

NOTICE OF MEETING



Snowdonia National Park Authority

Emyr Williams

Chief Executive

Snowdonia National Park Authority

Penrhyndeudraeth

Gwynedd LL48 6LF

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Meeting: Snowdonia National Park Authority

Date: Wednesday 24 April 2024

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Location: The Oakeley Room, Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog and via Zoom

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

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

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

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

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

Members appointed by The Welsh Government

Mr. Brian Angell, Mrs. Sarah Hattle, Mr. Tim Jones, Ms. Naomi Luhde – Thompson, Ms. Delyth Lloyd, Vacancy.

****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 7th February and 6th March 2024 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 and decision. (Copy herewith)

8. **(Draft) Corporate Work Programme 2024-25**

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

9. **Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales**

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

10. **Outdoor Recreation Position Statement 2024-2029**

To submit a report by the Access and Well-being Manager. (Copy herewith)

11. **Conferences and Seminars**

(1) **National Parks Conference 2024 : 75 years of Landscapes for Everyone**
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newcastle : Tuesday 24th – Thursday 26th September 2024.
(It is customary to send 4 delegates (including the Chairman) to the Conference).

(2) **National Parks Wales Members' Seminar 2024**

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority will be hosting the annual National Parks Wales Members Seminar on 6th and 7th November 2024 at the Giltar Hotel, Tenby. Further details will be available in due course.

12. **Members' Working Group Reports**

To submit the report of the Members' Working Group meetings held on 24th January and 6th March 2024. (Copies herewith)

13. **Calendar of Meetings 2024/25**
To submit a Timetable of Meetings for the period 2024/25. (Copy herewith)
14. **Meetings of other Organisations**
To receive reports from Members on any recent meetings of organisations which they have attended as representatives of the Authority.
15. **To submit the following minutes for information**
Minutes of the Performance and Resources Committees held on 29th November 2023. (Copy herewith)
16. **Interim Management Team Structure – Adaptation to Option C
Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972: Exemption from disclosure of documents**
To submit a report by the Head of Human Resources. (Copy herewith)

PART II

17. **Interim Management Team Structure - Adaptation to Option C**
To submit a report by the Head of Human Resources. (Copy herewith)

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
WEDNESDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2024**

PRESENT:**Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

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

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Brian Angell, Tracey Evans, Sarah Hattle, Tim Jones, Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Delyth Lloyd;

Officers

Emyr Williams, G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Dewi Aeron Morgan, Sian Owen, Geraint Evans, Anwen Gaffey.

Apology

Councillor Dilwyn Owain Roberts.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the meeting would be web-broadcast following election of the Chair and would also be made available online at a later date.

1. Chair

The Director of Corporate Services outlined the procedure for electing a Chair for the Authority which was re-scheduled as a result of technical problems on the 6th December 2023. He advised that in accordance with Standing Orders 5.2 and 5.3, the nominations proposed two Members for the Chair, Mr. Tim Jones and Councillor Edgar Owen, who were invited to address the meeting.

Mr. Tim Jones and Councillor Edgar Owen both took up the invitation to address the meeting and provided Members with a summary of their background and experience.

Mr. Tim Jones was elected as Chair of the Authority.

Arising thereon, in response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services advised that a Vice-Chair will be elected at the next meeting of the Authority in accordance with Standing Orders.

2. Chair's Announcements

- (1) The Chair took the opportunity to thank Members for their support and welcomed Councillor Einir Wyn Williams to her first Authority meeting following her recent appointment by Gwynedd Council. The Chair also conveyed best wishes to Councillor John Pugh Roberts following his recent surgery.
- (2) The Chair advised that Tracey Evans was attending her final Authority meeting as a Welsh Government appointed Member, and on behalf of Members and officers, expressed his appreciation and thanks for her valuable contribution and service during her eight years as a Member. Arising thereon, the Chief Executive reported that the Welsh Government appointment process could be delayed due to possible role changes within the organisation.

- (3) The Chair reported upon meetings he had attended since the Authority previously met:-
 - 27th November 2023 – meeting with Julie James MS. The Chair advised that whilst the Minister fully supported the work of the National Park Authorities, Welsh Government were experiencing their most difficult year since the Senedd had been established.
 - 23rd January 2024 – a meeting of all staff had been held for the first time since the pandemic with presentations from some Heads of Service on their particular areas of responsibility.
 - 26th January 2024 – a meeting of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee to discuss its budget requirements.
- (4) The Chair advised that the Conference Room at Head Office had been refurbished to accommodate formal meetings of the Authority. Officers were currently trialling the facilities to address any potential technical hitches.
- (5) The Chair thanked Members who had attended the two training sessions arranged by the Welsh Government on:
 - Governance (23rd January 2024)
 - Landscapes for Everyone (Diversity & Inclusion) (2nd February 2024)The Chair encouraged Members to attend the one remaining session on:
 - Nature and Climate Emergencies (16th February 2024).
- (6) Finally, on the 1st February, the Chief Executive had submitted a letter of resignation to the Authority after more than 37 years of service with the Snowdonia National Park. The Chair, on behalf of Members, extended his appreciation and thanks to the Chief Executive for his work and conveyed best wishes for a long and happy retirement to the Chief Executive and his family when he leaves the Authority in the summer. Members noted that the process to find a successor was now underway, and that a special meeting of the Authority was being convened shortly to discuss the procedure for appointing a new Chief Executive.

3. **Corporate Update**

- (1) The Chief Executive congratulated the Chair on his appointment.
- (2) The Chief Executive will submit a report to the next meeting of the Members' Working Group to provide Members with an understanding of the Authority's financial position over the next three years. The Chief Executive and Management Team have already discussed the matter with Senior Members.
- (3) The Chief Executive advised that the recent all-staff meeting at Plas Tan y Bwlch had been a success, and the intention was to convene such meetings more often in future.
- (4) Also, staff have held a hybrid meeting in the upgraded conference room which seemed to have worked well.
- (5) Members noted that the online car park pre-booking system at Pen y Pass would soon be available.
- (6) the Chief Executive confirmed that the Head of Human Resources would present a report on the appointment of a new Chief Executive (National Park Officer) to a special meeting of the Authority being convened on the 6th March 2024.

4. **Public Question Time**

Members were informed that no public questions had been received.

5. **Declaration of Interest**

Councillor June Jones declared both a personal and prejudicial interest in item 12 on the Agenda, under paragraphs 10 (2) (c) (i) and 12 (1) of the Code of Conduct for Members and left the meeting whilst the matter was being discussed.

6. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Authority meetings held on 15th November and 6th December 2023 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.

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

There were no matters arising.

8. **Action Log**

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

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and advised that the Action Log should remain as submitted.

RESOLVED to note the Action Log.

9. **The Authority's Budget and Levy on Constituent Authorities 2024/25**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Finance Officer to approve the 2024/25 revenue and capital budgets and to raise levies on constituent authorities on the basis of the Welsh Government's draft grant allocation figure for the Authority.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented the report in detail and asked Members to note a correction to the Welsh report in Appendix 1 para. 8 which should read 'deficit' and not 'surplus'.

Members considered the report and discussed the following:-

- Members thanked the Chief Finance Officer for his report which was well presented and easy to follow.
- a Member noted that the net cost funded from reserves for Plas Tan y Bwlch represented 40% of the total deficit. Also, an 18% rise in service costs was a matter which needs further review.
- in response to a question with regard to 5 members of staff being paid from reserves, the Chief Executive confirmed they were project-based staff for which reserves had already been allocated. Members were advised they would have an opportunity to assess these matters at a future meeting of the Members' Working Group, where they will be asked to address how the Authority manages its finances over the next 2-3 years.
- the Chief Executive stated that prior to presenting a report to Members, the Management Team will meet to consider ways in which the Authority may be able to deliver National Park purposes in a different way or decide what not to deliver in future.

RESOLVED

1. **to approve the Authority's revenue and capital budget for 2024/25 as set out in the report and appendices.**
2. **to authorise levies to be raised on the two constituent councils to a total amount of £1,373,262 in accordance with paragraph 6.3 of the Chief Finance Officer's report.**

10. **Capital Strategy 2024/25**

Submitted – The Chief Finance Officer's report to approve the Capital Strategy for 2024/25 and the recommendations relating to the Prudential Code.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented the technical report in detail. He advised that in future, the Authority may have to borrow in the short-term to deliver the LIFE Project due to possible cash flow demands. The Chief Executive reported that this was due to an 18-month extension to the project which may need funding in the short-term. In response to a question, Members were reassured that at this time, Yr Ysgwrn was not a financial risk for the Authority.

The Chief Finance Officer took the opportunity to thank Sian Owen and David Williams for their work and support.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note that there was no intention to borrow monies for capital purposes, however, the limitations below were recommended on a prudent level as a precautionary measure in case of an emergency or need for expenditure at short notice.**
- 2. to approve the present Authorised Borrowing Limit of £500,000 for 2024/25, and an Operational Boundary of £100,000.**
- 3. that no limit be placed on the proportion of interest payable at a variable rate.**
- 4. to adopt the Capital Borrowing Strategy for 2024/25 as outlined in para. 3.2 of the report and note the content relating to the Prudential Code (see tables under paras. 2.2, 3.3 and para. 7.1 of the report).**
- 5. to adopt the Investment Strategy for 2024/25 as outlined in paras. 3.4 to 3.13 of the report, and note the institutions listed in para 3.6.**

11. Plas Tan y Bwlch

Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive to provide an update to enable Members to consider and discuss the content and recommendations.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report and advised that the current financial challenge provided the context for the Authority to consider the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch and also, the Wales Audit report requires the Authority to review its operating model at Plas and consider how it delivers against National Park purposes. The Chief Executive confirmed that as instructed by the Plas Tan y Bwlch Board he had contacted two potential partners (one from the private sector, and one from the voluntary sector) who were both interested in managing/developing Plas Tan y Bwlch. The Chief Executive advised on the need to employ additional staff to ensure that Plas Tan y Bwlch could continue to operate safely over the summer months. If this proves to be problematic, the Chief Executive has the authority to reduce the opening days/hours or possibly even close Plas Tan y Bwlch and call a special meeting of the Authority, prior to reporting back to Members in September 2024.

RESOLVED

- 1. to continue with the current business model, while this is practical and safe, for a period until the Authority can formally consider its options on future management of Plas Tan y Bwlch.**
- 2. to invite interest from potential partners for the operational management/development of Plas Tan y Bwlch.**
- 3. at the same time, to offer Plas Tan y Bwlch on the open market to prospective buyers.**
- 4. to actively promote Plas Tan y Bwlch as a going concern to any prospective partner/buyer.**
- 5. to allow a period of up to 6 months to seek a partner or open market disposal.**

6. **the Management Team and Plas Board to monitor progress and report back to members as required, but no later than September 2024, with long term recommendations based on the outcome of any negotiations.**
7. **to utilise the identified reserve to bridge any financial pressures/needs.**

12. **Commuted Sums Expenditure Plans**

Submitted – A report by the Planning Officer (Policy) recommending that the Authority approves two plans to spend from the commuted sums fund.

Reported – The Planning Officer (Policy) presented the report in detail and Members and officers discussed the following:-

- the Planning Officer confirmed there was currently approx. £600k in Eryri's commuted sums fund which will be used for properties within the boundaries of the National Park.
- the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that in order to allay Members' concerns, each legal agreement will include conditions that seek to ensure the Authority retains and controls where the money is invested.
- a Member felt that in future, the Authority should cease to use the term 'affordable housing' which is discriminatory and use 'housing for local people' instead.

RESOLVED

1. **to approve the scheme for contributing up to £500,000 from the commuted sums fund towards Cyngor Gwynedd's Buy to Rent Scheme, and**
2. **to approve the scheme for contributing £40,000 from the commuted sums fund towards creating a Community Housing Officer post for Penmachno Housing Partnership.**

13. **Working Group Reports**

Submitted – Reports from the Working Group meetings.

(1) **Members' Working Group**

Submitted – Reports of the Members' Working Group meetings held on the 18th October and 6th December 2023.

Arising thereon,

Minutes dated 18th October 2023 – (4) Application of Article 4 Direction

In response to a question, the Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that a report was being presented to the March Planning and Access Committee and that Article 4 should be in operation by May 2025.

RESOLVED to note the reports.

(2) **Local Joint Working Group**

Submitted – Report of the Local Joint Working Group meeting held on the 17th November 2023.

RESOLVED to note the report.

14. **Meetings of other Organisations**

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

The meeting ended at 11.35

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
WEDNESDAY 6th MARCH 2024**

Mr. Tim Jones (Chair)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

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

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Brian Angell, Tracey Evans, Sarah Hattle, Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Delyth Lloyd;

Officers

G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Nia Murray, Siwan Lyall, Anwen Gaffey.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the meeting was being recorded (with the exception of the secret ballot) and that Items 2 - 4 will be web-broadcast and also be made available online at a later date. Subject to the outcome of Item 4, there will be no recording or web-broadcast of Item 5.

1. **Vice-Chair**

The Director of Corporate Services outlined the procedure for electing a Vice-Chair for the Authority and advised that in accordance with Standing Orders 5.2 and 5.3, he had received nominations proposing two Members for the Vice-Chair, Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd and Councillor Edgar Owen.

Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd thanked Members for putting his name forward but advised that as he was the current Chairman of Conwy County Borough Council, he would like to withdraw his nomination at this time.

Councillor Edgar Owen was elected Vice-Chair of the Authority.

The Vice-Chair thanked Members for their support.

2. **Apology**

Mr. Emyr Williams, Chief Executive.

3. **Declaration of Interest**

Mr. G. Iwan Jones and Mr. Jonathan Cawley declared an interest in items 4 and 5 on the Agenda and left the meeting while these matters were being discussed.

4. **Options Paper – SNPA Chief Executive (National Park Officer) Recruitment Process**

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

Submitted – A report by the Head of Human Resources requesting Authority approval for the exemption of the subsequent report.

RESOLVED that the “Options Paper – SNPA Chief Executive (National Park Officer) Recruitment Process” report be exempt from disclosure for the reasons outlined.

5. **Options Paper – SNPA Chief Executive (National Park Officer) Recruitment Process**

Submitted – An options paper on the recruitment process for the SNPA Chief Executive (National Park Officer) by the Head of Human Resources.

Reported – The Head of Human Resources presented the report in detail.

Members were asked to consider:-

- a revised Chief Executive Job Description which would include an extended notice period. Arising thereon, Members were invited to forward any additional observations to the Head of Human Resources.
- various recruitment options for appointing a permanent Chief Executive for the Authority.
- what interim structure to adopt to support business continuity should the existing Chief Executive leave before a successor is appointed, and
- whether to establish a recruitment panel for the appointment of the incoming Chief Executive if Option A or B was the favoured option.

Members considered the report in detail and agreed the following:-

RESOLVED

1. **that Option 2 was the preferred recruitment option for appointing a permanent Chief Executive for the Authority.**
2. **that Option B was the preferred option to provide an interim structure to support business continuity for the Authority.**
3. **to establish a Recruitment Panel to manage the process of appointing the incoming Chief Executive. The panel should ensure gender equality and manage the temporary arrangements.**

The following Members were elected to serve on the Panel:

Councillor Elwyn Edwards, Councillor Edgar Owen (Vice-Chair), Councillor John Pughe Roberts, Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Mr. Tim Jones (Chair), Mrs. Sarah Hattle.

4. **to approve the revised Chief Executive Job Description and to include an extended notice period of at least 6 months. The Recruitment Panel to have further input by adding more context to the role in order to achieve a more specific job description.**

The meeting ended at 12.45



TAFLEN WEITHREDU – ACTION SHEET

AUTHORITY MEETING – 08.02.2023

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



TAFLEN WEITHREDU – ACTION SHEET

AUTHORITY MEETING – 07.02.2024

ITEM NO. AND TITLE	DECISIONS / OBSERVATIONS	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	UPDATE or COMPLETION DATE	REMOVE FROM ACTION LOG
11. Plas Tan y Bwlch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to invite interest from potential partners for the operational management/development of Plas Tan y Bwlch. - at the same time, to offer Plas Tan y Bwlch on the open market to prospective buyers. - to actively promote Plas Tan y Bwlch as a going concern to any prospective partner/buyer. - to allow a period of up to 6 months to seek a partner or open market disposal. - the Management Team and Plas Board to monitor progress and report back to members as required, but no later than September 2024, with long term recommendations based on the outcome of any negotiations. - to utilise the identified reserve to bridge any financial pressures/needs. 	To proceed as outlined.	CX/GIJ	Head of Property has invited 4 agents with expertise for potential sale or long-term lease to outline their terms, 2 have responded positively and we are awaiting further information, 1 has declined and the other is yet to respond. The agent appointment will be considered further by the Management Team as a matter of priority once full information is to hand.	No

ITEM NO. 8

MEETING:	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE:	24 th April, 2024
TITLE:	(DRAFT) CORPORATE WORK PROGRAMME 2024-25
AUTHOR:	Director of Corporate Services
PURPOSE:	To receive, discuss and adopt the (Draft) Corporate Work Programme as a working document for 2024-25

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1. Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, public bodies are required to publish a Well-being Statement when setting their well-being objectives explaining why they feel the objective will help them achieve the goals and how it has applied the sustainable development principle. They must also make sure they involve people interested in achieving the goals and that those people reflect the diversity of their area.
- 1.2 The Well-being Statement and Well-being Objectives were adopted as strategic documents by the Authority during the Performance and Resources Committee on 23rd March, 2021. (As strategic documents an Equality Impact Assessment under the Equality Act 2010, which now also incorporates due regard to the Socio-economic Duty, has been prepared. (Documents are available on request).
- 1.3 The Well-being Statement for the Authority sets out well-being objectives which describes how they will help us achieve the seven wellbeing goals for Wales and establishes the rationale and the steps we will take to achieve them.
- 1.4 The disapplication (with caveats) of the Local Government Measure 2009 allowed the Authority to adopt longer term objectives and better alignment of the Authority's work with the Park Management Plan, Local Development Plan, reporting mechanisms and establishment of realistic and SMART'er objectives for the annual work programmes.
- 1.5 The adopted Well-being Objectives concentrated on three key areas of work - Resilient Environments, Resilient Communities and Resilient ways of Working - and have been aligned with five sub themes to provide focus.
- 1.6 These three key areas of work were developed into the annual Corporate Work Programme and updated for 2024-25 outlining projects, initiatives and specific actions that will be undertaken this year to fulfil the Wellbeing Objectives and Service Priorities.

