Members were asked for their guidance on:-

- whether officers had identified the right issues and their implications for Eryri
- whether anything had been omitted, and
- the areas for further investigation.

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

- a Member asked how this work fits in with what has already been agreed with partners, namely work to understand and improve the economy with the other Welsh National

- Parks and also the work on sustainable tourism with Gwynedd Council? The Principal Planning Officer stated that partnership work would be incorporated where appropriate.
- with regard to future financial implications, would the Authority need to pool resources with other organisations? The Principal Planning Officer advised that currently the work had been undertaken by officers, but agreed that as the work gets more technical, for example population projection work, the Authority would utilise expertise from Conwy County Borough Council to analyse the information specifically for the area of the Snowdonia National Park.
 - population and migration were not included as part of the report and a Member felt this was an area that needed further work. Although he agreed it was difficult to get this information on a National Park level, there was a need to establish the background in order to better understand the implications.
 - Transport and Networks - Background Paper 17: electric vehicles in small rural communities can be overlooked. This should be included as it will have planning implications for kerbside parking etc.
 - Agriculture and Forestry: a Member asked whether changing use of agricultural land for tree planting had implications in landscape terms as well as in planning terms and whether this should be given higher priority than 'orange' in the table? The Principal Planning Officer explained that the status was currently orange as officers were of the opinion that farm diversification policies were flexible enough, although agreed that new national policies could influence this for the future, and whilst more information was needed, it was a matter that officers were aware of. Officers could not confirm what the implications were for the planning system of the new national land use policies and the potential for change to Eryri's landscape.
 - a Member raised concerns about a new trend where agricultural land is bought by companies in order to plant trees and allow them to declare they are carbon neutral. The Member felt that such practices should be subject to planning consent in order to protect the landscape and biodiversity of the National Park. This was also the case for people who purchase dwelling-houses for conversion into second homes/holiday lets. This trend would leave villages in the National Park empty over the winter months.
 - a Member asked whether the policies address the needs of people who now work from home and need more space as an impact of Covid. The Principal Planning Officer thought this had been included but, if not, officers would include the need to look at the implications of more people working from home.
 - the Principal Planning Officer advised that the Authority had no power to act with regard to changing the use of a dwelling into a second home or holiday home as they were in the same Use Class. Officers were lobbying government as well as creating policies to support the use of planning conditions to secure a dwelling as a main residence until changes are made to the Use Class order.
 - a Member asked officers, on behalf of Members, to write to the Welsh Government to request a change in planning policy so that change of use of a dwelling into a second home or holiday home would, in future, require planning permission. Officers assured the Member that communication with Welsh Government officials on this matter was ongoing and that this would mean a change in the current legislation.
 - a Member noted his dismay that discussions were not focussing on the report as presented.
 - Members discussed the recent place plans training session in terms of the type of development plan the Authority will eventually have and how local communities could co-produce and share views on what they would like to see in the Local Development Plan. The Principal Planning Officer agreed that it would be a good way to respond to the

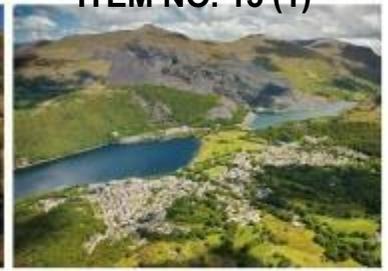
communities' aspirations for the Plan and that officers should assess how communities want to provide their input and whether they would want to share resources.

- Employment and Land Assessment: a Member asked whether the Authority's policies were fit for purpose and flexible enough to adapt to modern high technology businesses. The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that Policy 19 was flexible enough and that the Eryri Enterprise Zone had been established for this purpose.
- a Member stated that the Welsh Government's aspiration to get a million Welsh speakers by 2050 would be achieved by taking ownership of the language through the planning system and this should be foremost in their plan. The Principal Planning Officer advised that it was not possible to impose a specific language condition, and that officers would develop the policies in such a way that the language was core to the Plan, rather than just supplementary.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the report**
- 2. subject to noting Members' observations, to proceed with updating the Local Development Plan background papers and evidence, as outlined.**
- 3. that officers, on behalf of Members, write to the Welsh Government requesting a change in planning policy so that "changing the use of a dwelling into a second home or holiday home, will in future require planning permission".**

The meeting ended at 14.45



3.40pm
Draft Minutes

PRESENT:

(PH)	Cllr. Paul Harries	Chair, National Parks Wales (NPW) + Pembrokeshire Coast NPA (PCNPA)
(DC)	Cllr. Di Clements	Deputy Chair, PCNPA
(TJ)	Tegryn Jones	Secretariat NPW, CEO, PCNPA
(WEJ)	Cllr. Wyn Ellis-Jones	Chair Snowdonia NPA (SNPA)
(AH)	Cllr. Annwen Hughes	Vice Chair SNPA
(EW)	Emyr Williams,	CEO, SNPA
(JA)	Julian Atkins	CEO, BBNPA
(SE)	Stephanie Evans	Transition Director, BBNPA

In attendance:

