

NOTICE OF MEETING



Snowdonia National Park Authority

Emyr Williams

Chief Executive

Snowdonia National Park Authority

Penrhyndeudraeth

Gwynedd LL48 6LF

Phone: (01766) 770274

E.mail: parc@eryri.llyw.cymru

Annual General Meeting:

Snowdonia National Park Authority

Date:

Wednesday 12 June 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

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

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

A G E N D A

Page No's

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

Questions must be submitted in writing (by post or e-mail) to the Director of Corporate Services at least 7 days prior to the meeting.
6. **Declaration of Interest**
To receive any disclosure of interest by members or officers in respect of any item of business.
7. **Membership of the Authority** 4 - 5
To record formally the membership of the Authority. (Copy herewith)
8. **Minutes of the Authority** 6 - 11
The Chair shall propose that the minutes of the meeting of this Authority held on the 24th April 2024, be signed as a true record (copy herewith) and to receive matters arising, for information.
9. **Action Log** 12 - 13
To submit the Action Log for information and decision. (Copy herewith)
10. **Governance of National Park Authorities** 14 - 40
To receive a report by Auditor General for Wales. (Copy herewith)
11. **Statement of Accounts 2021/22** 41 - 178
To submit the statutory financial statements for 2021/22.
 - a) To submit the 2021/22 Financial Statements (Chief Finance Officer). (Copies herewith)
 - b) To submit the ISA 260 Report – Audit of Financial Statements (Audit Wales). (Copy herewith)
 - c) To authorise the Chair and the Chief Finance Officer to sign the “letter of representation” on behalf of the Authority in connection with the approval of the Authority's statutory financial statements (Appendix 1 of Audit Wales' ISA 260 Report).

12.	Appointment of Members to serve on Committees, Panels, Working Groups and External Representation To submit a report by the Chief Executive. (Copy herewith)	179 - 182
13.	Annual Report to the Authority To submit a report by the Chair of the Standards Committee. (Copy herewith)	183 - 185
14.	Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 To submit a report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care. (Copy herewith)	186 - 221
15.	Corporate Work Programme 2023/24 To submit a report by the Director of Corporate Services. (Copy herewith)	222 - 265
16.	Carbon Strategy To submit a report by the Director of Planning and Land Management. (Copy herewith)	266 - 294
17.	Members' Attendance To submit a report by the Director of Corporate Services. (Copy herewith)	295 - 297
18.	Welsh Language Standards To submit a report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care. (Copy herewith)	298 - 311
19.	Cynllun Eryri Annual Monitoring Report 2023 To submit a report by the Partnerships Manager. (Copy herewith)	312 - 383
20.	Working Group Report To submit the report of the Members Working Group held on 17 th April 2024. (Copy herewith)	384 - 386
21.	Meetings of other Organisations To receive oral and written reports from Members on any recent meetings which they have attended as representatives of the Authority.	
22.	To submit the following minutes for information	387 - 392
	(1) Minutes of the Performance & Resources Committee held on the 20 th March 2024. (Copy herewith)	
	(2) Minutes of the Standards Committee held on the 26 th April 2024. (Copy herewith)	393 - 395

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	12 th June 2024
TITLE	MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY
REPORT BY	Chief Executive
PURPOSE	For information

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

The Membership is as follows:-

9 Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

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

3 Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

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

6 Members appointed by The Welsh Government

13. Mr. Brian Angell, Lake House Brian.Angell@eryri.llyw.cymru
14. Mrs. Sarah Hattle Sarah.Hattle@eryri.llyw.cymru
15. Mr. Tim Jones Tim.Jones@eryri.llyw.cymru
16. Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson Naomi.Luhde-Thompson@eryri.llyw.cymru
17. Ms. Delyth Lloyd Delyth.Lloyd@eryri.llyw.cymru
18. Vacancy

Website Contact Details

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

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
WEDNESDAY 24th APRIL 2024**

Mr. Tim Jones (Chair)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, June Jones, Annwen Hughes, 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

Brian Angell, Delyth Lloyd;

Officers

Emyr Williams, G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Dewi Aeron Morgan, Nia Murray, Angela Jones, Siwan Lyall, Anwen Gaffey.

Apologies

Councillor Louise Hughes; Sarah Hattle, Naomi Luhde-Thompson.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the meeting was being web-broadcast and will also be made available online at a later date. Subject to the outcome of Item 16, there will be no recording or web-broadcast of Item 17.

1. Chair's Announcements

- (1) the Chair reported on meetings attended since the Authority had previously met:-
 - 16.04.2024 - the Chair and the Management Team had met with Victoria Bond-Rees, the CLA's new Director for Wales, where discussions had focused on the proposed new National Park in Northeast Wales.
 - 25.03.2024 – following a request, the Chair had met with Mr. Sion Taylor of Zipworld to discuss his future plans and aspirations for the Surf Snowdonia site and the new holiday units at Betws y Coed. The Chair advised that the meeting had been informative and noted the positive economic impact of the business to the area. It had been made clear to Mr. Taylor there would be no discussions on planning matters.
 - 22.03.2024- the Chair and the Chief Executive had attended the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee to discuss aspects of the North Wales Sustainable Transport Plan.
 - 6/7.06.2024 - the Chair will be attending the UK National Park Authorities Chairs Forum at Loch Lomond.
- (2) Members noted that Eryri had experienced a busy Easter with many of the old problems of illegal and dangerous parking and ill-equipped visitors on the mountains. The Chair took the opportunity to thank the staff and others for managing the situation so effectively. It was especially pleasing to see so much support from the public on social media regarding the handling of these issues and there was also a positive article in North Wales Live on their Sherpa experience.
- (3) the Chair thanked the Members who attended the recent Member Development Day which had been informative and interesting, and also thanked the staff for the arrangements.