1.7 On completion of the projects and initiatives, the Authority will be able to measure whether improvements have been achieved in each of the three key areas at the end of the financial year 2024-25.

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

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

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

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

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

2. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

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

3. RECOMMENDATION:

3.1 That Members formally adopt the (Draft) Corporate Work Programme as a working document for 2024-25.

4. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

4.1 (Draft) Corporate Work Programme 2024-25.



(Draft) CORPORATE WORK PROGRAMME 2024-25

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

1. RESILIENT ENVIRONMENTS

This outcome will be achieved by:	AC 1	IMPROVING RECREATION MANAGEMENT AND ANY NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF RECREATION
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Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 1.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
AC 1.1 Implement the Gwynedd and Eryri Communication Campaign on Sustainable Visiting Economy	Ongoing	Head of Comms.
AC 1.2 Improved provision for public engagement at Pen y Pass via an upgrade of visitor facilities and interpretation: ➤ Complete and install improvements to interpretation at Pen y Pass	March 2025	Head of Comms. Head of Wardens and Access Comms. Officer
AC 1.3 Monitor visitor numbers through people counters to establish the impact of users across the National Park. Report produced based on data for 2023 .	Ongoing Next report June/July 2024	Ho Partnerships
AC 1.4 Identify and quantify access work to mitigate the effects of people pressure and review annually	Ongoing	Hof Warden Service
AC 1.5 Produce an Engagement Strategy for footpath works in Snowdonia	Oct. 2024	Ho Warden Service
AC 1.6 Produce guidelines for undertaking access route works in Snowdonia	Oct. 2024	Ho Warden Service

Footnote: Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme

Working Document

Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 1.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
AC 1.7 Ensure that promoted routes are regularly surveyed, maintained and improved when necessary and reported annually to the Management Team	Ongoing	Hof Warden Service
AC 1.8 Area Wardens to work with the Communities and partners to identify and take advantage of opportunities to provide a range of promoted routes for varying abilities	Ongoing	Hof Warden Service
AC 1.9 Work across the Authority to integrate work programmes and progress implementation of Warden Area Plans	Ongoing	Hof Warden Service
AC 1.10 Support the work of the Wyddfa di-blastig project officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In partnership with Keep Wales Tidy, arrange and host COPA1 the inaugural Youth Climate summit held as part of the tackling single-use plastic pollution project 	Sept. 2024	Ho Partnerships Yr Wyddfa di-blastig Project Officer

Footnote: Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme

This outcome will be achieved by:	AC 2 RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE	
Description of SNPA Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 1.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
<p>AC 2.1 Ensuring the implementation of the current LDP policies that contribute to mitigating climate change.</p>	To be reported annually	Head of Development Management and Compliance (Hof DM&C) Head of Planning Policy (Hof PP)
<p>AC 2.2 Energy efficiency and reducing carbon footprint of SNPA buildings to be integral part of new Asset Management Plan (to be adopted from April 2024) and aligned with Wales Prosperity for All – A Low Carbon Public Estate targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Undertake a review of the Asset Portfolio with the Asset Sub-Group with recommendations to be considered by the full Authority and any surplus assets to be considered for disposal/transfer of ownership. 	New Asset Management Plan to be adopted by December 2024 + Ongoing	Head of Property
<p>AC 2.3 Develop an Action Plan for SNPA to be carbon neutral by 2030 based on the recommendations of the Carbon Study report and consider what staff resource is required to implement any agreed actions identified in the Action Plan</p>	For adoption 2024	Director of Corporate Services (DoCS) Head of Property
<p>AC 2.4 Develop a Low Carbon Action Plan for Eryri, ensuring this includes a commitment to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Low carbon objectives in both the LDP and Cynllun Eryri ➤ Producing a Tree & Woodland Strategy; and ➤ Producing a Peatland Strategy 	Ongoing	Director of Planning & Land Management (Dof P&LM) Head of Conservation, Woods & Agric. (CWA)

Working Document

Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 1.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
AC 2.5 Ensure that the Authority remains committed to the principles of the 'Race to Zero', by adopting a strong leadership and advocacy role in the fight against climate change – including committing to the 5 main pledges contained within the 'Race to Zero'. Working with NPUK/NPP on strategic climate change messaging	Ongoing	Dir. P&LM
AC 2.6 Support a strategic partnership with Welsh Government, Bannau Brycheiniog and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authorities on Nature Recovery and Carbon Sequestration in the Designated Landscapes of Wales and hosting the post of strategic lead.	Ongoing	CEO Strategic Lead

This outcome will be achieved by:	AC 3	IMPROVING THE MANAGEMENT AND UNDERSTANDING OF CULTURAL HERITAGE
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AC 3.1 Development and adoption of the SNPA Cultural Heritage Strategy	Summer 2024	Hof Cultural Heritage
AC 3.2 Ensure that the Carneddau Landscape Partnership Scheme Work Programme for 2024/25 is completed on time to ensure that the Project remains on track for completion by 2025 . ➤ Prepare update report to members	Ongoing – 2025 Dec. 2024	Hof Cultural Heritage Carneddau LPS Manager
AC 3.3 An EOI was submitted and Lottery funding secured, progress and deliver the Harlech and Arduwy Cultural Heritage project	Ongoing to October 2025	Hof Cultural Heritage Cultural Heritage Project Officer
AC 3.4 To actively contribute to the work programme of the North West Wales Slate Landscapes World Heritage Site Action Plan ➤ Complete and install Interpretation of the Ynyspandy site	Ongoing Oct. 2024	Hof Cultural Heritage
AC 3.5 Wardens to lead monthly walks with guest specialist to promote nature, culture and heritage	Ongoing - 2024/25	Hof Warden Service

Working Document

Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 1.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
AC 3.6 To actively contribute to the ongoing work programme of the Cadw-led Historic Environment Group (HEG) and its associated working groups including Wellbeing, Climate Change Mitigation, Peatlands and Local Heritage	Ongoing	Hof Cultural Heritage
AC 3.7 Sustain and develop Yr Ysgwrn as a museum and cultural centre of national repute and present an annual report to Members.	Dec. 2024	Hof Cultural Heritage
AC 3.8 Following on from the completion of Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plan deliver an ongoing programme of traditional skills training which will also compliment the World Heritage Site Action Plan	Phase 1 Oct. 2024	Hof Cultural Heritage

This outcome will be achieved by:	AC 4	ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF POST BREXIT LAND MANAGEMENT SCENARIOS
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AC 4.1 Assist in the development and design of future land management proposals with Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales, to ensure that Eryri benefits from future proposals and that the strategic aims of Cynllun Eryri are reflected in future proposals	Ongoing	Hof Conservation, Woodlands and Agric. (Hof CWA) + CEO Director P&LM
AC 4.2 Following WG consultation, maintain close working relationship with the land based sector to ensure that the Authority has an understanding of the ongoing implications of the effect of proposals of the Sustainable Farming Scheme, Wales, on the special qualities of Eryri	Ongoing	Hof CWA

This outcome will be achieved by:	AC 5	ADDRESSING THE DECLINE IN NATURE
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Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 1.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
AC 5.1 Develop an action plan based on the understanding and contents of e.g. SoNaRR (State of Natural Resources report), State of the National Park Report etc. to inform on priorities for nature recovery in Snowdonia	Summer 2024	Hof CWA
AC 5.2 Continuing to deliver biodiversity enhancement through the development management process following publication of Welsh Government guidance	To be reported annually	Hof DM&C
AC 5.3 Once guidance by Welsh Government is published, ensure that an SPG on biodiversity is produced to support the Development Management process	March 2025	Hof PP
AC 5.4 Continued delivery of approved projects that address the aims of Cynllun Eryri (e.g. HLF Carneddau, LIFE (Celtic Rainforest, Raised Bog, Quaking Bog, Curlew project), National Peat Programme, ENRAW, Dark Sky projects) and develop further programmes	Twice yearly update reports on individual projects	Hof CWA Project Managers
AC 5.5 To progress a National Park wide survey of Trees and Ancient Woodland sites (PAWS)	March 2025	Hof CWA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WELSH GOVERNMENT REMIT LETTER: ENVIRONMENT

WG Priority objectives and actions for SNPA	SNPA Project/Initiative
Actively support WG commitment to achieving a Zero-carbon economy by working to become carbon neutral by 2030 through your everyday work and a range of decarbonisation interventions	AC 2.1. AC 2.2 AC 2.3 AC 2.4 AC 2.5
Support a shift away from private car use to more sustainable transport modes for the majority of journeys amongst staff, visitors and service users in order to meet the target of 45% of journeys being undertaken by sustainable modes by 2040	CC 3.3 CW 2.3
Proactively help facilitate carbon sequestration including by supporting delivery of woodland creation where appropriate and our aim to strengthen the protection of ancient woodlands, and increase engagement in the National Forest programme	AC 5.5 (PAWS)
Take action to improve the connectivity, condition, scale/extent and diversity of ecosystems, and maintain and enhance resilient ecological networks, embedding delivery in emerging national targets arising from the 30x30 commitment	AC 5.1 - AC 5.5
Support the National Peatland Action Programme (NPAP) that has been designed to restore, enhance and maintain resilient ecological networks, tackle climate change and manage water. You should work with NRW to address the NPAP themes, including the priority actions and cross-cutting themes	AC 2.4 AC 5.1 AC 5.4
Support the PfG commitment to establish a targeted scheme to support restoration of seagrass and saltmarsh habitats along our coastline, help deliver the ambitions of the Marine Protected Area Network Management Framework and contribute to emerging policy of blue carbon	AC 5.1
The Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places Capital fund, and other WG schemes to deliver on nature and decarbonisation goals	CW 2.1 CW 3.2
Engage actively in Local Energy Planning to help bring about the transformation of the energy system needed to reach Net Zero, securing greater benefits for your communities	
Engaging positively in initiatives to promote reuse and repair, to grow the circular economy, and reduce the harm caused to the environment by single use plastics through discouraging their use wherever possible	AC 1.10

2. RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

This outcome will be achieved by:	CC 1	MAINTAINING AND INCREASING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF RESIDENTS
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Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 2.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
CC 1.1 Develop an online resource as part of the new website relating to activities and routes within the National Park targeted and tailored appropriately	Ongoing	Hof Comms. Hof Warden Service Brand & Content Manager - website
CC 1.2 As part of the SNPA Volunteer Strategy and in collaboration with partners, continue to expand volunteer opportunities within the National Park that include both physical and cultural activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support and participate in Caru Eryri 2024 volunteering scheme with partners including Cymdeithas Eryri, National Trust and Outdoor Partnership ➤ Reflect and review the Volunteer and Wellbeing events of 2023, update KPIs and set new targets and recommendations for 2024 ➤ Set up volunteer program for the coming year ➤ Host series of wellbeing events ➤ Further promote volunteer opportunities outside of the Yr Wyddfa region with help of Comms Officers 	Ongoing	Hof Partnerships Volunteer and Well-being Officer Comms. Officer(s)
CC 1.3 Develop volunteering opportunities for under-represented, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups	Ongoing	Hof Partnerships Volunteer and Well-being Officer
CC 1.4 Ensuring planning takes a pro-active role in encouraging affordable housing by working with other agencies in this sector, in order to try and achieve the annual target set out in the LDP	To be reported annually	Hof DM&C Hof PP

Footnote: Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme

Working Document

Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 2.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
<p>CC 1.5 Following decision by the Authority to delay production of Eryri LDP Review until 2025 in order to focus on the delivery of an Article 4 Direction: Progress the Authority’s intention to implement an Article 4 Direction to remove permitted development rights to change a permanent residential home to a holiday let or second home, with key milestones comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Undertake a formal public consultation prior to Summer 2024 ➤ Report back on the findings and make any necessary adjustments in approach during Autumn 2024 ➤ Prepare an SPG by March 2025 which will provide more detailed guidance on implementation ➤ Aim to be adopted by the Authority in June 2025 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prior to Sum. 2024 ➤ Autumn 2024 ➤ March 2025 ➤ June 2025 	<p>Director P&LM Hof PP</p>
<p>CC 1.6 Continue to provide funding and measures to support local communities and economies through Cronfa Cymunedau Eryri, funded by Welsh Government and the National Parks Community and Wellbeing small grants fund, particularly where these are led by communities themselves, in green infrastructure, improved access to recreation for health and wellbeing, energy generation, local environmental improvements such as litter and waste management, community development and the Welsh Language. A new funding window for 2024-5 will open and be promoted from March 18th 2024</p>	<p>March 2025</p>	<p>Ho Partnerships Cronfa Cymunedau Eryri Project Officer</p>

This outcome will be achieved by:	CC 2	SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE
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<p>CC 2.1 Members to consider a draft Youth Manifesto.</p>	<p>May 2024</p>	<p>Hof Warden Svc. Young People’s Officer</p>
<p>CC 2.2 Develop the Young Ranger scheme to ensure efficient partnership work, provide broad opportunities and source funding to sustain the scheme.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Hof Warden Service</p>

Footnote: Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme

This outcome will be achieved by:	CC 3	PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM TO ADD VALUE TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES
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Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 2.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
<p>CC 3.1 Work with Cyngor Gwynedd and Conwy CBC to develop and implement the Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy strategic plan. Once the strategic plan has been launched begin work to develop an action plan and related targets and indicators. The first meeting of the Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership is scheduled for April 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete an Action Plan and implement related targets and indicators 	Dec. 2024	Ho Partnerships Sustainable Tourism Officer
<p>CC 3.2 Opportunities to encourage greener transport and travel are being developed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Actively seek opportunities to input to the North Wales Transport Commission and Regional Transport Plan that will help support the sustainable transport vision for Eryri ➤ Work with Tfw to develop Northern Eryri parking and transport delivery plan via the Delivery Group. ➤ Continue to work with partners to address parking and transport issues in the Nantgwynant area. ➤ Continue to facilitate discussions between partners to address parking and transport issues in the Ogwen area. 	Ongoing until April 2025	Ho Partnerships
<p>CC 3.3 Continue to develop the Eryri Ambassadors scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduce two new modules in 2024 on Celtic Rainforest and the Carneddau Landscape Partnership 	Ongoing 2024	Yr Wyddfa Partnership Officer
<p>CC 3.4 Ensuring the current LDP positively implements its policies to contribute to sustainable tourism, that add value to local communities.</p>	To be reported annually	Hof DM&C Hof PP

Footnote: Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme

Working Document

Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 2.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
<p>CC 3.5 Work with TfW to develop a Delivery Plan via the Northern Eryri Delivery Group established in 2023 to enable improved partnership working and the successful prioritisation and delivery of sustainable travel and transport projects, Ensure that community feedback has been considered in developing the plan. Ensure that we collaborate with the LDP team as part of the LDP process in relation to parking and transport related policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Assist the Delivery Group to complete and implement a Delivery Plan 	<p>Oct 2024</p>	<p>Ho Partnerships</p>

This outcome will be achieved by:	CC 4	PROMOTING AND ACTIVELY SUPPORTING THE WELSH LANGUAGE
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<p>CC 4.1 Continuing to develop Yr Ysgwrn as a cultural centre promoting Welsh language culture and actively providing opportunities to socialise through the medium of Welsh</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Hof Cultural Heritage</p>
<p>CC 4.2 Safeguarding and promoting use of Welsh place names by completing the next stage of the standardisation of Eryri place names</p>	<p>March 2025</p>	<p>Hof Cultural Heritage</p>
<p>CC 4.3 Develop opportunities to engage people in the Welsh language, culture and heritage of the area including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Providing opportunities for volunteers to learn and use the Welsh language through the volunteering strategy. 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Volunteer & Well Being Officer</p>

Footnote: Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme

Working Document

Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 2.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
CC 4.4 The Carneddau Voices and Place Names project and Harlech and Arduwy Cultural Heritage Scheme will record, safeguard and celebrate Welsh place names through community mapping events, oral history interviews, outreach projects and interpretation.	Ongoing until December 2025	Hof Cultural Heritage
CC 4.5 Ensuring Development Policy 18: The Welsh Language and the Social and Cultural fabric of Communities is effectively utilised within the development management process	To be reported annually	Hof DM&C

This outcome will be achieved by:	CC 5	DEVELOPING A LOCAL ECONOMY WHICH SUPPORT BOTH THE DESIGNATION AND THE MANAGEMENT OF SNOWDONIA AS A NATIONAL PARK
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CC 5.1 Ensuring the positive implementation of current LDP policies to develop a local economy which support the designation of the NP	To be reported annually	Hof DM&C
CC 5.2 Present an annual monitoring report to members for discussion and consideration of the timetable for commencing a review of the current LDP	Annual report	Hof PP
CC 5.3 Promote opportunities to understand and enjoy Eryri's special qualities sustainably	Ongoing	Hof Comms.