Caroline Llewellyn PCNPA

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reported that since the last meeting he, alongside the Chairs of Snowdonia and Brecon Beacons NPAs, had met with the Minister for Housing and Local Government, Julie James. He had also attended meetings of the Welsh Local Government Association Rural Forum on behalf of NPW, which had considered a draft rural vision and manifesto document. The Forum had also discussed matters including rural housing with Welsh Government (WG) officials, the Agriculture Bill, replacement EU funding, Brexit trade deals, problems at ports such as Fishguard and the new legislation regarding phosphates. The Chair had also become aware of a Pledge Wall created by WG as part of Wales Climate Week 2020 and he had asked TJ to arrange for a pledge to be made on behalf of NPW.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Gareth Ratcliffe, Chair, BBNPA and Liz Davis, Deputy Chair BBNPA.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING, 20.11.20.:

The minutes were noted as a true record.

Matters Arising

a) Royal Welsh Show Winter Fayre (Minute 3)

It was noted that NPW had supported this event and TJ asked whether similar support should be shown for the virtual summer Royal Welsh Show.

It was **AGREED** that similar sponsorship support be provided for the virtual Royal Welsh Show to be held in July 2021.

3. NPW BUDGET 2020/21:

The budget position as at March 2021 was presented. It was noted that expenditure had been low, and as a result no money had been claimed from any of the NPA's.

4. DRAFT BUDGET 2021/22

A budget similar to that for 2020/21 was proposed, however it was anticipated that there would be more expenditure in the coming year. The main item of expenditure related to the Welsh Members Seminar and JA advised that it was still uncertain whether the event would proceed this year; SE added that she would let Authorities know as quickly as she could. It was noted that £1000 had been budgeted in respect of the Senedd Cross Party Group on Rural Affairs and it was hoped that this could be revived following the forthcoming elections.

Further to the discussion on sponsorship of the Royal Welsh Show, the budgeted sum of £4500 was questioned. TJ advised that this should be reduced to £500 or £1000 and asked that the draft budget be approved subject to this amendment. He added that should further amendments be needed these could be agreed by the three Authorities at future meetings.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Budget 2021/22 be agreed subject to a reduction in the figure allocated for the Royal Welsh Show.

5. PROGRESS ON NPW BUSINESS PLAN:

A progress report had been provided for the 2020 - 21 Business Plan, however it was noted that activities over the year had not been as planned, due to the Pandemic.

EW noted that under Outcome 2 “Develop proposals to contribute towards any revision of “Valued and Resilient” from 2021 onwards”, SNPA had held a Member Workshop which had identified an absence of reference to culture and heritage in the current document, however there was support for the proposed ‘light touch’ review as it was important that the themes identified within it were deliverable.

JA agreed that there needed to be a greater focus on Welsh Language and culture, and added that he felt something on health and wellbeing should also be included. Members at BBNPA had also suggested that the document should reflect the Climate Change agenda; EW added that it was important that it reflected WGs priorities for Designated Landscapes going forward as this would help with funding.

PH felt that parts of the Business Plan should be more specific, for example with reference to particular policies, however EW noted that those elements had been left deliberately vague so that the Authorities could respond to Welsh Government consultations.

NOTED.

5. CHALLENGES OF COVID-19 EMERGENCY AND RECOVERY

All officers agreed that despite the huge challenges, their Authorities had learned valuable lessons and were more prepared for the coming season, which was expected to be as busy, if not busier, than 2020. This had been helped by improved relationships with constituent Local Authorities, together with a better relationship with Welsh Government and Visit Wales. Nevertheless, each Authority continued to experience challenges relating to visitor pressure.

It was reported that the current focus for the three Authorities was to apply to the Hardship Fund and a meeting would take place with Visit Wales the following week to discuss this.

NOTED.

6. NPA BUDGETS:

It was noted that after many years of standstill budgets, officers and Members had been surprised by the 10% increase for 2021/22, and they acknowledged that it was most welcome. However they agreed that future increases were uncertain due to the impact of COVID-19 and Authorities needed to continue to make a strong case that resources at the current level, if not more, needed to continue.

While recognising the importance of being ready to spend money on appropriate projects, there was some discussion regarding the challenges of receiving grants at the end of the year. It was noted that efforts were being made to develop a more strategic approach through seeking funding for larger, longer term projects, and through the Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places programme.

NOTED.

7. LIGHT TOUCH REVIEW OF VALUED AND RESILIENT:

It was noted that the timing of the review was likely to be affected by the outcome of the forthcoming Senedd elections. Recognising the good relationship with the sponsor team at Welsh Government, officers were hopeful that there would be good cooperation going forward.

NOTED.

8. COP26

Members were reminded that the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) would be hosted in Glasgow in November 2021, and that National Parks UK aspired to have a presence. Officers would continue to work with Welsh Government to ensure that any NPW input was aligned to their priorities.

Speaking as NPW's representative on National Parks Partnership (NPP) JA noted that it was working with Palladium on financing for 'net zero with nature' projects and it was hoped this would be launched in the coming weeks and highlighted again at COP26. However the discussions so far had been focussed on England and work was ongoing to raise the profile of Wales, including encouragement for dialogue with Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales. He would provide further details on progress made before he finished at the end of the month.