- (4) the Chair thanked the Members who had attended the three training sessions, provided by the Welsh Government, for all Welsh National Park Authority members. The topics covered were Governance, Diversity, and the Nature and Carbon crises which were all very relevant, and the Chair hoped Members had found the sessions useful. He confirmed there would be further sessions over the coming year and Members were encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities these sessions provide for learning and discussing issues with colleagues.
- (5) it was with regret that the Chair, along with a fellow judge, had agreed not to award the Geraint George Scholarship this year as the standard had not been met. The Chair asked Members to encourage participation if they knew of any candidates for the future.
- (6) the process of appointing a Member to the Authority's Welsh Government vacancy had started, and if Members knew of any suitable candidates they should encourage them to apply via the public appointments process when the advertisement is published.
- (7) the Chair confirmed that the Authority had now received the Chief Executive's formal resignation letter confirming that he will be leaving the Authority on the 30th June 2024. The Chair stated that Members will have ample opportunity to thank the Chief Executive for his long and valuable service, and that it was important now to ensure his legacy was protected and enhanced by proceeding to recruit a successor as soon as possible.

2. **Corporate Update**

Received – The Chief Executive provided an oral update on the following:-

- the Chief Executive confirmed that the consultation response to the Sustainable Farming Scheme had been submitted jointly by the eight Designated Landscapes in Wales.
- the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority will step in to provide the Secretariat for the Welsh National Park Authorities over the next two years, and Eryri will then assume its responsibility in 2026.
- the Plas Tan y Bwlch Board will receive an informal update at the end of today's meeting with the intention of inviting all Members to attend the next meeting of the Board on the rising of the Authority AGM on the 12th June 2024.
- the Chief Executive advised that the Auditor General for Wales's report on the Governance of National Park Authorities was being published the following day and would be presented to the Authority's AGM on the 12th June 2024 when Members will be able to challenge its findings at that time.
- the Chief Executive confirmed that Final Accounts for 2021/22 will be presented at the next meeting of the Authority following a delay that had arisen from the recent asset valuation. The Chief Finance Officer advised that Audit Wales were fully aware of this and understood that the Authority had experienced difficulties.
- the Chief Executive reminded Members that funding for the Geraint George Scholarship was due to finish in the next year or so and was a matter the Authority may like to discuss further.

3. **Public Question Time**

Members were informed that no public questions had been received.

4. **Declaration of Interest**

Mr. G. Iwan Jones and Mr. Jonathan Cawley declared an interest in items 16 and 17 on the Agenda and left the meeting while these matters were being discussed.

5. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Authority meetings held on 7th February and 6th March 2024 were accepted and the Chairman signed them as true records.

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

Authority Minutes 7th February 2024

Item 3 (4) – Corporate Update

- in response to a question, the Chief Executive explained there were some minor technical issues that still needed to be addressed in the upgraded conference room, but overall, the acoustics in the room was considerably improved.

7. **Action Log**

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

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

RESOLVED to note the Action Log.

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

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services for Members to discuss and adopt the (Draft) Corporate Work Programme as a working document for 2024/25.

Reported - The Director of Corporate Services presented the (Draft) Corporate Work Programme and provided further details on the format of the report. Members were asked to note the addition of ‘CW6 – Balancing the Authority’s Resources and Efforts’ which had 3 specific actions.

Arising thereon, Members asked for the following amendments:-

- AC 2.2 – Responding to the Challenges of Climate Change (page 17)
To remove the brackets and its content in the English report. Also, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the Asset Sub-Group would be meeting in July 2024.
- CC 2.2 – Supporting Young People (page 24)
The timetable for completion should read February 2025 in both the Welsh and English reports.
- CC1, 2, 4 – Resilient Communities (page 28)
Members noted that the Authority works closely with all the housing associations, Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council.
- CW 2.1 – Developing and Promoting Best Practice (page 31)
The timetable for completion should read March 2025 in both the Welsh and English reports.

RESOLVED

1. **to note the report.**
2. **subject to the amendments as outlined, to formally adopt the (Draft) Corporate Work Programme as a working document for 2024-25.**

9. **Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales**
Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to discuss the Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and background.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

10. **Outdoor Recreation Position Statement 2024-2025**
Submitted – A report by the Access and Well-Being Manager to present the final document for approval by the Authority.