Footnote: Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Footnote: Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme

WELSH GOVERNMENT REMIT LETTER: PEOPLE AND PLACE

WG Priority objectives and actions for SNPA	SNPA Project/Initiative
Contribute to the co-design and implementation of the Sustainable Farming Scheme	AC 4.1
Contribute, where appropriate, to the PfG commitment to establish a Community Food Strategy to encourage the production and supply of locally-sourced food	-
Work with Housing Authorities, Community Land Trusts and private developers, to develop innovative solutions to acute housing issues, and contribute to the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan	CC 1.4
Working with partners such as Local Authorities and Transport for Wales, implement solutions to the pressures of visitors on local infrastructure, including more sustainable transport systems, and communication campaigns to ensure responsible recreation. You must balance that with the importance of tourism to our economy, and the role you play at the heart of this in meeting the need of visitors. You should be guided in this by the recommendations and findings of the recent works by Audit Wales on sustainable tourism.	AC 1.2 1.4 1.5 1.6 1.9 CC 3.1 – 3.6
Support the designation of inland bathing waters and development of Sustainable Drainage Systems	-
Engage with the development of the proposed all-Wales framework for social prescribing	-
Collaborate with key partners to deliver against Priorities for the <i>Historic Environment in Wales</i> to safeguard and interpret the historic environment and cultural heritage	AC 3.1 – AC 3.8
Develop policies that ensure that the Welsh Language is able to thrive, delivering against <i>Cymraeg 2050: Our plan for 2021 to 2026</i>	CC 4.1 – CC 4.5
Increase engagement in opportunities for people in vulnerable or disadvantaged groups, and under-represented communities to benefit from the landscapes you manage	CC 1.2 1.3
Increase provision of skills training, apprenticeship and volunteering opportunities	CC 1.2 1.3 CC 2.1 2.2

Footnote: Many of the Projects and Initiatives are relevant to several wellbeing objectives but are referred to once under the most appropriate objective in the Work Programme

3. RESILIENT WAYS OF WORKING

This outcome will be achieved by:	CW 1	DEVELOPING A SKILLED WORKFORCE
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Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 3.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
CW 1.1 Engaging with our staff at all levels to assist performance management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All Authority staff members will be appraised within the 12 months ➤ Training needs assessments of all staff will have been undertaken within the 12 months 	Ongoing March 2025	Hof Human Resources (HR)
CW 1.2 Supporting staff to attend National Park peer groups to keep them informed of development and to assist performance management and understanding within their respective disciplines	Ongoing March 2025	Hof HR Hsof Service
CW 1.3 Further develop our workforce and provide staff with every opportunity to develop to meet future challenges	Ongoing March 2025	Hsof Service Hof HR

This outcome will be achieved by:	CW 2	DEVELOPING AND PROMOTING BEST PRACTICE
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Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 3.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
<p>CW 2.1 Share achievements of Decarbonisation projects through SLSP funding with other bodies within designated landscapes and wider public estate</p>	Ongoing	Hof Property
<p>CW 2.2 Enhancing Staff Engagement and Wellbeing Initiatives. As part of our commitment to fostering a supportive and thriving workplace environment, we are looking to implement several strategies to ensure the well-being of our employees and promote a culture of connectivity and wellness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Research and Implementation of Best Practices: We will be researching and adopting best practices from other parks and authorities in relation to conducting health surveillance checks for staff to prioritise their health and safety. ➤ Analysis of Sickness Absences: Understanding the factors contributing to sickness absences to identify trends and implement targeted interventions to promote overall well-being and reduce absenteeism. ➤ Increased Staff Networking: Building a sense of community and camaraderie among our employees by organising more frequent staff get-together days, including lunches and outdoor events, to provide opportunities for relaxation, socialisation, and rejuvenation. 	March 2025	Ho HR

Working Document

his outcome will be achieved by:	CW 3	EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WORKING
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Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 3.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
CW 3.1 Cynllun Eryri is being implemented successfully and the first annual progress report has been presented to the Authority. Present third annual report to Authority	June 2024	Ho Partnerships
CW 3.2 Support the work of the National Designated Landscapes Partnership (NDLP) in Wales	Ongoing	CEO
CW 3.3 Continue to support the work of UK wide National Park Authorities, the National Parks Partnership, National Parks Foundation and other associated collaborative initiatives	Ongoing	CEO
CW 3.4 Contribute to the formation and development of the planning function of the North Wales CJC	Ongoing	Director P&LM
CW 3.5 In order to achieve the review of 2025 Cynllun Eryri on schedule, data for the State of the Park Report has been gathered and interpreted with input from internal and external colleagues by the end of 2024.	Summary report presented to Members by December 2024.	Partnerships Manager

This outcome will be achieved by:	CW 4	MODERNISING GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS
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CW 4.1 Monitor Members attendance at Authority meetings	March 2025	Member Services Officer
CW 4.1 Support and develop Authority members through training and development ➤ Continue to support WG to refine and deliver a training programme on the principles of good governance practice and accountability for Authority Members	Ongoing	Dir. Corporate Services

This outcome will be achieved by:	CW 5	MAINTAINING AND IMPROVE THE UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL PARK
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Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 3.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
CW 5.1 Developing further volunteer opportunities at Yr Ysgwrn to enhance the current cohort of volunteers, seeking to recruit young people who are keen to develop new skills and gain experience, focusing on delivery of activities by volunteers as well as more traditional roles such as visitor guides.	Ongoing	Hof Cultural Heritage + Visitor Experience Manager (when appointed)
CW 5.2 Review and monitor measures in Communication Engagement Strategy via the annual Key Performance Indicators report to ensure local communities and stakeholders understand and are aware of the work of the Authority.	Ongoing	Hof Comms.
CW 5.3 Engage with and keep communities informed through meetings with Community Councils	Autumn 2024 Arrange at least 1 meeting	Hof Admin. & Customer Care
CW 5.4 Liaise with landowners and interested parties through meetings of the Eryri National Park Access Forums	Ongoing	Access Manager
CW 5.5 Liaise with the farming community and farming unions and through meetings of the Agricultural Liaison Group	Annual meeting	Hof CWA
CW 5.6 Involve our local communities in all important aspects of the Authority's work e.g. delivery of Cynllun Eryri, and LDP, formulation of Supplementary Planning Guidances, Engagement Strategies when developing new projects etc. ➤ Develop a Community Engagement Strategy for the Authority	On going March 2025	➤ Ho Partnerships ➤ Hof PP ➤ Cymunedau Eryri Project Officer

This outcome will be achieved by:	CW 6	BALANCING THE AUTHORITY'S RESOURCES AND EFFORTS
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Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Refer also to outcomes at end of Section 3.)	Timetable for completion	Officer(s) responsible
<p>CW 6.1 Utilising a twin track approach, review Plas Tan y Bwlch's operating model:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seek partnership working for the management of Plas Tan y Bwlch and ➤ Progress preparations for disposing the property on the open market in the event that partnership working is not feasible 	March 2025	CEO Dir. Corp. Svcs.
<p>CW 6.2 Review the Authority's car parking fees and if relevant progress preparatory work for increasing the fees in line with other car parking providers in the area</p>	March 2025	Ho Property
<p>CW 6.3 Progress a review of the commercial potential of the Authority's Information Centres</p>	March 2025	Ho Cult. Heritage Sus. Tourism Mgr.

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

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

CW2, 3: Cynllun Eryri is being implemented successfully.

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

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

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

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

CW6: We will achieve within the allocated budget and Authority reserves are utilised in a sustainable manner.

WELSH GOVERNMENT REMIT LETTER: EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING

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

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	24 April 2024
TITLE	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL FOR WALES
REPORT BY	Director of Corporate Services
PURPOSE	To discuss the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Members will no doubt recall that a report was submitted to the Authority on 15th November 2023 when the draft report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales was discussed. The Authority decided that it should accept the draft report and recommendations as submitted with the minor resource implications which will necessitate an increase to existing budgets.

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

[Adroddiad Blynyddol 2024 i 2025](#)

[Annual Report 2024 to 2025](#)

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

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

RECOMMENDATION

To note the contents of the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to the Authority dated 15th November 2023

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	24 th April 2024
TITLE	OUTDOOR RECREATION POSITION STATEMENT 2024-2029
REPORT BY	Peter Rutherford – Access and Well-Being Manager
PURPOSE	To present the final document for approval by the Authority

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The original Recreational Strategy (2012 – 2017) was drawn up by the Forward Planning department within the National Park Authority. There was a requirement to update this previous text document to ensure relevance and that it is fit for purpose.
- 1.2 Given the increasing numbers partaking of activities in the countryside, it is important that the Authority is proactive in this sector.
- 1.3 Following the draft document consultation period some changes have been made to encompass views of the Authority and responses from stakeholders within the sector.

2. KEY POINTS

- 2.1 The new document in **Annex 1**, is closely aligned with the statutory Management Plan (Cynllun Eryri) and its objectives and the special qualities of the National Park.
- 2.2 The document encompasses as far as possible the latest in trends in the outdoor recreational sector and ensures that activities are sustainable.
- 2.3 It considers the needs of visitors, local communities, and the disabled and less abled sectors alike.

- 2.4 The document is proactive in its approach to infrastructure improvements and access orientated projects, which are undertaken as part of our work or in partnership with other stakeholders, where the NP will actively promote least restrictive option principles wherever possible.
- 2.5 The document is flexible enough to ensure that we are ready to work with others where legislative changes may occur in the future, including access to water or any changes to access provisions for Public Rights of Way or access land.

3. INNOVATIONS

- 3.1 The second half of the document contains a new approach to the recreational sector. This is based on “activity statements” relevant to each and every type (of known) activity that occur within the National Park which by today is widely variable.
- 3.2 These statements outline the Authority’s stance on the various activities in this sector and how the Authority will respond to these activities and work with all stakeholders (such as user groups, landowners and land managers, other local authorities, and the Local Access Forums) to encourage and promote good practice and be ready to help resolve issues where they arise.
- 3.3 In terms of recreational management it is important that the National Park Authority is seen as a positive and proactive influence, and is ready to respond to, and work with, others within the sector.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is not envisaged that there will be any additional strain within existing operational budgets to deliver the objectives of the Recreational Strategy.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Members approve the content of the Recreational Strategy (**Annex 1**) as presented.

ERYRI NATIONAL PARK

OUTDOOR RECREATION POSITION STATEMENT

2024-2029



■ Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri
■ Eryri National Park



Contents

Introduction	5
Purpose of the Eryri National Park Outdoor Recreation Position Statement	5
Scope	6
Strategic Context	7
Background	8
National Park status	8
Special qualities	9
Relationship to other plans and policies	10
Recreation in Eryri	11
Access	11
The outdoor recreation offer in Eryri	13
Balancing outdoor recreation with the special qualities of Eryri	14
Keeping people safe	15
Management of outdoor recreation within the National Park	15
Outdoor recreation: Meeting the outcomes of the National Park Management Plan (2020-2025)	17
Sustainable Tourism	17
Climate Change	19
Cultural heritage and the historic environment	20
Well-being	21
Access	22
Information and Understanding	24
Infrastructure and Business	25

Outdoor Recreation Activity Statements	26
Walking	26
Dog walking	28
Rock climbing, scrambling & bouldering	29
Cycling	30
Mountain biking	31
Electric bikes	32
Accessible Eryri	33
Water sports	34
Angling	35
Mountain running	36
Orienteering	37
Triathlons	37
Organised events	38
Outdoor education centres	40
Equestrian	41
Air sports (non-motorised)	41
Motorised off-road activities	42
Drones	43
Wild camping	44
Camper vans and motor homes	45
Other activities	45
Cultural & Environmental Recreation Activity Statements	46
Driving & coach tours	46
Wildlife watching	47
Heritage sites & visitor attractions	47
Events and festivals	47
Study	48
Art & photography	48
Dark skies	49
Implementation, Monitoring & Review	50
Implementation	50
Monitoring	50
Review	50
Sources of Information	51



Introduction

Purpose of the Eryri National Park Outdoor Recreation Position Statement

The iconic landscape of Eryri with its nine mountain ranges and 73 miles of coastline offers extensive opportunities for recreation, leisure and learning for people of all ages and abilities. This statement outlines the position of the Eryri National Park Authority (ENPA) relating to access and outdoor recreation within the varied landscapes of Eryri for the next five years. This statement identifies how the Authority can work to deliver sustainable outdoor recreation and contribute to the relevant outcomes of the National Park Management Plan (Cynllun Eryri).

The statement considers the strategic management of outdoor recreation, recognising the need to be responsive to the review of the National Park Management Plan scheduled for 2025. In addition, the Authority must be flexible and able to adapt to the significant changes and trends in participation in outdoor recreation post-COVID19 and the growing appreciation of the value of outdoor recreation to the health and well-being of local communities and visitors.

The position of the Authority concerning outdoor recreation and access aligns with current Welsh Government policies, including its key role in delivering the health and well-being agenda as defined by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Policy statements are presented for individual activities and cross-cutting themes are identified. The positive aspects of outdoor recreation in an iconic landscape are recognised along with the need to manage potential issues such as traffic management, impacts on biodiversity from localised habitat degradation and environmental disturbance, conflicts with other land uses, conflicts between user groups and with local communities, and the dilution of Eryri's sense of place.

The Authority does not work in isolation but through strong partnerships with the many organisations involved in looking after Eryri for future generations. This statement is relevant to all communities and stakeholders who deliver, manage, promote or are affected by outdoor recreation. It defines a position from which management actions can be agreed and implemented jointly with partners.



Scope

In this statement, outdoor recreation is defined as ‘any leisure activity which takes place outside, through which people can exercise, explore, and become familiar with natural and cultural environments.

Within Eryri, certain areas are used more intensely for recreation, most notably Yr Wyddfa, the Ogwen Valley (Carneddau and Glyderau) and the Conwy Valley. Consequently, the villages of northern Eryri such as Capel Curig, Betws y Coed, Beddgelert, Llanberis, Nant Peris and Rhyd Ddu are increasingly busy. Other areas in the south and east of the National Park are also popular such as Cader Idris, Harlech, Dyffryn Ardudwy, Aberdyfi, Dolgellau and Llyn Tegid, Y Bala.

By clearly stating the Authority’s position on access and outdoor recreation activities across Eryri, this statement outlines a generic approach to sustainable recreation management. In some of the more popular areas, the pressures arising from outdoor recreation are significant. In these areas, the Authority works with and will continue to work with, partner organisations to ensure people can appreciate and enjoy Eryri with minimal impact on its special qualities.

Whilst the strategy focuses on the area of the National Park, the Authority acknowledges the importance of areas outside the National Park boundary including nearby towns, three adjacent Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Harlech Castle and the Slate Landscape of North West Wales, and parts of the UNESCO Dyfi Biosphere. We will work with other local authorities and stakeholders on cross-boundary issues when required.



Strategic Context

This plan will be delivered in the context of several organisational and local/national strategies as well as legislation including:

- Cynllun Eryri 2020
- SNPA Wellbeing Objectives and Corporate Work Programme
- Cyngor Gwynedd and Eryri Visitor Economy Strategy
- Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP) – Gwynedd and Conwy Councils
- Cyngor Gwynedd & Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan 2035
- Cyngor Gwynedd & Anglesey Well-being Plan 2023-2028
- Conwy & Denbighshire Local Well-being Plan 2023-2028
- Natural Resources Wales Corporate Plan & Area Statements
- Well-being & Future Generations Act (2015)
- Highways Act 1980
- Countryside Act 1968
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Countryside & Rights of Way Act (Wales) 2000
- Environment Act 1995
- Equality Act 2010
- National Parks Act 1949
- UNESCO Dyfi Biosphere Reserve



Background

National Park status

Eryri National Park was designated in 1951 following the Hobhouse Report (1947) which was the basis for the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Eryri National Park was the first to be established in Wales and is the most extensive, covering 2,132 square km (823 square miles) from Conwy in the north to Aberdyfi in the south.

Eryri is comprised of a diverse mix of landscapes many of which are highly valued for their natural beauty and tranquillity. The National Park is renowned for its vast mountainous backdrops but also offers beautiful and unspoilt valleys and coastal settings. There are very few places in the world where it is possible to experience all of these environments within such a short distance of each other.