NOTED.

9. MEETING CARBON TARGETS 2030:

TJ highlighted the growing agenda for Designated Landscapes to decarbonise, both organisationally and across the designations, and noted that the Welsh Government Carbon Calculator was due to be published shortly. He believed that this would highlight the scale of the challenge and that while the results would not be comfortable, it was necessary to know so that appropriate action could be taken. There was funding from Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places (SLSP) to obtain expert advice to decarbonise organisationally, and it was also hoped that additional funding would be available from Welsh Government to help tackle carbon emissions in sectors such as tourism and agriculture.

There was agreement that while the delays in producing the Carbon Calculator were frustrating, it would be helpful to know the extent of the task.

NOTED.

10. CREATING CARBON NEUTRAL PARKS 2050- SLSP COMMISSION

It was noted that in relation to the previous item funding had been made available as part of collaborative SLSP proposals for expert advice to help the Welsh Designated Landscapes decarbonise.

NOTED.

11. APPRAISALS FOR WELSH GOVERNMENT APPOINTED MEMBERS

PH reported that he had been asked, as Chair of PCNPA, to undertake appraisals of Welsh Government (WG) Members seeking to be appointed for a second term of office. Whilst on this occasion these had been easy conversations as both Members were excellent, he was concerned that there could be difficulties in the future. TJ added that Welsh Government also wanted this system of appraisal to be used for all WG appointed Members each year, and this conflicted with the Personal Development Review process which the Authority had in place for all Members. The views of other Authorities were sought.

WJ accepted WG could require annual appraisal as one of the conditions of appointment for a WG Member, however he shared the concerns of undertaking them if Members were not performing well, although the appraisals he had undertaken so far were both easy and straightforward. He was also not confident that WG would act on any concerns that were raised. JA noted that similar concerns had been expressed by Members at Brecon with the question being raised regarding parity with Local Government appointed Members who were not required to be appraised. Others noted that appraisal of Councillors could become fraught due to the political nature of the appointments.

NOTED.

12. STAFF RESILIENCE

TJ noted that while adaptation to the challenges of COVID-19 had generally been good, the impacts of workload and the new working pattern were issues that were raised regularly. It was acknowledged that in particular this could be an issue for those staff who were also home schooling. He asked whether there was anything that could be shared or learned from the other Authorities.

EW agreed that there had been challenges and referred to the recent Audit Wales review of resilience, expressing his willingness to share the report produced for SNPA with the other two Authorities in order to learn and to share best practice.

JA agreed and noted that while many initiatives had been undertaken over the years to support staff, each staff member reacted differently and a blanket policy just didn't work. It was necessary for managers to support staff individually. SE advised that she was happy for the BBNPA to be shared once it was received.

NOTED.

13. PROCUREMENT– MEETING NEW REQUIREMENTS – OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOINT WORKING

EW noted that following the UKs departure from the EU, SNPA had realised the need for its procurement process to be reviewed and would be seeking legal advice on its procurement framework. He asked the other Authorities if they wished to be included in such a review and received a positive answer.

It was **AGREED** that EW prepare a brief for reviewing the procurement requirements of all three Authorities and that this be circulated to TJ and SE for comment.

14. NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP:

JA noted that this had been covered under Minute 9. He advised that NPP was in the process of seeking a replacement for him as the Welsh representative on the Partnership due to his imminent departure.

NOTED.

15. NEWS FROM AROUND NPW:

Pembrokeshire Coast NPA:

- Much time and effort had been put into the response to and recovery from COVID-19.
- The Authority was involved in a large project to install 25-30 Electric Vehicle Charging points around Pembrokeshire using Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places funding. Bids for future projects were also being prepared.
- The Authority had started an exercise to review its priorities.
- An initiative to support the Authority's volunteers online was being developed.
- A report would be taken to the forthcoming Authority meeting on the future of meetings once restrictions on meeting in person were removed, and this would consider the challenges posed by hybrid meetings.
- PCNPA was hosting the National Designated Landscapes Partnership officers and the two officers appointed were settling in well.

Snowdonia NPA:

- All car parks were now open, having been closed at the request of the police. Parking at Pen-y-Pass between Easter and October half term would have to be pre-paid and this had been agreed by Transport for Wales.
- It was unlikely that Hafod Eryri would be operating during 2021 as the company which ran the rail service up Snowdon did not believe it was possible for it to operate. As it had not opened in 2020, the building was now beginning to deteriorate and the Authority was faced with a large repair bill.
- Plas Tan y Bwlch had changed its business model due to the government restrictions and as a result there were likely to be redundancies. However it was noted that the Bed and Breakfast model operating as and when regulations allowed had been quite profitable.
- The Authority would be adopting new Well-being objectives for the period 2021-26 at its forthcoming meeting.
- Over 370 ambassadors had been recruited following adoption of the National Park Management Plan. These were local providers from B&B and activity companies who were helping to promote the authority's key messages.
- A Task and Finish Group had been set up to look at modernising governance.
- Recruitment was taking place for a new Welsh Government Member, however due to the Senedd election, no nomination would be made until September.