The statutory purposes of the National Park Authority, as set out in law under Section 61 of the Environment Act 1995 are to:

1. Protect and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage
2. Promote opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy the special qualities of the National Parks.

In carrying out these purposes, the Authority is also required to support the economic and social well-being of the National Park's local communities.

When these purposes conflict with each other, then the Sandford Principle should be used to give more weight to the conservation of the environment.

The Sandford Principle.

If there is a conflict between protecting the environment and people enjoying the environment, that cannot be resolved by management, then protecting the environment must always take priority.

Special Qualities

The special qualities are the defining characteristics of a National Park. They set out what makes the area special and unique. The combination of the nine special qualities of Eryri is the core of its designation as a National Park and defines what gives it its unique sense of place.

The nine special qualities of Eryri are:

1. **Diverse landscapes:** The diversity of high-quality landscapes and coastal areas within a small geographic area - ranging from coast to rolling uplands to the rugged mountains for which Eryri is famed.
2. **Community cohesion:** A robust sense of community identity cohesion, continuity and inclusivity combine to give a strong 'sense of place and belonging' within Eryri.
3. **Vibrancy of the Welsh language:** Most obvious in Eryri as it continues to be the choice of language in many social and professional environments. It is evident in local place names, the wildlife and history therein and is therefore intrinsic to the uniqueness of our cultural and natural heritage.
4. **Inspiration for the Arts:** Eryri is a place which has inspired some of the nation's most notable culture, folklore, art, literature and music, an influence which continues to the present day.
5. **Tranquillity and solitude:** The opportunity for people to understand and enjoy the National Park actively, whilst maintaining areas of silence, tranquillity and solitude, thus promoting aspects of health, well-being, and personal reflection.
6. **Extensive recreation:** Opportunities for recreation, leisure and learning for people of all ages and abilities.
7. **Historic landscapes:** The changing relationship between people and nature over time has produced landscapes of great beauty and variety in Eryri; a national asset that is essential both to our identity and to our individual 'sense of place' and wellbeing.
8. **Renowned geology:** Complex, varied, and renowned geology, which has been vital in influencing the disciplines of geology and geography internationally.
9. **Internationally important species and habitats:** There are 17 National Nature Reserves in Eryri; more than in any other National Park in England and Wales; and 56 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The tremendous biodiversity reflects the varied landscape, geology, climate, and land management. The richness of plants and animals is fundamental to the history, culture, language, economy, and ongoing well-being of all people who live in and visit the area.

Outdoor recreation is dependent on, contributes to, or impacts each of the nine special qualities. This position statement focuses on special quality 6 and how outdoor recreation can be sustainably managed to the benefit of all.

Relationship to other plans and policies

This position statement is intended to complement several plans.

The Eryri National Park Authority® has three strategic plans:

- The National Park Management Plan (Cynllun Eryri 2020-25): a partnership document that outlines a shared vision for the area.
- The Local Development Plan: sets standards and policies for development within Eryri National Park. The LDP lists factors to consider when evaluating planning applications and granting planning permissions.
- Eryri Well-being Statement 2021-2026: sets out the National Park Authority's revised well-being objectives, describes how they will help achieve the seven well-being goals for Wales and establishes the rationale and the steps that will be taken to achieve them.

The Eryri National Park Management Plan and the Local Development Plan have a shared vision which has been agreed upon through wide consultation with many partner communities and organisations, as follows:

Exceptional Eryri

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 Eryri 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.

This position statement outlines how the sustainable management of outdoor recreation contributes to the delivery of this vision.

The Cyngor Gwynedd and Eryri National Park Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan 2035 identifies the following sustainable visitor economy principles:

1. Celebrate, respect, and protect our communities, language, culture and heritage.
2. Maintain and respect our environment.
3. Ensure that the advantages to Gwynedd and Eryri communities outweigh any disadvantages.

Through this statement, the Authority demonstrates its commitment to the management of outdoor recreation to ensure that it meets these principles.



Recreation in Eryri

Access

For generations, Eryri has been a world-renowned recreational venue for a variety of outdoor activities. The benefits to people's health and well-being from exploring and exercising in the exceptional landscapes of Eryri are appreciated by both local communities and visitors alike.

The National Park provides accessibility to the public through its mountain, woodlands, and coastal landscapes, via an extensive network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW), CROW Access Land and other routes. These features facilitate access to other recreational activities within the National Park, for example, cycling, horse riding, water sports, climbing and picnicking, and also, between settlements. Use of this network of footpaths etc varies with locality and season.

In Eryri there are:

- 2,742.6 km of Public Rights of Way
- 42 km permissive paths
- 268 km bridleways
- 50 km restricted byways
- 25 km byways
- 22.3 km of wheelchair-accessible paths
- 74 miles of the All Wales Coastal Path



The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) introduced a new right for people to walk freely over 'access land' (i.e. areas of open country and registered common land) in England and Wales, including mapped areas of mountain, moor, heath and down (collectively defined as 'open country') and registered common land, much of which was previously off-limits. Section 16 of the Act provides for a voluntary dedication scheme, allowing landowners to dedicate statutory access to any other categories of land in perpetuity. Through this mechanism, since 1999, proposals have been made by the then Forestry Commission (now Natural Resources Wales) to dedicate public rights of access to the majority of freehold National Assembly-owned woodland.

In Eryri, large areas of land were traditionally accessible to the public through access agreements between landowners and the National Park Authority. The CROW Act extended public access significantly across the National Park, with the designation of 'open country,' 'Registered Common Land' and also forests.

Types of access land within Eryri by area are as follows:

- Open Country: 84,697ha
- Registered Common Land with access: 21,958ha.
- Forestry Commission Land with access: 20,987ha
- Total access secured under the CRoW Act: 127,642ha.
- Percentage of National Park area with CRoW access: 59.86%

The National Park Authority is not the statutory highways authority for Public Rights of Way. This duty lies with both Cyngor Gwynedd and Conwy Borough County Council within their respective areas. However, the Authority undertakes considerable work on their behalf under limited management agreements. The Authority has responsibility for matters pertaining to CRoW access land and manages CRoW restrictions and exclusions and some longer-distance routes within that access land.

Over the past 60 years, as a result of increased leisure time and improved accessibility from centres of population, particularly in the northwest and the midlands of England, Eryri has become increasingly popular for an ever-widening range of recreational activities. Today Eryri has a reputation as one of the UK's premier adventure destinations. The most recent visitor monitoring figures (2019) for the mountainous areas indicate that over 560,000 thousand people visited Yr Wyddfa, 140,000 visited the Ogwen Valley and 75,000 visited Cader Idris.

The outdoor recreation offer in Eryri

Eryri National Park benefits from a good recreation infrastructure utilised by many outdoor education centres and outdoor activity businesses that make a significant contribution to the regional and local economy. These organisations and businesses attract both domestic and international visitors.

The tourism offer includes places for example:

- National Mountain Centre, Plas y Brenin
- Glan-Ilyn Outdoor Activity Centre, Bala
- Trawsfynydd Lake Angling Centre
- National White Water Centre, Tryweryn
- Aberdyfi Outward Bound Centre
- Zip World Centres; Betws y Coed, Penrhyn Quarry, Llechwedd
- Go Below, Betws y Coed
- Coed Y Brenin Mountain Biking Centre, Dolgellau
- The National Water Sports Centre for Wales, located at Plas Menai but uses sites within Eryri.

Significant areas of land are managed for public benefit by the Eryri National Park Authority, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), the National Trust and the Woodland Trust. The region hosts many local outdoor activity clubs and associations including those for canoeing and kayaking, cycling, fell running, orienteering, swimming, walking, climbing, angling, paragliding, and caving.

In addition to the more active opportunities within Eryri, it is a popular location for those wishing to learn and enjoy the culture and history of the region. The National Park's landscape, language, history, traditions, culture, and historic environment combine to provide a unique sense of place enjoyed and appreciated by millions of people each year. Countless artists have gained and continue to gain inspiration from the landscape of Eryri. During the nineteenth century, the area was visited by leading scientists such as Adam Sedgwick, Charles Darwin, and James Hutton, who were all influential in developing our understanding of our natural and physical environment. The study of Eryri's biodiversity, geomorphology and geology are still very popular leisure, recreational and educational activities.

Eryri is home to the National Slate Museum, Llanberis, Yr Ysgwrn, Trawsfynydd and six heritage steam railways. In addition, there are two UNESCO World Heritage sites in Eryri, Harlech Castle and the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales, as well as numerous sites managed by Cadw - the Welsh Government's historic environment service.



Balancing outdoor recreation with the special qualities of Eryri

The economic benefits of recreation to the region and the health benefits to both local communities and visitors are significant, however, increasing numbers of users in specific areas can impact upon the special qualities of the National Park. For example, high numbers of people can detract from the tranquillity and solitude of the experience, can impact the viability of the agricultural economy and can be detrimental to biodiversity. In addition, high numbers of people in some locations can create unease between user groups, local communities, and landowners.

The modern cultural landscape continues to be moulded by local farming communities proud of their association with this exceptional area. Recreation management and development must have regard for agriculture and the landscape's productive functionality and its role in shaping Eryri. Conversely, land management sectors should be aware of the wider social, economic, health and well-being benefits that the recreation sector can bring to the local and visiting public, which is the role of the Authority and its second statutory purpose.

Recreation pressure is particularly focused in the uplands of northern Eryri, primarily Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) and the Ogwen Valley. Villages such as Betws y Coed and Beddgelert can suffer from acute traffic congestion, particularly during the summer months.

This statement seeks to balance people's recreational needs with the need to conserve and enhance Eryri's special qualities for future generations.

Keeping people safe

Public safety is an important issue for the Authority and its partners. Many outdoor recreation activities carry a degree of risk and people need to know how to plan for the environment and conditions they are heading into so that they can make informed decisions to manage their safety and that of their companions. The changing demographic of participants, increased footfall to honey pot sites and pin drop locations thanks to social media content all necessitate the need to promote safety messages to new audiences, especially those whose knowledge and experience of outdoor recreation activities and the landscapes in which they occur is limited. Access to engaging, accurate and appropriate 'good practice safety messaging is essential to reduce the number of avoidable incidents and relieve the pressure on emergency services, including the volunteers of the Mountain Rescue and RNLI teams.

The Authority will continue to support and promote initiatives and safety codes that help people make more informed decisions about their safety. We will work with voluntary groups such as the Mountain Rescue Teams and initiatives such as the AdventureSmart Strategy for safe participation in outdoor recreation to ensure the messaging is consistent and up-to-date.



Management of outdoor recreation within the National Park

The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) defines sustainable tourism as:

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

The National Park Authority adheres to this definition and the UNWTO's principles for sustainable tourism which were recently adopted by the Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan 2025.

The Authority's vision for outdoor recreation is as follows:

- Eryri National Park will continue to be a renowned, high-quality destination that provides a wide range of recreation opportunities, catering for all levels of experience and expertise.
- The National Park's diverse landscape will continue to inspire and provide a range of experiences for local people and visitors alike, becoming an exemplary and ambitious destination celebrated for sustainable, innovative, and effective recreation development.
- Sustainability will permeate the sector demonstrating commitment to carbon reduction and respect for the natural environment, the agricultural sector, our cultural heritage, and the Welsh language, by exceeding legislative requirements.
- Recreation opportunities shall be available to all, irrespective of age, ability and social or ethnic background, with the needs and expectations understood and catered for wherever possible.
- Recreation will play its part in helping the National Park Authority and its partners in making Eryri a good place to live, enjoy, work, visit and invest in for the future.

Whilst the Authority understands that recreation can make a significant and positive contribution to the local and regional economy the Authority's emphasis will be on sustainable recreational management, where recreation will at best enhance Eryri's special qualities and at worst be neutral in impact.



The Authority will:

- Seek to ensure that recreational activities occur only where appropriate and that impacts are managed and mitigated to ensure they are not detrimental to the special qualities.
- Seek to ensure that the carbon footprint of outdoor recreation is reduced by encouraging more use of sustainable transport methods, i.e. shared transport and the use of public transport services and will promote the sourcing of goods and services as locally as possible. It will exemplify good practice in encouraging reductions in energy use and focus on waste and plastic reduction.
- seek to maximise outdoor recreation's positive economic and social impacts for the benefit of those living and working locally and where its positive contribution can be valued by local communities and businesses.
- work with its partners, so that through discussion, cooperation, and the promotion of good practice, such as the Countryside Code it can give appropriate advice and also mediate when and where required between user groups, individuals, and other stakeholders, to ensure that activities are appropriate and sustainable.

Outdoor recreation: Meeting the outcomes of the National Park Management Plan (2020-2025)

This section details the actions required to meet the outcomes of the National Park Management Plan (Cynllun Eryri 2020-25) relating to outdoor recreation. *Please note that the Action Plan will be revised in 2025 so the following wording will change in light of that revision:*

Sustainable Tourism

Welcoming visitors to our beautiful part of the world has been our lifeblood for centuries. Nevertheless, recent increases in visitors to the National Park are having a significant impact on the environment in popular areas such as Yr Wyddfa, the Ogwen valley and Llyn Tegid. This includes path erosion, cairn proliferation, litter, traffic and parking problems, and overcrowding.

Outcome A1 - Any negative impacts of recreation activities on the National Park are being reduced.

The Authority and its Partners will take action to meet this outcome as follows:

1. Review research into the capacity of areas to cope with the recreational demand, commissioning new research if required, including aspects such as erosion, habitat degradation and sustainable transport and parking. Any new recreational developments must ensure that they are appropriate and can mitigate against any adverse effects that increasing use or a wider range of activities which may occur in the longer term.
2. Where there is a proven adverse effect then the Authority will promote mediation, encourage dialogue, and sponsor good practice including the use of recognised codes produced by National Governing Bodies, the North Wales Outdoor Environmental Charter, and the National Park Event Guidance. These will guide and assist individuals, user groups, conservation, and land managers to plan accordingly and to achieve positive outcomes from recreational activity management.
3. Improve communication, interpretation, and site management to reduce instances of habitat or wildlife disturbance by providing information specifically targeted at the recreational sector on why sites are protected and how people can adjust or moderate their activities accordingly whilst enjoying the outdoors.
4. Improve interpretation/signage to discourage inappropriate recreation activities and to encourage responsible recreation, minimising impacts on the environment, tranquillity, and traditional land management practices.
5. Address any negative impacts of recreation on biodiversity and landscapes, especially in areas of high use with mitigation measures detailed in the local action plans.
6. Provide guidance and advice on best practice for those organising and taking part in events, including advising on suitable dates, routes, the use of sustainable transport, litter minimisation and control, mountain safety and post-event management and provide other relevant stakeholder information (within the constraints of data protection). We will work closely with events teams of both Cyngor Gwynedd and Conwy County Borough Council when required.



7. Discourage any events which are proven or likely to be illegal or are detrimental to Eryri's local communities, special qualities, biodiversity, and habitats, or to other people's enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park.
8. High-volume activities in tranquil areas will not be favoured, thereby protecting the special quality of tranquillity and solitude.
9. Work with other authorities to enforce relevant legislative powers to reduce the negative effects of irresponsible illegal off-road vehicular recreation on the special qualities of the area and work with formal stakeholders within this sector to promote good practice on legally available routes.
10. Deliver appropriate actions in tandem with the Tourist Destination Management Plans for Gwynedd and Conwy.
11. Maintain existing working partnerships and agreements, seeking to work with stakeholders to promote sustainable practices.
12. Ensure partners recognise Eryri's Special Qualities in publicity material whilst acknowledging the area's fragility from potential over-development and the need for promoting safe and responsible use.
13. Explore ways of enhancing the environment through recreation: train the trainer programmes for outdoor instructors, citizen science programmes, and 'give back' environmental projects.



Climate Change

Climate change models predict that Yr Wyddfa will experience higher instances of drought and heat in the summer, mirrored by more extreme rainfall and stormier, milder winters. These changes may alter the National Park's ability to sustain some of its special qualities.

Outcome A3 - We are prepared for the impacts of climate change and are reducing our carbon footprint.

The Authority and its Partners will take action to meet this outcome as follows:

14. Manage the effects of extreme weather events upon upland and other promoted routes and build/repair/maintain these to be as resilient as possible for the future.
15. Encourage all recreational users to reduce their dependency on cars and to consider alternative public transport services and shared car use when visiting the area. Future use of private transport in the local area will be heavily influenced by recommendations made in parking and transport reviews taking place under the Eryri Partnership Plan and its subsequent objectives and actions.
16. Work with other stakeholders to encourage outdoor recreation businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and increase their resilience to changes in the climate.
17. Work with other stakeholders to monitor the vulnerability of key sites to the pressures from recreation in light of the changing climate.



Cultural heritage and the historic environment

The cultural heritage and identity of Eryri are as notable as the landscapes and biodiversity. Our cultural heritage has evolved over centuries of human interaction with the land by way of farming, quarrying, and mining as well as its intangible associations through legends, stories, and distinctive names.

Outcome A6 - Eryri is a leading example in Wales of how to care for and champion cultural heritage and the historic environment.

The Authority and its Partners will take action to meet this outcome as follows:

18. Develop the concept of 'cultural gateways' to improve access to cultural recreation by supporting cultural attractions in key locations and for specific themes e.g., industrial heritage, archaeology, and Welsh culture.
19. Support events and festivals that celebrate the National Park's special qualities by providing publicity and advice.
20. Support regional strategies and projects that highlight Eryri's inspirational qualities and promote relevant associated recreational activity.
21. Highlight the value of the sense of place and improve consideration and understanding of the area's uniqueness and intangible cultural heritage, including the Welsh language, within the recreation sector. For example, by providing guides, outdoor instructors and accommodation providers with advice and training on aspects of cultural and linguistic heritage. Support and deliver improvements to the physical linkages between heritage sites and attractions by improving or providing new access points, trails, and information where appropriate.
22. Emphasis will be placed on the use of original local Welsh place names to promote awareness of their origins and highlight their importance, significance and meaning within Welsh culture.



Well-being

Outcome B1 - The National Park is having a positive impact on well-being.

Wales has already implemented a ground-breaking piece of legislation to drive the way we do things, which is focused on people's well-being as a whole. National Parks in particular provide opportunities for improving people's physical and mental health.

The Authority and its Partners will take action to meet this outcome as follows:

23. Develop and promote trails/organised walks and other projects that increase awareness among local communities and highlight the health and wellbeing benefits to be found within their local environment.
24. Promote Eryri as a destination for healthy recreation activity both nationally and internationally by working with the tourism and health sectors.
25. Build upon the successes of the Leisure Networks initiative and seek to increase their use and support promoted circular routes in communities throughout the National Park when opportunities arise, and resources are available.
26. Increase opportunities and support for volunteers by providing logistical support and assisting in identifying priorities and developing work programmes.
27. Continue to develop a high-quality multiuser network.
28. Continue to seek new CRoW `access land` routes and work with landowners to provide access/ egress points where such routes present themselves.

Access

The population of Eryri is on average healthier and more active than the population of Wales as a whole; however, it is clear that some people are being deprived of opportunities to enjoy and learn about Eryri's special qualities because of physical impairment or social disadvantage. We aim to improve and promote the accessibility of routes within the National Park so that all people are able to enjoy and appreciate what makes Eryri exceptional.

Outcome B2 - Residents and visitors can access a variety of routes in the National Park aimed to improve physical and mental health.

The Authority and its Partners will take action to meet this outcome as follows:

29. Continue to improve access and maintain upland footpaths, especially on those routes and Public Rights of Way where our service level agreements allow, access to open access land and the suite of promoted routes throughout the National Park.
30. Provide an infrastructure (PRoW furniture, car parks and visitor facilities) appropriate to the needs of a wide range of recreation user groups and improve the distribution of recreation opportunities throughout Eryri.
31. Seek to increase the length of multiuser and less restrictive paths (such as miles without stiles), potentially using redundant track beds, upgrading existing trails, and removing barriers where opportunities present themselves and if sufficient resources are available to encourage and enable greater participation.
32. Identify the needs of specific recreation groups to ensure that new or upgraded routes and infrastructure are built to the proper standard, particularly those routes highlighted as all ability and/or accessible routes for disabled people or less abled with an adherence to the least restrictive option as a fundamental principle wherever conditions allow.
33. Identify potential long-distance and circular family-friendly community routes that add value to existing trails.
34. Improve connectivity and standard of the bridleway network when resources and opportunities allow.
35. Develop a more sustainable approach for any new and innovative recreational activities that may develop in Eryri whilst protecting its special qualities. This may be influenced by future legislative changes made by the Welsh Government, for example, `shared user routes` on Public Rights of Way or future changes to allowable activities within CRoW access land.
36. Through their day-to-day work and Service Level Agreements, the National Park Authority, Cyngor Gwynedd and Conwy Borough County Council will work to improve the condition and signage of the National Parks suite of promoted Leisure Network routes and upland footpaths.
37. Implement Rights of Ways Improvement Plans (ROWIPs) for Cyngor Gwynedd and Conwy Borough County Council, considering communities adjoining the National Park boundary.
38. Continue to monitor visitor numbers in areas of high use to enable properly informed decisions to be made in terms of recreational management and any future developments. This information will be made public on an annual basis.



39. Provide a series of facilitated events to encourage opportunities for all to enjoy and experience Eryri's special qualities.
40. Seek additional resources, targeted by evidence and research, to provide proactive support and encouragement for people from disadvantaged areas to enjoy and experience Eryri's Special Qualities.
41. Ensure recreation destinations provide appropriate, affordable, and fully accessible facilities and services for all users by encouraging, supporting, and advising potential providers in this sector.
42. Regularly review and report on the effectiveness of the current provision for disabled users.
43. Encourage the organisers of elite events to provide 'taster' sessions to encourage new participants including those from within local communities.
44. Identify sites at which access to inland waters can be improved for disabled and less abled people through cooperation with key stakeholders; additional legislative changes may help facilitate this.
45. Encourage and increase community and farmer/landowner participation in managing recreation facilities and services by working within existing partnerships.
46. Work in partnership with stakeholders including the disability access groups.
47. Work with the Local Access Forums (northern and southern) when considering new initiatives and seek their guidance and advice when required. Their role is also crucial in responding to and advising the Authority on the various national Welsh Government and other consultations concerning access and recreation.



Information and Understanding

Eryri is the third most well-known National Park Authority in the UK, and visitors are increasing by 2.4% every year. Nevertheless, there exists a general confusion over Yr Wyddfa and Eryri, and visitors' understanding of the outstanding cultural and historic special qualities of the park is limited.

Outcome B3 - Our special qualities are widely recognised.

The Authority and its Partners will take action to meet this outcome as follows:

48. Develop interactive web-based maps of recreation opportunities and cultural sites across the National Park including Apps and Smartphone interfaces.
49. Provide information for outdoor recreation activities through the Authority's website, Apps, web-based maps for promoted routes, on social media platforms, and dissemination via relevant third-party linkages. This information will include safety information, good practice guides, codes of conduct and advice from National Governing Bodies.
50. Improve trails to access land and routes historic and cultural sites when opportunities present themselves.
51. Support centres of excellence within and close to the National Park boundary to provide exemplary examples of how outdoor recreation can foster understanding and stewardship of the culture and environment of the National Park.
52. Work in partnership to develop and implement destination management plans for key sites within Eryri to channel funding and resources as required by the Welsh Government.
53. Encourage recreation providers to offer complementary activities which broaden their appeal and encourage repeat visits, particularly for disabled, less abled, and socially excluded users.
54. Encourage joint marketing between recreation activity providers.
55. Work with regional Environmental Outdoor Charter Groups and National Governing Bodies to disseminate good practice and develop and promote codes of conduct for a range of recreational activities.



Infrastructure and Business

'Diversifying' is one of the hottest terms around in current business planning. Reconsidering how we all do things is essential for sustainability and to meet the needs of the modern world. Although the IT and online sectors are huge areas of growth, poor broadband and mobile phone connectivity can restrict opportunities for establishing and developing new business models in Eryri. This will be particularly relevant post-Brexit, and in the meantime ensuring that young people are more likely to leave the area for employment in modern workplaces.

Outcome C2 - Jobs and opportunities encourage people to settle in the area.

The Authority and its Partners will take action to meet this outcome as follows:

48. Provide businesses with information on how to engage more fully with the outdoor recreation sector with an emphasis on sustainable development.
49. Highlight the economic importance of recreation and improve and encourage consideration in spatial and economic planning.
50. Support programmes aimed at increasing training and skills levels for local young people and groups in the outdoor recreation sector.
51. Encourage outdoor activity providers to engage with the Ambassadors Scheme and 'train the trainer' events organised by the Environmental Outdoor Charter Groups.
52. Work with existing partnerships to consider the merits of visitor payback schemes in Eryri to help protect and improve infrastructure and facilities.
53. Develop and support trails which add value to existing/in-development routes, for example, the All-Wales Coastal Path, Taith Ardudwy, the Slate Trail, and Cylchdaith Yr Wyddfa.
54. Encourage and promote circular walks around villages and smaller settlements. Smaller-scale developments of this type can contribute significantly to the economy of local communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has stimulated particular interest in locally available community routes within the National Park.
55. Work within strategic plans to reduce the seasonality of outdoor recreation activity by promoting sustainable 'out of season' events and Eryri as a 'year-round' destination.
56. Focus future development in areas able to accommodate growth in terms of visitor capacity, access, public transport, and landscape considerations in line with the Local Development Plan.
57. Support initiatives/projects which support local employment within the sector, such as the Outdoor Partnership and the Small Woods Association.

Outdoor Recreation Activity Statements

This section details the Authority's position statements for individual outdoor recreation activities.

Walking

Walking is the single most popular recreational activity in Eryri, and the National Park offers walking opportunities of varying degrees of ease or difficulty to suit all users including visitors and local communities. Walking is a significant economic driver within the local and regional economy, is important to health and well-being and is appealing to those seeking peace and tranquillity - from the challenge of summiting Yr Wyddfa to the ease of the Mawddach Trail or by using other community links, all routes are equally important.

The network includes 2,742.6 km of Public Rights of Way and other paths within access land; over 66% of the National Park area is designated as access land. The Authority continues to promote a suite of routes including circulars and linear routes and will continue to explore options to add new routes.

The hills and mountains of Eryri are a significant attraction for walkers and the number of participants continues to grow year on year. In 2019, Yr Wyddfa was climbed by almost 560,000 people using its six principal paths¹, whilst over 140,000 were recorded in the Ogwen Valley including Cwm Idwal and 75,000 walked up Cader Idris. Sustainably managing the pressure in these more popular areas is vital to ensure their protection.

The National Park hosts several sections of longer-distance routes such as Taith Mary Jones, the North Wales Path, the Pilgrims Way, the Eryri Way, Taith Arduwy Walk, the Carneddau Circular, the Slate Trail, and the Cambrian Way. Both the Macmillan Cross Britain Way and the Dee Way also begin or end their trails in Eryri.

Seventy-four miles of the Wales Coast Path lie within the Eryri, extending from Llandecwyn in the north to Machynlleth in the south. The Authority will continue to support the Wales Coast Path team, Gwynedd Council and Conwy Borough County Council in this Welsh Government initiative.

There are numerous forest walks either in National Park-owned woodlands or in woodlands owned and managed by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Woodland Trust Wales and the National Trust.

The National Park undertakes significant levels of footpath maintenance on the more popular and promoted upland paths and will continue to do so as resources allow. One of the biggest challenges is to ensure that routes remain sustainable, necessitating that when upgraded they are built to a high standard and can withstand factors arising from climate change and increasing footfall. The Authority shares good practice regarding maintenance and footpath works with landowners and other partners such as the National Trust.

¹ Source ENPA Annual Visitor Monitoring Report



The Authority in conjunction, with the Highways Authorities, will continue to work constructively with landowners to improve route infrastructure, follow the `Miles without Stiles` philosophy, and remove barriers such as ladder stiles which will be replaced with gates or stepovers as and when opportunities arise. In some locations especially in the uplands, this may not be practicable, however, all cases will be assessed on the least restrictive option criteria. This will make the network more accessible to as many users as possible.

The National Park will continue to develop the Cylchdaith Eryri-Snowdon Circular Initiative. This is a variable route around the periphery of Yr Wyddfa using some sections of public footpath, access land and existing bridleways (available to cycles). This initiative is supported by the Welsh Government.

Open access land is an opportunity where additional walking experiences may be further explored. Currently the number of access land `through routes` is limited. Where useful routes are identified, the Authority works with landowners and others to increase the number of these routes and improve their connectivity.

Opportunities will also be explored for the creation of longer-distance routes using old redundant railway track beds when resources are available. This will require close working with the local authorities and other stakeholders.

Walking in the uplands can be challenging at any time of year and even lowland and coastal walks have inherent risk. The Authority will work with partners such as the Mountain Rescue Teams and safety initiatives such as the AdventureSmart strategy for outdoor recreation to promote safety messaging at every opportunity through the website, field staff and volunteers.



Dog walking

Dog walking is one of the most important ways that many local people and visitors exercise in the countryside and engage with the environment. It is good for people's mental health and physical well-being; however, this activity can bring unwanted consequences. The Authority is keen to ensure that dog owners take their responsibilities seriously while in the countryside. This includes clearing up after their dog, knowing how to stay safe around livestock, not allowing their dog(s) to disturb livestock or wildlife (particularly overwintering populations and ground-nesting birds in the spring), and not allowing them to interfere with other land management activities such as livestock gathering.

The Authority will work with stakeholders to positively influence the public at every opportunity, to promote and encourage good practice relating to the responsible exercising of dogs in the countryside by providing relevant public information on social media platforms and at National Park-managed sites.

The Authority will support and promote NRW's suite of Countryside Codes including the dog walking code and any other useful public information. The Authority will always encourage dog owners to have their dog on a lead in the vicinity of livestock regardless of whether they are within access land or on a Public Right of Way. This message must be balanced by the important safety message; 'drop the lead if chased by cattle so that you can both head to safety'.



Rock climbing, scrambling & bouldering

Eryri is a world-renowned centre for rock climbing, bouldering, and scrambling. The natural features and rocky nature of the terrain in the National Park attract UK and international climbers. There are rock climbs and scrambles of all standards, from easier novice routes to some of the most technically challenging rock climbs in the world. Bouldering, which is un-roped climbing on low boulders, using large mats or pads to protect from falls, has also seen a significant increase in recent years.

The ease of access to some of the finest climbing venues puts Eryri among the most popular climbing locations in the UK. The opportunity for climbing in Eryri has resulted in the area being closely linked to the sports' history and has been at the forefront of its development globally. The area was important during the early days of mountaineering. Sir John Hunt and his team undertook their initial training on the slopes of Yr Wyddfa and the Glyderau, before the first successful ascent of Everest in 1953.

The most popular climbing destinations are the Yr Wyddfa massif, Llanberis Pass, the Glyderau, Ogwen Valley, and the more remote Carneddau peaks. In the south of the park, rock faces on Cader Idris and Craig Yr Aderyn are also popular, while the low-lying cliffs at Tremadog are popular especially when the weather is less favourable in the higher mountains.

A significant amount of activity is organised through climbing clubs and designated providers such as outdoor centres, but the area is also popular with individual climbers. There are voluntary agreements in place between the conservation bodies, land managers and owners and the British Mountaineering Council (BMC), the national body for mountaineering, rock climbing and hill walking, to protect the unique and special flora or fauna of the Park. The Authority will continue to support these initiatives where they apply. The specific agreements for individual sites can be found by searching the BMC's Regional Access Database <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/modules/RAD/>

The Authority will continue to liaise closely with the BMC and other stakeholders over issues of mutual concern and in the promotion of good practice.



Cycling

Eryri is a popular destination throughout the year for all types of cycling including road cycling and cycle touring. Eryri is served by six National Cycle Network routes and the Ffordd Brailsford Way circuit. It also offers low-grade off-road trail cycling such as the Mawddach Trail and Lon Gwyrfa. The excellent centres and routes attract cycling clubs, local cyclists, and visitors from further afield.

The Authority supports cycling initiatives, particularly family-orientated routes, and active travel links between local communities, this aligns with the Welsh Government's policies to improve health and wellbeing and the need to reduce the number of cars in the National Park. The popularity of cycling has grown post-COVID-19 and the Authority is ready to play a key role in future strategic recreational planning and provision for cycling initiatives. The Authority will seek to encourage and develop new routes, particularly those linking local communities when and where opportunities present themselves and if adequate resources are available.



Mountain biking

During the past two decades, mountain biking and gravel riding have grown in popularity and Eryri has become one of Britain's premier destinations. This growth has been accommodated in mountain biking venues owned and managed by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), the most well-known being Coed y Brenin near Dolgellau, Penmachno (Dolen Machno and Dolen Eryri) and Betws y Coed (Gwydir Mawr/ Fach, formally known as the Marin Trail), and the Llwybr Traws Eryri long-distance cycle route. Other routes around Beddgelert and the Dyfi Valley forest blocks are also popular. This public sector offer is now complemented by privately sponsored trails such as the Antur 'Stiniog bike park based in Blaenau Ffestiniog and the Dyfi Bike Park, near Machynlleth.

In some areas, there is potential to improve connectivity by upgrading sections to create longer-distance routes using existing tracks. The Authority will seek to be as proactive as possible within this sector as resources allow.

The development of purpose-built facilities has reduced the potential for conflict between mountain bikers and other user groups in the countryside particularly on Public Rights of Way (bridleways) providing opportunities for both novices and experts and also creating local business opportunities. Some mountain biking away from the centres has the potential to cause footpath erosion and conflict with other path users on bridleways and byways. Therefore, any future route improvements or developments must be built to sustainable standards and not require significant maintenance in the long term particularly given the extreme patterns of weather due to climate change.

There is active collaboration with the sector specifically the Snowdon Voluntary Cycling Agreement. The Authority has well-established and successful links to the sector and national cycling organisations. Where issues arise, the Authority will act with stakeholders to agree on sustainable management solutions if necessary and encourage the use of the sector code of conduct.