Brecon Beacons NPA:

- SE had started recently as Transition Director and was now leading the Authority. JA would finish at the end of March. 71 applications had been received for the position of CEO, with interviews taking place the following week and appointment by the Authority at its meeting on 30th March.
- An extension had been given for submission of applications for the post of Head of Landscape and Nature Recovery. Interviews for the Communications/Media lead would take place shortly.
- The review of the Local Development Plan was likely to be delayed by the recent publication by Natural Resources Wales of new stricter targets for phosphate levels in rivers that are Special Areas of Conservation; these included the Wye and the Usk. There were also impacts on Development Control.
- National Park Management Plan review was progressing and consultation on its objectives had been undertaken.
- Members were currently reviewing what were considered to be the special qualities of the National Park.
- The Authority had 19 Electric Vehicle charging points and was undertaking a programme of solar installations and other renewable technologies at its visitor sites.
- Kevin Booker, the Authority's Fleet Manager, had been named as this year's Eco Superstar in the 2021 Fleet World Great British Fleet Awards for his work with EV charging and renewable energy.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no further business. However the Chair wished JA the very best for his future endeavours and said it had been a pleasure working with him.

17. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING:

It was noted that meetings of the Executive normally took place in the Spring and Autumn of each year. The next meeting was likely to take place in October/November, unless there was a need to hold one sooner, and would be linked to the Members Seminar if this was held.

 BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK	 Parc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro Pembrokeshire Coast National Park	 SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK	 Rydym yn croesawu cael gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, a byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi. We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh, and will respond to any correspondence in Welsh. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.	Parciau Cenedlaethol Cymru National Parks Wales Parc Llanion, Doc Penfro SA72 6DY Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock SA72 6DY Ffôn / Tel: 01646 624800 e-bost / e-mail: gwasanaethauaelodau@arfordirpenfro.org.uk memberservices@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk
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**PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 14th JULY 2021**

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

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

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

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

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

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

Officers

Mr. G.I. Jones, Mr. J. Cawley, Mr. D. Edwards, Mr. E. Roberts, Ms. B. Hughes, Mrs. A. Gaffey;

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

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

1. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd as Chairman of the Performance and Resources Committee.

The Chairman thanked Members for their support.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED to elect Councillor John Pughe Roberts as Vice-Chairman of the Performance and Resources Committee.

The Vice-Chairman thanked Members for their support.

3. Apologies

Councillor Gethin Glyn Williams;
Mr. Emyr Williams, Chief Executive.

4. Declaration of Interest

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

5. Minutes

The minutes of the Performance and Resources meeting held on 24th March 2021 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

6. **Action Log**

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

Performance and Resources Committee 20.11.19

Action Item 8 – Corporate Work Programme 2019-20

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

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

7. **Draft Statement of Accounts 2020/21**

Received – An oral report by the Chief Finance Officer.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer apologised that the Draft Statement of Accounts 2020/21 report was not ready to be presented due to Covid-related work pressures on officers in both the Finance Section and other areas of the Authority and that the slow flow of information had hindered its delivery. It was agreed that the draft report will be presented to a subsequent meeting of the Authority.

RESOLVED to defer consideration of the Draft Statement of Accounts 2020/21 report to a subsequent meeting of the Authority.

8. **External Grant Funding Update Report**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive to provide an update for Members on the projects supported by the Authority.

Reported – The Director of Planning and Land Management presented the report on behalf of the Chief Executive.

Members considered the report and made the following observations:-

- Celtic Rainforest Wales Life Project

A member asked for further details on the potential impact of failing to sign up to 20-year agreements, and whether the Authority had received legally robust assurances that this was acceptable. Also, the Member asked whether the project would be subject to a European Audit rather than an UK Audit, post Brexit. The Director of Planning and Land Management understood that European projects were to be underwritten by the UK Government but agreed to seek assurance on this matter from the Chief Executive and report back to the Member. The Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that the project remained on target, except for the 100% sign up to the 20-year conventions.

- Tais Ogwen

A Member proposed that a map of the area should be exhibited on an interpretation board with all the Welsh place names included. The Director of Planning and Land Management stated that similar work was being carried out jointly by the Carneddau Landscape Partnership and the Welsh Place-Names Society for the Carneddau project and that a similar scheme for Tais Ogwen could form part of the Welsh Place-Names Scrutiny Panel's remit, with the possibility of being further extended to other areas.

- Para. 3.5 Feasibility Study

In response to a question, Members were advised that the feasibility study was to look at future options at Cwm Rhwyddfôr.

Peatlands Project – Output 7

The Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that officers would proceed with these outputs in future with other sources of grant funding.

- Night Project – North Wales Dark Skies Partnership

A Member asked whether some aspects of this work could be included as a core activity for the Authority, or would it always be project funded? The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that there were different sources of funding available, and that it was a strategic decision for the Authority whether to prioritise and engage a full-time officer specifically for this work. Also, as there were many different designations throughout Wales, there was potential for the Authority to be able to work on joint programmes in the future.