Under current legislation, cycles (regardless of their type) are allowed on bridleways under the Countryside Act 1968. However, if legislative changes occur, for example, for the joint use of some additional Public Rights of Way or within CRoW access land, within the coming years then this is likely to change the type and degree of use in some areas. Therefore, the Authority will be prepared to adapt to such changes to meet user expectations.



Electric bikes

Electric bikes (e-bikes) are motor-assisted cycles, and most must be pedalled to activate the motor assistance. There are additional rules for e-bikes including a minimum age of 14 and they cannot be electro/mechanically assisted for a speed more than 15mph. E-bikes are growing rapidly in popularity.

E-bikes are allowed on any routes where normal cycles are allowed, such as bridleways, cycleways, byways, restricted byways, unclassified roads, and roads.

E-bikes present a low-carbon alternative to the car. Where appropriate the Authority will support their responsible use, particularly when the use of cars between communities can be reduced. In addition, they can be beneficial to other users for example enabling the less able to access the countryside.

The Authority will provide users with relevant information and advice on the legal use of e-bikes (based on the criteria required under the Road Traffic and Highways Act). As e-bikes become more affordable, particularly e-mountain bikes there may be a need to be proactive to discourage `off-piste` mountain cycling activities. The Authority will monitor this activity to ensure that only those legally available routes are used and promoted and to actively discourage inappropriate activities.



Accessible Eryri

Eryri must be accessible to all if it is to play an important role in improving people's health and well-being. The Authority always seeks to be inclusive irrespective of people's race, age and abilities including the disabled, less able, and socially excluded groups.

There are several fully developed and popular all-ability or multi-user routes such as Lon Gwyrfa, the Mawddach trail, Dol Idris, Foel Ispri and others. The Authority will work with its partners to further develop this network and upgrade others (particularly those that link communities) when and where opportunities and resources become available. All will be designed using the 'least restrictive option' philosophy. The Authority will work to make information relating to sites and their qualities readily available to enable users to make route choices that are relevant to their needs.

The Authority will continue to work closely with the disabilities sector, the Local Access Forums, local authorities and other stakeholders and seek their advice and guidance on projects.

Future developments will also include more sensory adaptations in some areas to appeal to a wider spectrum of users such as the blind or hard of hearing. We will also actively seek and engage with socially excluded groups and work with public sector organisations and relevant agencies to further this.

Relevant information for all-ability and other accessible routes will be regularly updated on partner websites and Apps. Those pages will also include up-to-date information on special needs accommodation, the location of toilets, disabled car parking and the nearest 'changing room' facilities.

The Authority currently provides two electric Trumper-type vehicles and an electric four-wheel off-road buggy type of vehicle on request. These have proved very popular with a wide variety of users with varying degrees of disabilities and this service will be maintained and enhanced when and where resources allow.

The Authority will review and audit its provision biannually. Any changes to new or upgraded developments will be put in the public domain as soon as available.



Water sports

Eryri has a long coastline and many lakes, estuaries, rivers, and streams. Water sports such as canoeing, sailing, paddle boarding, windsurfing, kayaking and wild swimming are becoming increasingly popular with more people taking part in these activities regularly, bringing benefits to people's health and well-being. Opportunities for activities on inland water are confined to a limited number of locations, which is compounded by the lack of clarity in the legislation regarding access to water. The Authority and Local Access Forums are fully supportive of any proposed changes to legislation that would enable additional access to inland waters in a responsible and controlled manner and which is not detrimental to land management, infrastructure, or biodiversity.

Whilst there are some exemplars for access to inland water within the National Park such as Llyn Tegid, the National White Water Centre, Tryweryn and the arrangements on the upper Conwy, Llyn Gwynant and the middle Glaslyn river (courtesy of the National Trust) these are few. The Authority has been proactive in this area, and it is eager to work with all stakeholders, including users and landowners, to see if such arrangements can be developed more widely where opportunities arise. However, such arrangements will only be supported using best practice such as agreed water levels, agreed access and egress points, appropriate signage (to include information guidance on any specific site use or limitations), advice relating to biosecurity and conservation, and parking provision wherever possible. If legislative changes occur in the future which expand access to inland water, the Authority will be prepared and proactive in this sector.

Gorge walking, coastering and canyoning are provider-led activities taking place at a limited number of sites, offered by many outdoor education centres and a number of commercial outdoor activity providers. Many of these sites are environmentally sensitive with environmental designations. With the rapid growth in participation in the sport over the past fifteen years, the number of gorges used as venues for guided gorge walking has increased and the levels of activity in some gorges, in particular, have increased significantly. There has been an additional perceived increase in informal recreation activity in northwest Wales gorges since COVID-19. This activity is an opportunity for providers to encourage and develop environmental awareness around these sites and the National Park supports initiatives of this kind.

The Authority is fully supportive of the North Wales Gorge Walking Code of Conduct developed by Snowdonia-Active and funded by Natural Resources Wales. In the case of any local difficulties, the Authority will work with other stakeholders and statutory bodies to help resolve any issues. The National Park will not support these activities where they are proven to be detrimental to the National Park's special qualities. The placing of permanent fixings in rivers and falls will not be supported.

The Authority will not support any motorised water sports activities other than activities that are directly related to the use of rescue craft or those where prior arrangements exist.



Angling

Angling is a popular recreational activity in Eryri, with considerable activity on the coast and on lakes and rivers, some of which are managed and stocked to cater for anglers.

Similar to other activities, angling is popular among residents and visitors alike with local fishing clubs, associations and societies heavily involved in its management. Due to the requirement for a high-quality environment, the fishing sector is active in improving local habitats and relevant publications highlight the importance of conserving and enhancing the environment for the future of the sport.

There are opportunities for angling for people with disabilities in various locations around the National Park and the Authority will work with partners to increase this capacity where opportunities present themselves. The National Park will continue to support such initiatives and promote this information on our website.

The Authority will work with the various associations when and where required to ensure equitable and balanced representation of their views and to mediate and resolve local issues.

If legislative changes occur in the future concerning access to inland waters, then the Authority will be ready to assist and offer advice to users and landowners alike on how to take initiatives forward and encourage best practice for access and shared use where necessary, based on our existing access to water pilot schemes.



Mountain running

Eryri hosts several fell and mountain races, many of these events take place along Public Rights of Way and open access land. Well-managed events can bring significant benefits.

The potential impacts from mountain running are similar to those associated with mountain walking, although the number of participants is far fewer. Impacts include path erosion, the requirement for additional car parking spaces and localised disturbance to local communities.

The Authority will support these activities as long as they are planned well in advance, do not damage the environment, do not disrupt land management or local communities and are sustainable. Organisers of larger events should demonstrate that they have undertaken adequate consultation with landowners and other stakeholders and that they adhere to the requirements and advice contained within the National Park's Events Guidance and the relevant National Governing Body codes of conduct. In addition, the Authority expects activity organisers to be aware of environmental constraints and avoid designated sites if advised to do so. The Authority will only work with organisers who consistently demonstrate organisational competence and adhere to good practice.

The Authority will work closely with their counterparts in Gwynedd Council, Conwy Borough County Council, National Resources Wales (where required) and other land managers such as the National Trust, the Woodland Trust, and private landowners to ensure best practice and consistency in this sector.

Orienteering

Orienteering is an endurance running activity where a map and compass are used to navigate a series of fixed points. Orienteering events have several courses spread over an area. There are nationally recognised guidelines and codes of conduct for orienteering. The Authority would expect that all organisers plan well in advance and consult with stakeholders, including landowners and statutory bodies, to avoid issues or difficulties, especially any activities that take place within designated areas.



Triathlons

Triathlons (and quadrathlons and duathlons) combine outdoor endurance activities, swimming, running, and cycling (and kayaking for Quadrathlon), in formalised race distances for competition as well as ad hoc distances for participation. These are increasingly popular with locally based clubs and competitors and those from farther afield (especially now as an Olympic event) and they attract high numbers of competitors of all ages including junior competitions. The Authority expects event organisers to demonstrate good practice and to undertake appropriate preparation well in advance of the event date, this is especially important where public roads are used and start times are spread out.

The Authority works closely with both Gwynedd Council and Conwy Borough County Council events teams to ensure that the various requirements are met and that issues such as road or path closures are not disruptive to local communities or the general public.





Organised events

Due to its reputation, landscape, and high-quality environment, Eryri hosts many recreational events and races each year. Figures show that the number of events taking place in Eryri has increased in recent years.

These fall into two categories; charitable events that benefit both local and national charities and which form the majority of such activities, and a smaller number of commercial events which tend to have higher numbers of participants. Many of these events are well organised and benefit the health and well-being of participants, whilst also benefiting the local economy.

Organisers are expected to adhere to Eryri National Park Authority and Local Authorities' requirements and guidance for successful and sustainable event management. This guidance requires: -

- events to be planned well in advance
- events to be held in suitable locations
- adequate stakeholder engagement
- promotion of sustainable modes of transport
- adequate control of litter/waste (including organic waste)
- identifiable and bi-lingual signage
- adequate consideration of safety
- event to be held at suitable times of year to avoid clashes with other users.



The Authority actively encourages organisers to consider spreading these activities over a longer season to relieve the pressure over the `peak months` and over weekends in particular.

Other smaller group-based events are also popular such as the UK Three Peaks Challenge and the Welsh Three Peaks Challenge and many of these are also charitable events. Regardless of their size, the Authority seeks assurances from these event organisers that they have considered the recommendations contained within the National Park Events Guidelines for successful and sustainable event management.

Through the Three Peaks Partnership (Lake District National Park Authority, the Nevis Partnership and Eryri National Park Authority) best practices will be promoted based on the guidelines and the Codes of Conduct recommended by the Institute of Fundraising and its specific guidelines on Three Peaks Challenges. The Authority will not support organisations that fail to meet these requirements.

Yr Wyddfa hosts a significant number of events each year. Therefore, new larger, charitable, or commercial events of over 250 participants proposed during peak times on Yr Wyddfa (June – September) must demonstrate that they can fulfil the requirements for good event management and do not clash with established events.

From January 2021 all event organisers for events over 50 participants are asked to participate in a new joint application scheme – a joint initiative between Gwynedd Council and the Authority, thereby providing information on planned events in any given year.

The Authority will continue to work with both Gwynedd Council and Conwy Borough County Council Events teams, their respective Safety Advisory Groups (SAG), local communities and stakeholders to ensure good communication and good (and sustainable) practice.



Outdoor education centres

Organised group activities are invaluable in furthering knowledge and understanding of the National Park whilst offering opportunities for personal and group development. This is important for younger people by enabling them to engage with their natural environment (a fundamental purpose of the National Park) while also meeting the needs of many parts of the National Curriculum.

The National Park affords a wide array of opportunities not only for young people but also for adults wanting to acquire proficiency in outdoor skills as part of their personal development, and there are many high-quality centres of excellence in outdoor sector training located in Eryri. The National Park strives to maintain a close relationship with these centres and is also fully supportive of The Outdoor Partnership.

There are opportunities for centres to extend their appeal to new markets and encourage wider participation, particularly from harder-to-reach or socially excluded groups and the National Park encourages and supports such initiatives.

Equestrian

Eryri has 268 km (171) routes classed as bridlevays, however, they do not form a park-wide network and parking provision for horse boxes/trailers is limited. Individual riders make up the greater user group with a small number of organised groups. There is only one commercial trekking operator within the National Park at this time.

Currently, the network is of low quality and is badly fragmented and the Authority will seek to work with national user groups such as the British Horse Society (BHS), the Byways and Bridlevays Trust and local user groups to identify and improve existing networks and create new safer linkages using the existing bridlevay network where resources allow. The Authority will ensure that relevant standards are met wherever practicable. Improvements to the bridlevay network could prompt a growth in equestrian activity for individuals or groups across the National Park. The Authority must be ready to act in response to any future legislative changes proposed by the Welsh Government for more multiuser routes within the Public Rights of Way network or CRoW access land if adequate resources are provided.



Air sports (non-motorised)

Several locations within Eryri are used as launch sites for paragliding and hang gliding with most users being members of organised associations or clubs. These sports are self-regulating, and clubs have existing private arrangements with landowners. Currently, there is no legislation allowing para or hang gliding on CRoW access land. If legislative changes occur in the future, the Authority will work with stakeholders to promote best practice, help facilitate and advise on this activity, and recognise and formalise locations in a way that does not impinge on land management or agricultural activities.





Motorised off-road activities

Off-road 4x4 and motorbike activities occur in some areas of the National Park. These activities can impact tranquillity and have the potential to cause habitat destruction and erosion. It is important to acknowledge that the Authority has no duties to maintain these off-roading routes; this duty lies with the respective highways departments within Conwy Borough County Council and Gwynedd Council. However, the Authority works closely with the Councils and other stakeholders to resolve issues and conflicts where they arise and to ensure that such routes are sustainable.

There are two primary issues associated with off-roading.

Firstly, where users are allowed to exercise their legal rights using the `Unclassified County Roads (UCRs) network within the National Park, it is important to the Authority that these routes remain sustainable. In recent times the Authority has been working closely with the Green Lane Association (GLASS), Land Access & Recreation Association (LARA), the Parc Eryri Green Lane Volunteer Group (PEGLVG) and the Trail Riders Federation (TRF) to support best practice guidance. The Authority is also supportive and appreciative of the efforts of these formal groups to raise funds for maintenance and to promote one-way systems. The Authority will continue to work with these groups to ensure responsible and sustainable use of these routes.

Secondly, there are areas where there is considerable 'illegal off-roading' where users do not use any recognised legally accessible routes. This activity is restricted to those using motorcycles and can be highly damaging to landscapes and the special qualities of the National Park. This is a recurrent problem for the Authority and local authorities, and the Authority continues to work with landowners, the Police, local authorities, and other stakeholders such as Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to curtail this activity wherever it occurs and particularly where the Special Qualities of the NP are threatened.



Drones

The use of drones for commercial purposes and by private individuals is expanding rapidly. Their use now requires a Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) registration and licence, and the requirements for this activity are set within strict guidelines. The Authority strives to ensure that these activities do not become problematic or antisocial and that they do not interfere with people's sense of peace, tranquillity, and adventure within the National Park. Neither should they interfere with land management activities, particularly disturbance to livestock.

Users are encouraged to pay particular attention to any areas such as National Nature Reserves (NNRs) or those with other designations which may include sites or protected species with significant conservation value.

Consents are required to fly drones over land in the ownership or management of Eryri National Park Authority, the National Trust, the Woodland Trust, Natural Resources Wales and other private land.

Commercial or film operators need to contact the aforementioned organisations and/or landowners to seek the relevant consent. The Authority will continue to give relevant and up-to-date advice to users via our social media platforms and respond to enquiries when necessary.



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Wild camping

Within the National Park, wild camping can only be undertaken with landowner consent, this includes areas of `access land`. The Authority cannot give consent for wild camping on other people's land and under the General Data Protection (GDPR) regulations, the Authority cannot pass on landowners' details without their consent.

Following the lifting of the COVID-19 restrictions, significant problems occurred as a result of people 'fly camping', including littering, poor roadside parking, open fires and damage to designated areas. Subsequently, the Authority continues to receive high numbers of complaints from landowners and the general public. Therefore, the Authority encourages people to use formal campsites and to book early.

When consent for wild camping is given the Authority encourages people to follow the Countryside Code and the Wild Camping Code and adhere to the 'leave no trace' philosophy.

Camper vans and motor homes.

Touring in camper vans and motor homes has increased in recent years and is popular with domestic and international visitors.

The Authority will work with stakeholders such as Gwynedd Council and Conwy Borough County Council to encourage good practice, discourage irresponsible parking and off-road camping and will seek to ensure that this activity remains legal and sustainable with minimal disruption to local communities.

The Authority will promote the National Park Guide to Campervan and Motorhome Users pamphlet, provide an up-to-date formal overnight sites location map, maintain website content and provide information for less formal sites and overnight parking areas that may be provided by the local authorities such as Gwynedd Council's `Arosfan` sites.



Other activities

Other activities take place within Eryri such as geo-caching and caving. These tend to be highly localised and have less impact due to the lower number of people participating. The Authority will monitor these activities and will bring together the stakeholders and seek to resolve issues if they occur. The Authority expects all such activities to be carried out responsibly and sustainably, and participants to follow the relevant codes of conduct, where applicable.

There are several activity attractions in and around Eryri, such as zip wires and high ropes courses. These tend to be based in former quarries, are widely promoted and attract high volumes of customers. They play a pivotal role in providing additional visitor experiences and activities in the region, have the potential to relieve pressure in other core areas, and are also important economic drivers.





Cultural & Environmental Recreation Activity Statements

Key cultural and environmental recreation activities based on the National Park's special qualities are also considered within this statement because of their interactions with Eryri's landscape and environment.

Driving & coach tours

Eryri's landscape and cultural heritage is a draw for driving and coach tours. These journeys tend to stick to popular routes, taking in the most iconic views and attractions. Driving and coach tours provide economic opportunities for local businesses but can also contribute to congestion and illegal car parking in some areas, impacting the landscape and local communities.

The Authority will continue to promote the use of park-and-ride public transport services to reduce the overall number of cars in the area, as well as implement the recommendations of the Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen Parking and Transport Strategy undertaken by the Yr Wyddfa Partnership.

Wildlife watching

Eryri's varied landscape supports unique biodiversity and is, therefore, a popular year-round destination for wildlife watchers, particularly bird watchers. Much of this activity is informal and unmanaged, apart from a few larger reserves which have visitor centres such as Cwm Idwal National Nature Reserve. There are several specific bird-watching sites on the periphery of the National Park, namely the RSPB reserves at Llyn Vyrnwy, Conwy and Ynys Hir site near Machynlleth.

Some habitats and species are more sensitive to disturbance than others, particularly in the bird nesting season or for coastal overwintering birds and the Authority will work with stakeholders to manage disturbance to areas of high conservation value.



Heritage sites & visitor attractions

Throughout the National Park, there are many sites of cultural, historical, and archaeological significance; some of which provide visitor facilities, whilst others

are more minimal and remote. These sites provide a focus for visitors and are largely well managed with minimal impacts upon the special qualities. However, over-development of such sites can lead to landscape impacts and local traffic problems. The National Park will continue to monitor and work in partnership with stakeholders on all such sites within and adjoining the National Park boundary and will promote them where appropriate.



Events and festivals

Several events and festivals held in Eryri feature and promote its cultural heritage and environment, for example, arts festivals, eisteddfodau, walking festivals and several county/agricultural shows. Such events can lead to localised impacts such as traffic congestion. The Authority supports such activities if they can demonstrate that they are well-organised and sustainable and will continue to work closely with the events teams of Gwynedd Council and Conwy Borough County Council to ensure their success.



Study

Eryri is popular with a wide spectrum of educational groups from school children to post-graduate education. Traditional study topics include glaciated landscapes and environmental studies. Increasingly, topics such as transport, agriculture and social-economic topics including tourism and outdoor recreation are becoming popular.

Many groups stay in the outdoor education study centres located around the National Park. Some popular study sites, such as Cwm Idwal require additional management measures to cater for the high footfall from education groups and the Authority works in partnership with stakeholders to ensure that these sites are managed sustainably.

Study tours and educational groups bring a wide variety of benefits, fulfilling requirements for the National Curriculum and specific outdoor sector training elements and furthering understanding and enjoyment of the National Park in line with the key purposes of the National Park.



Art & photography

The landscapes, communities and wildlife of Eryri inspire artists and photographers as they have done for generations and these activities strengthen the understanding of the special qualities of the National Park.

Some areas are particularly popular, for example, the Mach Loop, between Dolgellau and Machynlleth which is popular with photographers wanting to capture low-flying aircraft.

The Authority monitors such activities to ensure they are not damaging or detrimental to the special qualities of the National Park.





Dark skies

Eryri National Park is the second area in Wales to be designated as an International Dark Sky Reserve (one of twelve worldwide). On a clear night in Eryri, you can see the Milky Way, all the major constellations, nebulas (bright clouds of gas and dust), shooting stars and comets.

The Authority collaborates with local communities and the relevant local authorities in maintaining the quality of dark skies in Eryri and improving the quality of the night sky experience by better managing lighting and encouraging businesses and householders to use appropriate external lighting around their properties.

The Authority works to provide opportunities for local business owners to benefit from this designation. Several sites are being developed to enable people to experience the night sky within the National Park and the Authority promotes such activities through the Dark Skies Partnership.



Implementation, Monitoring & Review

Implementation

The achievement of sustainable outdoor recreation in Eryri requires cooperation and joint working by the Authority and the many stakeholders involved in outdoor recreation and land management.

Eryri benefits from several effective partnerships, such as the Northern and Southern Eryri Local Access Forums, the Outdoor Partnership, and the Yr Wyddfa Partnership. The outdoor recreation sector is also well represented by organisations such as Snowdonia-Active. In addition, Eryri is serviced by the North Wales and Mid Wales Tourism Partnerships and other tourism groups. Cultural interests are represented by several local history and cultural organisations, tourism trade associations and CADW.

The Authority will collaborate with partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors, landowners, and local community councils and will work with established partnerships relating to countryside access, sustainable transport initiatives, tourism, and economic development.

Cyngor Gwynedd and Conwy Borough County Council are key delivery partners, particularly through their roles as highway authorities with overall responsibility for producing the Rights of Ways Improvement Plans (ROWIPs). The Authority has statutory responsibility for CRoW access land and will continue to work with the Local Access Forums on access issues and policies across the park.

Eryri and the wider region will benefit from a cohesive and strategic approach to the development and management of outdoor recreation, allowing for appropriate and sustainable growth within the sector. Partnership working will also improve service delivery and give greater value for money.

Monitoring

The Authority will monitor progress against the actions outlined in this statement. Progress will be reported in the annual National Park Management Plan updates. Key actions will also be included in the annual Corporate Work Program which sets out the Authority's corporate well-being objectives.

Review

The Eryri National Park Outdoor Recreation Position Statement will be reviewed every five years; this review will follow revisions made to the National Park Management Plan and State of the Park Report. By reviewing the content every five years the Authority ensures that the Strategy can be flexible and can respond to new and emerging trends in addition to national changes to legislation and policy relating to access.

Sources of Information

General

Countryside Code

www.countrysidecode.org

<https://naturalresources.wales/days-out/the-countryside-codes/the-countryside-code-advice-for-countryside-visitors/?lang=en>

<https://naturalresources.wales/days-out/the-countryside-codes/?lang=en>

North Wales Environmental Charter

<https://www.snowdonia-active.org/north-wales-environmental-outdoor-charter/>

Rock climbing, scrambling, bouldering

British Mountaineering Council Regional Access Database

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/modules/RAD/>

Drones

www.caa.co.uk/Consumers/Unmanned-aircraft-and-drones/

www.dronesafe.uk/drone-code/

Gorge Walking

North Wales Gorge Walking Code of Conduct - <https://www.snowdonia-active.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/gorge-code-eng-1.pdf>

Motorised off-road activities.

<https://www.glass-uk.org/about/our-code-of-conduct.html>

Orienteering

https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/images/uploaded/downloads/governance_policies.pdf



Tuesday 24th September to Thursday 26th September

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newcastle

Draft Programme as of 29.01.2024

Tuesday

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13:00 – 14.30 | Check in, plus
Networking and Meet the Partners - Showcasing good practice (Conference lobby) |
| 14:30 – 14:50 | Opening & Welcome
Northumberland National Park Authority Chair & National Parks UK Lead Chair |
| 14:50 – 16:00 | Why do National Parks matter to us?
A panel of experts Chaired by Karin Woodley CBE, Chair of Race Equality Foundation
Including presentations and Q&A |
| 16:00 – 17:00 | Key note address and Policy Responses
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs,
Minister for Climate Change Wales, and Minister for Green Skills, Circular Skills and Biodiversity
Scotland |
| 17:00 – 17:10 | Closing remarks and top takeaways
Karin Woodley CBE |
| 17:10 – 18:30 | Free time |
| 18:30 – 19:15 | Urban Safari & Dark Skies
Taster Sessions with Wild Intrigue and Newcastle Astronomical Society |
| 19:30 – 21:00 | Reception drinks followed by dinner
Northern Rock Foundation Hall, The Glass House International Centre for Music
(tables hosted by local partners)
Performance by Folkestra |
| 21:00 – 21:30 | Inspiring People to Care
Jackie Morris, Author and Artist of Lost Spells & Lost Words |

Wednesday

- 08:30 – 16:30 **A choice of themed Landscapes for Everyone trips to Northumberland National Park**
- 16:30 – 18:30 **Free time**
- 18:30 – 19:30 **Drink reception at The Crowne Plaza – Sponsored by Hepple Spirits**
- 19:30 – 21:30 **Dinner**
- 21:30 - 10.00 **Who's National Park is it anyway?**
Nadia Shaikh and Amy-Jane Beer, Right to Roam and Wild Story

Thursday

- 09:00 – 10:30 **What Next for National Parks?**
Showcase and examples from across the UK National Parks
- 10.30 - 11.00 **Break**
- 11:00 – 12:50 **What Should the Future Look Like?**
Wrap up and feedback – the challenge ahead
- 12:50 – 13:00 **Close NNPA Chair and hand over Chair of Cairngorms NPA**

REPORT OF THE MEMBERS' WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 24th JANUARY 2024**PRESENT:****Members appointed by Gwynedd Council**

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

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Brian Angell, Tracey Evans, Sarah Hattle, Tim Jones (Chair), Delyth Lloyd, Naomi Luhde-Thompson;

Officers

Emyr Williams, G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Angela Jones, Peter Rutherford, Rhys Owen, Anwen Gaffey;

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

1. Apologies

No apologies were tendered.

2. Declaration of Interest

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

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Members' Working Group meeting held on 6th December 2023 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.

4. Access and Wellbeing Report

Submitted – A report by the Access and Wellbeing Manager to update Members on the service's activities, which includes monitoring of visitor numbers and the Authority's position with regard to access to inland water within the National Park.

Reported – The Access and Wellbeing Manager presented the report and provided a presentation on the detailed visitor figures collated during 2022 for Yr Wyddfa, Ogwen and Cwm Idwal, Cader Idris and others. Members noted that the Authority has a baseline for each area since 2014, and that the annual report was available on the Authority's website.

Members welcomed the presentation and discussed the following:-

- in response to a question, the Access and Wellbeing Manager advised that people who travel up on the train generally buy return tickets and it was rare for them to walk down. He confirmed that an additional 180,000 people travel to the summit by train.
- the Access and Wellbeing Manager reported that around 2000 cyclists ride up to the summit each year and that the voluntary agreement between the cyclists and the Authority, which restricts cyclists from the mountain between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. during the summer months, was working well.

- in response to a question, the Access and Wellbeing Manager stated that whilst there was no exact data, staff that work on the ground calculate that 50-75% of walkers on the Watkin Path only go as far as the waterfalls.
- Members and officers discussed public rights of way and access issues in general. The Partnerships Manager advised upon the intention to establish a pilot scheme with the Llanberis Mountain Rescue Team over the summer months to look at visitor issues and that a report on the outcome could be presented to Members in due course.
- Members welcomed the report and the trends shown.

Members also received a short presentation on access to water and were advised of the Authority's position. Members noted there are no public rights of access to rivers in the UK unless by voluntary agreement with individual landowners.

Members and officers discussed access to water issues as follows:-

- Members noted some of the current solutions, which include the use of gauges to display water levels and establishing access point agreements for canoes with landowners, as was the case in Conwy Uchaf. Also discussed were the seasonality needs of anglers, liability issues, intertidal rights and promoting biosecurity and responsibilities when using the water.
- a Member asked how the Authority could assist the public by providing information and data on land ownership so they can obtain the required permissions, and whether the Authority should have a leadership role? Officers advised that although there was a small list on the Authority's website there was little the Authority could do due to GDPR issues. The Partnerships Manager advised that the Authority's policy was clear and was also available as part of the Ambassador Scheme.
- the Chief Executive referred to two lakes in the Authority's ownership which are not currently promoted for wild swimming, and that it may be possible for Natural Resources Wales and the National Trust, as natural partners, to come together to establish a network of lakes for the public as a starting point. Although it should be remembered that attracting capacity to any areas comes with clear infrastructure, bio security, health and safety and liability considerations.
- a Member noted that some lakes are unsuitable for swimming for conservation and other reasons.
- in response to a question on information held by Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales on the location of cesspits that feed into the lakes and also the levels of phosphates, Members noted that Natural Resources Wales hold a free register but as there was no compulsion to provide the information, it was not complete.
- arising thereon, officers agreed to look at LoRa Wan technology for the future.

RESOLVED welcome the report and presentation.

5. Eryri Tree and Woodland Strategy

Submitted – A report by the Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture to update Members on the Eryri Tree and Woodland Strategy.

Reported – The Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture presented the report and provided Members with the background and progress to date. Members were advised of the proposed timetable and that a first draft of the strategy was scheduled to be available by the end of January 2024. It would then be translated and circulated to Members for their comments, prior to its release for public consultation in the Spring.

The Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture advised that the Strategy would benefit the Authority not only to respond to the Sustainable Farming Scheme but will also help to inform opinion when companies want to buy land for woodland or when land managers decide that tree planting was the way ahead. Members were advised that the strategy ties into the work carried out by Small World Consulting on the National Park's carbon footprint, and that working with the Woodlands Trust, who have a comprehensive network and expertise, was being progressed on the basis that the strategy will be steered by the consultation response.

Members were encouraged by the report and were reassured that the strategy would support the review of the Park Management Plan and feed into the State of the Park Report, in the same way as the Peatland Strategy, the Rhododendron Strategy and the Nature Restoration Strategy will. The Chief Executive confirmed the main purpose of the strategy was to provide evidence for the Authority to assess whether to support or oppose trees in an area without distracting from National Park purposes and that the conclusion of the report will be included as a statutory outcome in the Park Management Plan.

RESOLVED to note the report and await the draft strategy.

6. **Sustainable Farming Scheme**

Received – An oral report on the Sustainable Farming Scheme by the Head of Conservation Woodland and Agriculture.

Reported – The Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture provided a general overview of the scheme followed by more in depth discussions regarding the implications for Eryri and the best approach to the consultation response. The consultation for the first tier of the scheme was fairly narrow and was made up of specific questions. There would be one consultation response on behalf of all the Designated Landscapes, with a separate response specific to Snowdonia, at which time officers will include additional constructive comments and considerations where possible.

Members agreed they would like to see the consultation response and asked for the link so that they could also participate as individuals. The Director of Planning and Land Management advised that the consultation ends on 7th March 2024.

Members and officers discussed the Sustainable Farming Scheme and noted:-

- that information on the level of payments would not be available until the Summer and another concern was that SSSI's will not be included in the payments.
- the consultation response will pass through several filters before it is submitted. The Chief Executive, as Chair of Landscapes Cymru, will sign off the response on behalf of the 8 designated landscapes and differences of opinion on any issues will be discussed with the Chair.
- advisory bodies such as Farming Connect, if selected, could provide a strong environmental lead, although there was a shortage of people with the necessary skills to deliver across Wales. Another concern was the capacity of the system and Natural Resources Wales to cope with the demand.

- officers will try to influence tree planting at the earliest opportunity in order to address the danger of a computer-generated decision by the Welsh Government, and the Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture was grateful to Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd for his assistance on the issue of trees and the economy.

RESOLVED to note the report and await a link to the Sustainable Farming Scheme Consultation Document.

7. Plas Tan y Bwlch

Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive to provide an update for members to consider and discuss.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report and background. He advised upon Plas Tan y Bwlch Board’s considerations, the Partnership option and possible open market disposal.

Members considered the Board’s conclusions and recommendations and noted:-

- the background paper which provided Members with details of the Board’s considerations.
- the financial context and the need to meet the financial challenge over the next three years.
- that a further detailed report would be presented to the next meeting of the Authority on the 7th February 2024 for formal decision.
- that the Authority would come to a conclusion at the end of the Summer on the future of Plas Tan y Bwlch.

Members thanked the Board for their work and supported the twin track approach over a limited time period to allow local business and charitable businesses the opportunity to proceed whilst testing on the open market.

RESOLVED to note:-

- 1. that the Board could not develop a vision for Plas that delivered strongly against National Park purposes whilst delivering commercial gain.**
- 2. the Board could not support the current business model in terms of delivering against National Park purposes and becoming commercially effective.**
- 3. the Board would wish to consider partnership models but accepted that such a window should be time limited and no more than 6 months.**
- 4. if no partnership was to mature, then Plas should be offered on the open market, preferably as a going concern but subject to agent advice.**
- 5. considering the time constraints involved the Board recommends progressing a twin track approach in terms of gaining a partnership arrangement and open market disposal.**
- 6. arising from the Members’ Working Group meeting today, to await a detailed report to the Authority’s Meeting on the 7th February 2024 for formal decision.**

The meeting ended at 13.20

REPORT OF THE MEMBERS' WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 6th MARCH 2024

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

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

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Brian Angell, Sarah Hattle, Tim Jones, Delyth Lloyd;

Officers

Emyr Williams, G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Rhys Owen, Geraint Evans, Anwen Gaffey.

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

1. Apologies

Councillors Louise Hughes, Jo Nuttall; Tracey Evans, Naomi Luhde-Thompson.

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 24th January 2024 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.

4. Eryri Tree and Woodland Strategy

Received – An oral report by the Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture to update Members on the Eryri Tree and Woodland Strategy.

Reported – The Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture presented a brief update and advised that this was a further opportunity for Members to comment on the recently circulated draft Eryri Tree and Woodland Strategy. After today's meeting, the design team will edit the document, and although it was not in its final form, the direction of the document was quite clear. The Strategy will then be made available on the Authority's website as part of the public consultation.