RESOLVED

1. to note that 3 SMS projects have been completed.
2. to note that the Dinas Mawddwy SMS project has been approved and has commenced.
3. to note that assistance has been provided to a farmer led group on the closure of the Tir Ifan SMS project.
4. to note that the three National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI) projects have been completed.
5. to note that the 2020/21 SLSP projects have been completed.
6. to note the approved 2021/2022 SLSP projects and collaborative projects.
7. to note progress on live projects (Appendix 1).
8. to note priority areas for future bids (Appendix 2).

9. **Scrutiny Panel – Snowdonia’s Carbon Account**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Planning and Land Management to summarise the Scrutiny Process and to highlight the subsequent proposed stages to the process.

Reported – The Director of Planning and Land Management invited the Chair of the Scrutiny Panel to present the report.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Panel thanked the Director of Planning and Land Management and his staff for their work and also thanked the panel Members for their input. He presented the report and strategic overview and Members made the following observations:-

- Members and officers had recognised the need to look further than peatland management alone and as mentioned by Wales Audit, this work provides staff with an opportunity to learn and combine their experiences in areas outside their own specialities.
- a Member felt this work should be linked with the Welsh Government’s agriculture support schemes and that the Authority should express an interest in delivering an element of the new support schemes in light of its past experience for the benefit of both the Authority and local farmers.
- Members discussed COP26, the UN climate summit being held in Glasgow in November 2021 and agreed that the same Scrutiny Panel should be recalled to assess early drafts of any emerging Carbon Strategy in late 2021 / early 2022, prior to reporting to a future meeting of the Authority.

RESOLVED

1. to note the scrutiny process and contents of the report which highlights the process followed and the issues discussed.
2. to support collating the issues discussed into a single Snowdonia Low Carbon Strategy.
3. to re-present an early draft of the Snowdonia Low Carbon Strategy to the Scrutiny Panel later in 2021 / early 2022.

10. **The Authority's Risk Profile**

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

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

- Risk Ref 8 - Non-compliance with "General Data Protection Regulation 2018" (GDPR) – the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that all staff and members were required to complete the online training and that, to date, some individuals had still not completed the course. A reminder had been sent and time to complete the course had been extended. In addition, the Director of Corporate Services advised upon two further online courses on Cyber security which would also need to be completed by all staff and Members.
- Risk Ref 10 - Reputational risk to Authority associated with the unsatisfactory delivery of LIFE Celtic Rainforests project – in response to a question, the Director of Planning and Land Management believed that the high staff turnover was due to staff moving to similar or better positions and was not a reflection on the project itself. He was hopeful that the situation had now stabilised.
- Risk Ref 12 – Diminished Staff Resilience – Following recent discussions at the Members Working Group, officers were asked to consider whether staff recruitment needed to be recognised as a separate risk in the register. Concerns were also raised that as a result of the Covid pandemic, recruitment problems in the hospitality sector were now a significant risk for Plas Tan y Bwlch.

RESOLVED to note the report and approve the Authority's Risk Profile as submitted.

11. **Corporate Work Programme 2020-21**

Submitted – The fourth and final quarter progress report for 2020/21 by the Director of Corporate Services.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report on the fourth and final quarter updates. Members and officers discussed the report and made the following observations:-

- Balancing Our Resources and Efforts – Members considered staff appraisals to be very important and that the Authority should seek to improve on the 32% completion rate currently reported. The Director of Corporate Services advised that the Management Team were aware of this and were seeking improvements.
- a Member asked whether there was a link between staff appraisals, sickness absences and the recruitment and retention of staff. He stated that in some organisations, failing to complete staff appraisals was a disciplinary matter for both staff and their managers, although this was not being suggested at this time.

- the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the Authority was prepared for the anticipated increase in tourism, with more resources and staff on the ground and a clear communication strategy developed for the 2021 season.

RESOLVED to note the report.

12. Performance Indicators 2020/21: Final Results

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to present the final results for 2020/21 for discussion by Members.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and the following matters were discussed:-

- the Director of Planning and Land Management asked Members to note a correction to the data in that the Authority's current housing land supply should be 5.1 years (green) and not 3 years (red) as was recorded. Arising thereon, and in response to a question, the Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that the Authority was around midway in the planning performance table. A Member asked for the all-Wales comparison data to be provided at the end of every year so that Members could assess the Authority's performance against other planning authorities.
- Our Communities: 1a – the increase in planning permission for affordable housing units in Y Bala was welcomed.
- Our Communities: in response to a question, the Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that data on housing sold as second homes in the National Park area was available and would be circulated to Members. Arising thereon, Members discussed a recent article in The Telegraph which encouraged people to invest in holiday and second homes. Members were extremely concerned that local people were being priced out of the housing market. Members were also concerned about the Welsh Government initiative providing grants for tree planting, which was being exploited by large companies who purchase farm holdings to plant trees in order to offset their carbon footprint.
- Balancing our Resources and Efforts: a Member noted the excellent outcome for Local Performance Indicators 5c and 5ch.

RESOLVED to note the report.

13. Complaints Monitoring Report

Submitted – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care on written complaints received by the Authority.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report and outlined the main points. Members were reminded that individuals were not identified on confidentiality grounds.

RESOLVED to note the report.

14. **Staff Absences 2020/21**

Submitted – An information report by the Head of Personnel summarising staff absences for the period April 2020 to the end of March 2021.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report on behalf of the Head of Personnel who had provided an outline of possible reasons why the sickness absence figures had decreased so substantially. Members considered the report in detail and discussed the following:-

- as flu was mostly absent last year, there were lessons to be learnt for continuing with some form of social distancing, hand washing etc., when considering re-opening the office to staff.
- the notable improvements in the sickness rate were to be welcomed although further work should be carried out to ascertain why anxiety/stress/depression and also back problems have all reduced in number.
- a Member asked whether desk assessments were carried out to ensure that staff did not develop back problems due to using laptops at home and also stated that home working hours should be managed. The Director of Corporate Services advised that the Management Team were aware of the need for desk assessments and that this work is usually carried out for all office-based staff. He advised that as the period for covid restrictions was nearing its end, the Management Team were currently considering a pilot scheme for blended working for staff to work partially from home and partially at the office.
- Members asked officers to consider whether to include Covid-19 within the cold/cough, flu, influenza category or as a separate sickness category of its own.

RESOLVED subject to including a reference to Covid-19, to note the report for information.

15. **EUROPARC Federation Virtual Conference 2021 : 6th and 7th October 2021
“Parks in the Spotlight Powered by People; Inspired by Nature”**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive to inform Members of the EUROPARC Virtual Conference 2021 and to discuss representation from SNPA at the event.

Reported - The Director of Planning and Land Management presented the report and asked Members to decide if SNPA should be represented at the 2021 EUROPARC Virtual Conference and, if so, to approve the number of delegates.

Members discussed the report and recommended that the Chairman should attend the conference alongside any other Members who were interested in attending. As there was a cost involved, members were asked to put their names forward to the Members' Services Officer by the 20th of July, for the Chairman and the Chief Executive to agree the actual representation. Arising thereon, Councillor Judith Humphreys and Ms. Tracey Evans indicated their interest in representing the Authority at the Conference.

RESOLVED

1. **to note the report and authorise representation from Snowdonia at the virtual EUROPARC Conference 2021.**
2. **to request nominations (Members/staff) from Snowdonia to attend the virtual EUROPARC Conference in 2021 and to delegate the decision of the actual representation to the Chairman and Chief Executive.**

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

Submitted - Minutes of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board meetings held on the 24th March and 9th June 2021, for information.

The Chairman of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board presented the minutes. Arising thereon,

Minutes 24th March 2021

The minutes should record that Mr. Tim Jones was in the Chair.

Minutes 9th June 2021

Item No. 5 - Plas Tan y Bwlch Update

Action No. 2 - in response to a question, officers confirmed that the Property Manager was seeking expert advice on a fault with the current heating system.

RESOLVED subject to the above, to note the minutes.

17. **Head of Internal Audit Annual Report 2020/21**

Submitted – The Head of Internal Audit’s Annual Report outlining the Internal Audit Services’ opinion on internal controls within the Authority.

Reported – The Head of Internal Audit presented the report and confirmed that she was satisfied that the Authority had a sound framework of control in place to manage risks in the areas investigated in the 2020/21 Audit Plan. Members noted that in order to free up time for an audit on the ‘Sustainable Management Scheme’, the ‘Yr Ysgwrn’ audit had been deferred from the original audit plan.

Members considered the report and discussed the following matters:-

- Returning Equipment

officers confirmed that although the audit focussed on staff, steps were taken to ensure that Members also return all equipment provided by the Authority.

- the Head of Administration and Customer Care confirmed that a full register is maintained of all equipment provided by the Authority and on the rare occasion where a member of staff has not returned an item, the matter is passed on to the Personnel Department to address the problem.

- Members were advised that Yr Ysgwrn could be included in a future audit plan.

RESOLVED

1. to accept the report as the “Head of Internal Audit’s Annual Report” in accordance with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards for the financial year 2020/21.
2. to accept the Operational Audit Plan for the 2021/22 accounting period, subject to amendment in consultation with the Head of Internal Audit, the Chief Executive, the Chief Finance Officer, the Corporate Director and/or Head of Finance.

18. **Head of Internal Audit Annual Report 2020/21**

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

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services requesting Authority approval for the exemption of the subsequent report.

RESOLVED that “The Head of Internal Audit Annual Report 2020/21” report be exempt from disclosure for the reasons outlined.

19. **Head of Internal Audit Annual Report 2020/21**

Submitted – The Head of Internal Audit’s Annual Report outlining the Internal Audit Services’ opinion on internal controls within the Authority.

Reported – The Head of Internal Audit presented the report on Cybersecurity which Members considered in detail.

RESOLVED to accept the report as part of the Head of Internal Audit’s annual report in accordance with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards for the financial year 2020/21.

The Chairman, on behalf of Members, thanked the Head of Internal Audit for attending the meeting to present the Annual Report.