Members and officers discussed the Eryri Tree and Woodland Strategy and made the following observations:-

- Members thanked the Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture and his team for their work and for the further opportunity to comment on the strategy.
- a Member asked whether the strategy would include reference to softwood, such as red larch, which will provide a faster economic return. The Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture advised that the Commercial Forestry Sector have been invited to comment, alongside some large private providers, whereby some of their observations will be incorporated into the strategy, subject to the number of designations in the landscape and the local infrastructure etc.

- Members agreed it was essential to ensure that trees are planted in the right locations and to select species that can cope with climate change and overcome diseases.
- a Member requested that the role of trees and hedges in nature connectivity be better reflected in the document. This was especially important as a way forward to address the biodiversity challenge.
- a Member noted the role of trees in preventing flooding and addressing the impact of climate change. He also felt the commercial sector should be discouraged from continuing to plant 'Sitka Spruce' due to the rise in disease and its impact on the landscape, whilst noting that good commercial woodlands can create employment and help wildlife.
- if Members felt they wanted to make further comments, they could respond to the consultation individually.

Arising thereon, the Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture took the opportunity to inform Members that the Sustainable Farming Scheme response had now been drafted, was largely based on the Designated Landscapes' response, and would be circulated to Members today. Unfortunately, as the consultation was closing the following day, Members were advised to forward their observations directly to the Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture before midnight tonight.

RESOLVED to note the report.

5. Training Session on Commuted Sums / Section 106 Agreements

Received – A Member training session by the Director of Planning and Land Management and the Planning Officer (Policy).

Reported – The Director of Planning and Land Management advised upon his role in providing ongoing training which Members can request at any time. Today's training was in response to a recent request for more information on Section 106 Agreements, which are referred to in the majority of Planning Committees and was important for Members to understand the main principles.

The Director of Planning and Land Management delivered a PowerPoint presentation which provided:-

- an introduction to Section 106 Agreements
- Section 106 Uses
- Section 106 Affordable Housing and Commuted Sums
- Commuted Sum – Local Development Plan Policy
(Development Policy 9: Conversion and change of use of rural buildings)

Members welcomed the presentation and discussed the following:-

- in response to a question, the Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that it is the Authority that decides on the number of affordable homes when a developer builds new homes on private land. This is based on the Authority's policy as outlined in the Local Development Plan.
- the Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that the Authority requires a commuted sum payment for every conversion and would never agree to a commuted sum payment to replace an affordable home on a new housing development. Arising thereon, the Director of Planning and Land Management agreed to provide Members with details of the commuted sums received by the Authority and the affordable homes provided. Members also asked to be kept updated and requested a copy of today's presentation.

- a Member queried the number of Section 106 Agreements that were not completed due to local people being unable to raise the commuted sum even though they owned the building to be converted. The Director of Planning and Land Management agreed there was a difficult balance to strike. He advised that the commuted sum payment regulates the number of conversions within the National Park, which may not always be for the local people. A compromise could be to allow a 'local' condition to be used, which may in time be accepted by the Welsh Government, and could be included during the Local Development Plan review.
- the Director of Planning and Land Management stated that the proportion of Section 106 Agreements applied for non-affordable housing reasons within the National Park were very few as they are determined by the scale of the development.
- Members were advised that assessments of Section 106 Agreements for monitoring purposes are carried out when the properties are sold.

The Planning Officer (Policy) continued with the PowerPoint presentation and provided further details on:-

- calculating the Commuted Sum, where the amount of financial contribution was based on 58% of the amount of Social Housing Grant that a Housing Association would normally expect to receive from the Welsh Government to build an affordable home in the area. For building conversions, the figure would be 50% of this figure.
- Section 106 and affordable homes : calculating the affordable price. In response to a question, the planning officer confirmed that the income data was based on average household income.
- the Director of Planning and Land Management confirmed that a Section 106 Agreement would ensure the house remains affordable in perpetuity and was based on the RICS valuation methodology.

Arising thereon, the Director of Planning and Land Management agreed there was a need for officers to assess how they can better convey this information and whether a series of videos on the Authority's website would provide better understanding of the process.

RESOLVED to welcome the training session and to await the further details, as outlined.

The meeting ended at 14.25

AWDURDOD PARC CENEDLAETHOL ERYRI / SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Amserlen / Timetable 2024/2025

CYFARFOD	DYDD	AMSER	2024							2025							MEETING	
			MEH	GOR	AWST	MEDI	HYD	TACH	RHAG	ION	CHWE	MAW	EBR	MAI	MEH	DAY		TIME
AWDURDOD	MER	10.00	CCB 12 AGM			11		13			5		30		CCB 11 AGM	WED	10.00	AUTHORITY
PWYLLGOR PERFFORMIAD AC ADNODDAU	MER	10.00		10				27				19				WED	10.00	PERFORMANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
PWYLLGOR CYNLLUNIO A MYNEDIAD	MER	10.00	26			4	16		4	22		5	9	21	25	WED	10.00	PLANNING & ACCESS COMMITTEE
PWYLLGOR SAFONAU	GWE	pm				20							11			FRI	pm	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
PANELI YMWELD Y GOGLEDD A'R DE	MER	am	5	3		18	23		11	29		12		7	4	WED	am	NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN INSPECTION PANELS
BWRDD PLAS TAN Y BWLCH	MER	am/pm	12			11		13			5				11	WED	am/pm	PLAS TAN Y BWLCH BOARD
GWEITHGOR AELODAU	MER	am/pm	26			4	16		4	22		5	9	21	25	WED	am/pm	MEMBERS' WORKING GROUP
CYD WEITHGOR LLEOL	GWE	am	28					29							27	FRI	am	LOCAL JOINT WORKING GROUP
DIWRNOD DATBLYGU AELODAU	GWE	am/pm	21									21			20	FRI	am/pm	MEMBER DEVELOPMENT DAY
SEMINAR AELODAU TIRWEDDAU DYNODEDIG CYMRU (Parc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro)								6 - 7										DESIGNATED LANDSCAPES WALES MEMBERS' SEMINAR (Pembrokeshire Coast National Park)
CYNHADLEDD PARCIAU CENEDLAETHOL Y DG (Parc Cenedlaethol Northumberland)						24- 26												NATIONAL PARKS UK CONFERENCE (Northumberland National Park)
EUROPARC (Online Conference)								6 - 7										EUROPARC (Cynhadledd Ar-lein)
CYFARFOD	DYDD	AMSER	JUNE	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	DAY	TIME	MEETING

**PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2023**

Councillor Elfed Powell Roberts (Gwynedd) (Chair)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Annwen Hughes, Louise Hughes, Edgar Wyn Owen, John Pughe Roberts, Meryl Roberts;

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillor Jo Nuttall, Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Brian Angell, Tracey Evans, Sarah Hattle, Tim Jones, Delyth Lloyd;

Officers

Emyr Williams, G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Dewi Aeron Morgan, Sian Owen, David Williams, Nia Murray, Awel Gruffydd, Anwen Gaffey;

In attendance

Bleddyn Rhys – Internal Audit Service

Apologies

Councillors June Jones, Kim Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd; Naomi Luhde-Thompson.

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

1. Chair's Announcements

The Chair welcomed Councillor Louise Hughes to the meeting following her recent hospital treatment.

2. Declaration of Interest

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

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Performance and Resources meeting held on 12th July 2023 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.

4. Action Log

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

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and advised that the Action Log should remain as submitted.

RESOLVED to note the Action Log.

5. Budget Update 2023/24

Submitted – A report by the Head of Finance to inform members of substantial transfers within the current financial year's budget and provide Members with

updates on progress against the revenue and capital budgets, together with objectives for the financial year.

Reported – The Finance Officer presented the detailed report, which summarised the revised revenue and capital budgets for the first seven months of 2023/24 and provided a projection of the Authority’s position at the financial year-end.

RESOLVED to approve the report and note the current financial position for 2023/24.

6. Base Revenue Budget 2024/25

Submitted – The Chief Finance Officer’s report for Members to note the Base Budget as estimated for 2024/25 and projected funding position.

Reported – The Chief Finance Officer presented the report and background and confirmed that the budget deficit represented approximately 10% of the Authority’s total budget.

Members considered the report and discussed the following:-

- Members and officers discussed the reserves and the Chief Executive confirmed that Welsh Government were aware of the level of reserves which are held to support various projects such as the HLF schemes etc.
- at a recent meeting with the Minister, the Vice-Chair was informed that the Welsh Government were experiencing their most difficult year since the Senedd had been established.
- the Chief Executive advised that the National Parks could be subject to a flat settlement until 2027. Once the draft settlement is announced, the Chief Executive would be meeting with senior Members to start addressing the anticipated £877,930 budget deficit, half of which needs to be identified in the coming year, prior to presenting a report to the Authority for consideration.
- in response to a question regarding staff vacancies, the Chief Finance Officer advised that budget decisions were based on the Authority’s structure rather than on individual posts. The Chief Executive stated that only a few vacancies exist, and that the Authority continues to recruit to ensure service delivery. Members noted that officers were extremely careful when creating any new posts onto the structure.
- Members noted that external consultant are instructed only when it has not been possible to recruit to the position or the work is of a specialist nature. Costs are paid initially from underspends within a service, such as an employee working part time in a full-time post. The available funding is then used to buy-in the service externally. If this is not sufficient then further Authority funds may be necessary. Due to the nature of instructing consultants, costs are usually higher than employing direct and so every effort is made to ensure that the use of consultants is time limited.
- the Chief Executive advised that the current financial position was different from the austerity phase, at which time the Authority found savings from various budgets. This deficit will require the Authority to decide what not to deliver in future.

RESOLVED to note the report and the planned baseline budget for 2024/25, as outlined.

7. **Head of Internal Audit Annual Report 2022/23**

Submitted – The Head of Internal Audit’s Annual Report outlining the Internal Audit Services’ opinion on internal controls within the Authority.

Reported – Bleddyn Rhys presented the report, on behalf of the Head of Internal Audit, and provided a summary of the work undertaken by Internal Audit during 2022/23 and the Internal Audit Plan for 2023/24.

In response to a question, the Chief Executive confirmed that if staff fail to complete the required ELMS training after a number of reminders, they were locked out of the system until the training had been completed. Members were also expected to complete the course as part of their refresher training every 2 to 3 years. Arising thereon, Members agreed to improve their take-up of ELMS and noted that IT technical support was available at every meeting.

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 2022/23.**
2. **to accept the Operational Audit Plan for the 2023/24 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.**

8. **Income Diversification**

Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive to provide an update on progress following receipt of the Audit Wales Income Diversification reports.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report and confirmed that the two recommendations specified in the individual report were already in place and a report on Plas Tan y Bwlch would be presented to the Members’ Working Group meeting in January 2024. He further confirmed that since the Audit Wales joint report for the three National Parks in Wales was published, officers from the Welsh National Parks had met on two occasions to consider the report and, in the absence of any direction from the Welsh Government, the Chief Executive advised that this work will be paused for the time being to await further guidance.

Members considered the report and made the following observations:-

- a Member asked whether it was intended to establish a Task and Finish Group of Members to consider a way forward in the absence of Welsh Government Guidance. The Chief Executive raised concerns that the Authority would not have the necessary revenue, capital or staff to start on this work, alongside the uncertainty whether it was legal to do so. The Chief Executive suggested it may be useful to convene a meeting of Senior Members in the New Year as the principles for income generation were already established in the toolkit.
- Members discussed whether the Authority had the skills and resources to work on a commercial basis with private funds, as this was a vastly different skills set from what staff were used to. Members agreed that further discussions were necessary with Welsh Government to assess what can be achieved with partners and with private sector funding.
- in response to a question, the Chief Executive agreed there were lessons to be learnt from other National Parks, and whilst Audit Wales had included two examples

of income diversification opportunities in their report, it remains to be seen how successful these turn out to be in the longer term.

- the Chief Executive advised that since drafting the report, officers have now produced an options appraisal tool as recommended by Audit Wales.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the content of the report.**
- 2. to note progress on recommendation R1 & R2 in the Audit Wales Individual Report.**
- 3. to pause further work on R1 until Welsh Government have considered and addressed the issues identified for them in the Audit Wales Joint Report.**

9. Corporate Work Programme 2023-24

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

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and Corporate Work Programme and provided further details on the format of the report. He advised upon a correction to CW5.2 which should read “Metrics are continuously *monitored* in the Communications Strategy”.

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

Resilient Environments

Responding to the Challenges of Climate Change

- officers confirmed that Plas Tan y Bwlch was included in the energy efficiency measures reported in AC 2.2. Members were also advised that Plas Tan y Bwlch accounts for 50% of the Authority’s carbon footprint.

Addressing the Decline in Nature

- in response to a question, the Director of Planning and Land Management agreed to arrange with the Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture that a report on progress be presented to a Members’ Working Group meeting in the Spring, following receipt of the SoNaRR report in March 2024.
- Members noted that the State of the Park report provides the environmental data and evidence.

Resilient Communities

Supporting Young People

- Members noted that the Young People’s Officer was currently in discussion with school pupils and education specialists and that the draft Youth Manifesto would be ready by March 2024. The Director of Corporate Services agreed to ask the Young People’s Officer to arrange a meeting of the Youth Manifesto Task and Finish Group as requested.

Promoting Sustainable Tourism to add value to local communities

- in response to a concern that the Delivery Group had not met since April 2023, the Director of Planning and Land Management explained that the Authority was dependent on other organisations, such as Transport for Wales and the other Local Authorities to deliver this action. There was an opportunity to use the upcoming reviews of Cynllun Eryri and the Eryri Local Development Plan as levers to drive the agenda forward and also, whilst the Authority was not a full partner, the regional Corporate Joint Committee for Transport will need full co-operation to move the Delivery Plan forward. The Director of Corporate Services advised that the Authority had recently received confirmation that the Sherpa bus service had won the UK Silver Award, which demonstrates the benefits of partnership working, and took the

opportunity to thank the Partnerships Manager for her work. Arising thereon, the Chief Executive reported upon a change in officers at Transport for Wales and the Partnerships Manager was currently working to establish a good working relationship with the new team.

- Members congratulated the Authority's staff for their achievements.

RESOLVED to note the report.

10. Strategic Equality Plan

Submitted – A joint report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care and the Head of Human Resources to present the Annual Report for 2022/23.

Reported – In the absence of the Head of Administration and Customer Care, the Director of Corporate Services presented the report and the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report for 2022/23.

RESOLVED to welcome the comprehensive report and approve the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2022/23 for publication on the Authority's website.

11. Health and Safety Annual Monitoring Report 2022/23

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

Reported – The Head of Human Resources presented the report and background and asked Members to note a slight change to the report format.

Members discussed the report and raised the following matters:-

- a Member noted concerns that servicing of an Authority owned tractor had lapsed significantly and sought reassurance that this was not the case for the Authority's other machinery and vehicles. The Chief Executive assured Members that this was an isolated incident and the Director of Corporate Services explained it had resulted from staff changes at Plas Tan y Bwlch. He confirmed that the tractor had now been sold and no longer posed a risk. The Director of Corporate Services also assured Members that the Authority had procedures in place, by way of Risk Assessments, to reduce risks and that staff receive the necessary training.
- a member asked whether marking when the next service is due on each item of machinery would provide a further layer of safety?
- Members welcomed the appointment of a Health and Safety Officer, who can also support the staff who work from home.

RESOLVED to note the report, for information.

12. Information Centres Annual Report

Submitted – A report by the Sustainable Tourism Manager to update members on progress.

Reported – The Sustainable Tourism Manager presented the report in detail and provided an overview of the 2023/24 year to date.

In response to a question, the Sustainable Tourism Manager confirmed that the Information Centres work with their communities to promote and provide information on local tourist attractions. The Authority also provides maps, on a wholesale basis to local caravan parks etc., and the Chief Executive reminded Members of the Eryri

Ambassador Scheme, developed for the local business tourism industry, which currently has over one thousand members.

RESOLVED to note the content of the report.

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

Submitted - Minutes of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board meeting held on the 13th September 2023, for information.

Reported - The Chair of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board presented the minutes and advised that the Board had agreed at their meeting, held in November 2023, that a detailed report with options would be presented to the Members' Working Group in January 2024, when officers will be in a position to provide Members with all the necessary information. A report will then be presented to the Authority's meeting in February 2024 for formal decision.

Members and officers discussed the following:-

- in response to a question, the Chief Executive explained that whilst it would be possible to provide a breakdown of the day-to-day running of the centre, the net cost of running Plas Tan y Bwlch year on year was more useful at this stage.
- Members were assured that the report to the Working Group would include data on carbon to allow for an informed decision.
- a Member noted that whilst the net cost of running Plas Tan y Bwlch was useful, the business would benefit from knowing all aspects, such as providing a breakdown of users and identifying what part of the business was profitable etc.

RESOLVED to note the minutes, for information.

The meeting ended at 11.45

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	24 April 2024
TITLE	EXEMPTING THE REPORT: INTERIM MANAGEMENT TEAM STRUCTURE – ADAPTATION TO OPTION C
REPORT BY	Head of Human Resources
PURPOSE	To request the Authority to approve the exemption of the above report

1. BACKGROUND:

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

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That the Authority agrees to make the report “Interim Management Team Structure – Adaptation to Option C” exempt from disclosure.