The meeting ended at 12.25

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
FRIDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2021**

PRESENT:**Member appointed by Gwynedd Council**

Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd;

Member appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillor Philip Capper;

Member appointed by the Welsh Government

Mrs Sarah Hattle;

Independent Members

Mrs Rachael L.J. Davies, Mr. Martin J. Hughes, Mrs. Sharon Warnes;

Officers

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

Ms. Ceri Jarvis, H.R. Advisor, Gwynedd Council.

The Director of Corporate Services outlined the procedure for electing a Chair for the Standards Committee and advised that the meeting was subject to Covid-19 Regulations on how the Authority conducts its business:-

- the meeting was not open to the general public, and
- that part of the meeting was being recorded to assist in verifying the minutes.

Also, the Director of Corporate Services welcomed Mrs. Sarah Hattle to her first meeting of the Standards Committee.

1. **Appointment of Chairman**

RESOLVED to appoint Mrs. Rachael Davies as Chair of the Standards Committee for the remainder of her period of appointment as an Independent Member.

The Chair thanked Members for their support.

2. **Appointment of Vice Chairman**

RESOLVED to appoint Mrs Sharon Warnes as Vice Chair of the Standards Committee for the remainder of her period of appointment as an Independent Member.

3. **Apologies for absence**

No apologies were tendered.

4. **Declaration of Interest**

Mr. G. Iwan Jones declared an interest in item 6 on the Agenda and left the meeting while the matter was being discussed. Mr. Emyr Williams also declared an interest in item 6 on the Agenda and would remain in the meeting to answer any questions which might arise but would not be present during any part of the decision process.

5. **Appeal Hearing**

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

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services requesting Standards Committee approval for the exemption of the subsequent report.

RESOLVED that the subsequent “Appeal Hearing” report be exempt from disclosure for the reasons outlined in the report.

6. **Appeal Hearing**

Submitted – A report by the Personnel Service to provide Members with background papers and further information.

Reported – The Chair asked all present to introduce themselves to the meeting and advised that the Appeal Hearing would be held in accordance with the Authority's Grievance Procedure and would follow the appeal format as outlined in Appendix 2.

Present at the meeting, to respond to questions raised by the Standards Committee were:-

- i) the appellant
- ii) the appellant's representative – Mark Jones, GMB Regional Organiser
- iii) the Authority's representative – Helen Snow, Geldards
- iv) the Human Resource Advisor – Ceri Jarvis
- v) the Chief Executive – Mr. Emyr Williams

Arising thereon, the appellant and the appellants representative consented to proceed with the Chief Executive in attendance, whilst noting that he would not be present or form any part of the decision process.

Following questioning, the Standards Committee deliberated in private.

All parties were called back to the meeting to receive the decision. The Chair advised that the panel's remit had been to re-examine the correctness of the decision made and that the procedure followed was in line with the grounds of appeal. The Chair stated that the appeal hearing decision was final and binding.

The Chair read out a statement on behalf of the Standards Committee affirming that following careful consideration of all representations, the appeal was dismissed on all three grounds.

IT WAS RESOLVED

- 1. **to dismiss the appeal.**
- 2. **that the appellant would be advised in writing of the decision of the Appeal Hearing.**
- 3. **that the Authority should review communication channels with Plas Tan y Bwlch to ensure effective communication in future.**
- 4. **that any request for a settlement agreement should be raised directly with the Head of Personnel or the Chief Executive.**

The Chair thanked all involved for their conduct and co-operation.

The meeting ended at 13.50

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
FRIDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2021

PRESENT:

Member appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd;

Member appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillor Philip Capper;

Member appointed by the Welsh Government

Mrs. Sarah Hattle;

Independent Members

Mrs Rachael L.J. Davies (Chair), Mr. Martin J. Hughes, Mrs. Sharon Warnes;

Officers

Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Ms. Bethan Hughes, Mrs. Anwen Gaffey.

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

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

1. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chair welcomed Mrs. Sarah Hattle to the meeting.

2. **Declaration of Interest**

Cllr. Philip Capper declared a personal interest in item 7 on the Agenda, under paragraph 10 (2) (a) (ix) (aa) of the Code of Conduct for Members. Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd was not present for item 7 and did not take part in any decision.

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 16th October 2020 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

4. **Nomination of members for the Single Status Grading Appeals Panel**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to appoint three Members and two substitute members to the Single Status Grading Appeals Panel.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and background.

RESOLVED

1. to note the report.
2. to appoint Councillor Philip Capper, Mrs. Sharon Warnes and Mr. Martin J. Hughes as Members of the Single Status Grading Appeals Panel with Councillor Alwyn Gruffydd and Mrs. Rachael L.J. Davies appointed as substitute members.

5. **Public Services Ombudsman for Wales**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to advise the Committee on the developments applicable to this Authority.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and advised that full details of the two complaints, which the Ombudsman had declined to investigate, were provided in the Complaints Monitoring Report (Agenda Item No. 6).

RESOLVED to note the report.

6. **Complaints Monitoring Report**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care on written complaints received by the Authority in 2020/21.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report and confirmed that following the advice of the Public Service Ombudsman, the applicants had referred their complaint regarding a data breach by the planning service to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner had resolved not to take any further action against the Authority due to the prompt action taken, and because the data breach was very limited. Members were further reassured that following this personal data breach, all staff were now required to undertake online data security training on an annual basis. The Chair commended officers for the prompt way in which the complaints had been dealt with.

RESOLVED to note the report.

7. **Grant of Dispensations**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services recommending that the Standards Committee grant a general dispensation to the Members of Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council. Members were also asked to note that any references to paragraph (d) in the Welsh report should be corrected to read paragraph (ch).

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and confirmed that dispensations previously granted by the Standards Committee had worked well. Members considered the report and agreed to approve the general dispensation, in accordance with the terms outlined in the report, in order to ensure that the Authority could conduct its business effectively.

RESOLVED

1. **to grant a dispensation for Members appointed by Gwynedd Council enabling them to take a full part in the determination of issues relating to Gwynedd Council up to 31st December 2022, unless further extended by resolution of this Committee prior to the 31st December 2022.**
2. **to grant a dispensation for Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council enabling able them to take a full part in the determination of issues relating to Conwy County Borough Council up to 31st December 2022, unless further extended by resolution of this Committee prior to the 31st December 2022.**

8. **The Ethical Framework and Revised Guidance issued by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales on the Code of Conduct**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services for Members to consider the revised guidance, whether any actions arise thereon and the further matters contained in the report.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and Members and officers discussed the following matters in detail:-

- the Director of Corporate Services advised that refresher training on the Code of Conduct was usually provided alongside Planning Training for Members.
- the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that flow charts, to assist Members in declaring Personal and Prejudicial Interests (similar to Appendix 2 and 3 of the Ombudsman’s Guidance), were previously circulated at the meeting when meetings were held in person. Members felt that in future, this information could be issued electronically for remote and hybrid committee meetings.
- the Director of Corporate Services stated that once the expected new Code of Conduct was published, the Authority would ensure that all Members are provided with training on the new code and that all the relevant changes will be highlighted. The training would be provided after the Local Government elections in May 2022, which will have an effect on the Authority’s membership. For those Members who are provided with Code of Conduct training by Gwynedd and Conwy County Borough Councils, the training will focus on any differences between the Unitary Authorities and the National Park Authority.
- the Director of Corporate Services advised that training providers, such as Trevor Roberts and Associates, had in the past provided very good training for Members which included role play etc., and undoubtedly will be able to provide tailor-made online / hybrid training for the Authority in the future, if requested.
- in response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services stated that training on the Code was not part of the Ombudsman’s remit and that the WLGA, whilst providing training modules, they focussed mainly on the Unitary Authorities with minimal focus on the National Parks.
- Members felt it was difficult for the Standards Committee to monitor the operation of the code of conduct, e.g., declarations of Members’ Interests etc., and officers agreed to provide a short report detailing Members’ declarations of interest to the Standards Committee annually.
- arising thereon, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that from May 2022, the Standards Committee’s remit will include an additional statutory duty to prepare an annual report to the Authority on how the committee’s functions have been discharged and provide an overview of conduct matters generally within the Authority. It was agreed that a meeting of the Standards Committee should be arranged early in April 2022 (the date to be confirmed) when Members could consider the framework and contents of the report. The Chair of the Standards Committee and the Director of Corporate Services would then prepare the report in accordance with section “56B Annual reports by the Standards Committees: paragraphs (1) to (8)” of the Local Government and Elections Wales Act (2021), which are relevant to the National Park. The report to be circulated to all Members of the Standards Committee to agree its contents, prior to its presentation by the Chair of the Standards Committee to the Authority’s AGM in June.
- in view of the above, Members considered that any discussion as to the merits or otherwise of establishing a joint Standards Committee with the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority should be deferred for approximately 18 months. This would allow time for the Standards Committee to focus on the adoption of the new Ethical Framework.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the Authority’s Local Resolution Process was aligned to what was being recommended in the guidance and there was therefore no need to review the same.**

2. that the value threshold of £25 for disclosure of Gifts and Hospitality should continue when the new protocol is considered for adoption by the Authority in due course.
3. as part of its new duty, the Chair of the Standards Committee will prepare and present an annual report to the Authority's Annual General Meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.
4. that the Standards Committee meets early in April 2022 to consider the contents and framework for the annual report.
5. to thank the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority for their interest in establishing a joint Standards Committee, but to decline their invitation at this time as Members were currently working on the adoption of the new Ethical Framework.

9. **North Wales Standards Committees Forum**

Received – An oral report by the former Chair of the Standards Committee, for information.

The former Chair advised that she had attended a remote meeting of the North Wales Standards Committee Forum, held on 24th June 2021, and that a note outlining the discussion and feedback had been circulated to Members prior to today's meeting. Members noted that a large proportion of the discussion had focussed on providing feedback on the Ethical Framework and guidance by the Public Services Ombudsman. Also, much of the discussion and feedback had focussed on the link with community and town councils with an emphasis on training and the merits of having a consistent framework to provide training packages etc.

RESOLVED to note the report for information and to thank the former Chair for the report.

The Chair thanked Members for their contribution and thanked officers for their work.

The meeting ended at 15.40