Reported – The Partnerships Manager presented the report in the absence of the Access and Well-Being Manager, who had been unable to attend today's meeting. Members were asked to note that the report, which reflects the current position, had now been re-branded as a Position Statement rather than a Strategy. Members also noted that the document was flexible enough to allow the Authority to work with its partners and manage future changes in the law such as access to water, public rights of ways etc. The Partnerships Manager stated that the Position Statement was a sub-document of Cynllun Eryri and will be available on the Authority's website as a useful reference document for both the Authority's staff and the public.

Arising thereon, Members welcomed the report and the Outdoor Recreation Position Statement which brings everything together and provides the key messages.

RESOLVED to approve the content of the Outdoor Recreation Position Statement 2024-25 (Annex 1) as submitted.

11. Conferences and Seminars

- (1) **National Parks Conference 2024 : 75 years of Landscapes for Everyone**
Submitted – The draft programme for the National Parks Conference hosted by Northumberland National Park at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newcastle : Tuesday 24th to Thursday 26th September 2024.

Reported – The Chief Executive advised that it was customary to send four delegates, including the Chairman, to the Conference.

RESOLVED to send four delegates to the Conference, including the Chair, Vice-Chair and the Chief Executive. The following members were also nominated to attend:-

Councillor Ifor Glyn Lloyd or Delyth Lloyd, depending on their availability.

(Reserve Member – Councillor Meryl Roberts).

- (2) **National Parks Wales Members' Seminar 2024**
Received – A diary marker and invitation for every member to attend the National Parks Wales Members' Seminar 2024, hosted by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority on 6th / 7th November 2024 at the Giltar Hotel, Tenby.

RESOLVED to note the report.

12. **Members' Working Group Reports**

Submitted – The reports of the Members' Working Group meetings held on 24th January and 6th March 2024.

RESOLVED to note the reports.

13. **Calendar of Meetings**

Submitted – A timetable of meetings for the period 2024/2025.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the Calendar of Meetings and Members noted the usefulness of having the dates well in advance.

RESOLVED to approve the timetable for 2024/25 as submitted.

14. **Meetings of other Organisations**

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

Cllr. Elfed Powell Roberts - Trawsfynydd Site Stakeholder Group

- Trawsfynydd site was now managed by Nuclear Restoration Services.
- the focus had shifted to the Wylfa Nuclear site, and it felt like the Trawsfynydd site was now secondary.
- as regards decommissioning, the roofs at Trawsfynydd site were due to be removed shortly.
- concerns have also been raised with regard to the footbridge.

RESOLVED to thank Councillor Roberts and note the report.

15. **Minutes**

Submitted - The minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 29th November 2023, for information.

RESOLVED to note the minutes.

16. **Interim Management Team Structure – Adaptation to Option C
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 “Interim Management Team Structure – Adaptation to Option C” report be exempt from disclosure for the reasons outlined.

17. **Interim Management Team Structure – Adaptation to Option C**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Human Resources to provide the Authority with arrangements that are recommended to be put in place for an interim Senior Management Team structure (Option C) to facilitate the transition to a permanent structure upon the appointment of the new Chief Executive. The report also seeks Authority approval to formally adopt and implement Option C.

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

Members considered the report and made the following observations:-

- Members expressed their appreciation to the Director of Corporate Services and the Director of Planning and Land Management for their co-operation.
- the Chief Executive and the Head of Human Resources were tasked with examining the tendering process (Sell2Wales) and preparing draft job descriptions for the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive posts, prior to the first meeting of the Recruitment Panel.
- Members were agreed that any restructuring should be the responsibility of the new Chief Executive.

RESOLVED

- 1. to approve the formal adoption and implementation of Option C.**
- 2. to agree two consecutive meeting dates for the Head of HR to meet with the selected Members' Recruitment Panel in order to gain input and agree the next steps to allow for the successful implementation of Option C.**
- 3. to support the creation of two temporary posts of Interim Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive.**
- 4. to appoint the Interim Chief Executive on the lowest pay point of the Chief Executive Grade being £87,717.**
- 5. to appoint the Interim Deputy Chief Executive on a pay point between the Director's Highest pay point and the lowest point of the Chief Executive Pay being £79,911. (This is an estimated figure at this time since the pay point does not currently sit within our Senior Officers Pay Structure).**
- 6. to manage all formal agreements, where necessary, regarding permanent changes in employment contracts via external legal support.**
- 7. the posts of Interim Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive are positions which are event specific in duration.**
- 8. to appoint GIJ into the post of Interim Chief Executive.**
- 9. to appoint JC into the post of Interim Deputy Chief Executive.**
- 10. to immediately prepare the recruitment pack for the post of Director of Corporate Services.**
- 11. to officially open the recruitment process for a permanent Chief Executive no later than 1st July 2024.**
- 12. upon the commencement date of the new, permanent Chief Executive, GIJ will immediately assume the role of Deputy Chief Executive. This would automatically return JC to his substantive position of Director of Planning and Land Management, unless he has applied and been successful in gaining the permanent Chief Executive position, in which case a recruitment process will commence to recruit a replacement Director of Planning and Land Management.**
- 13. the position of Deputy Chief Executive ceases on the 31st of July 2026.**

The meeting ended at 11.35



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

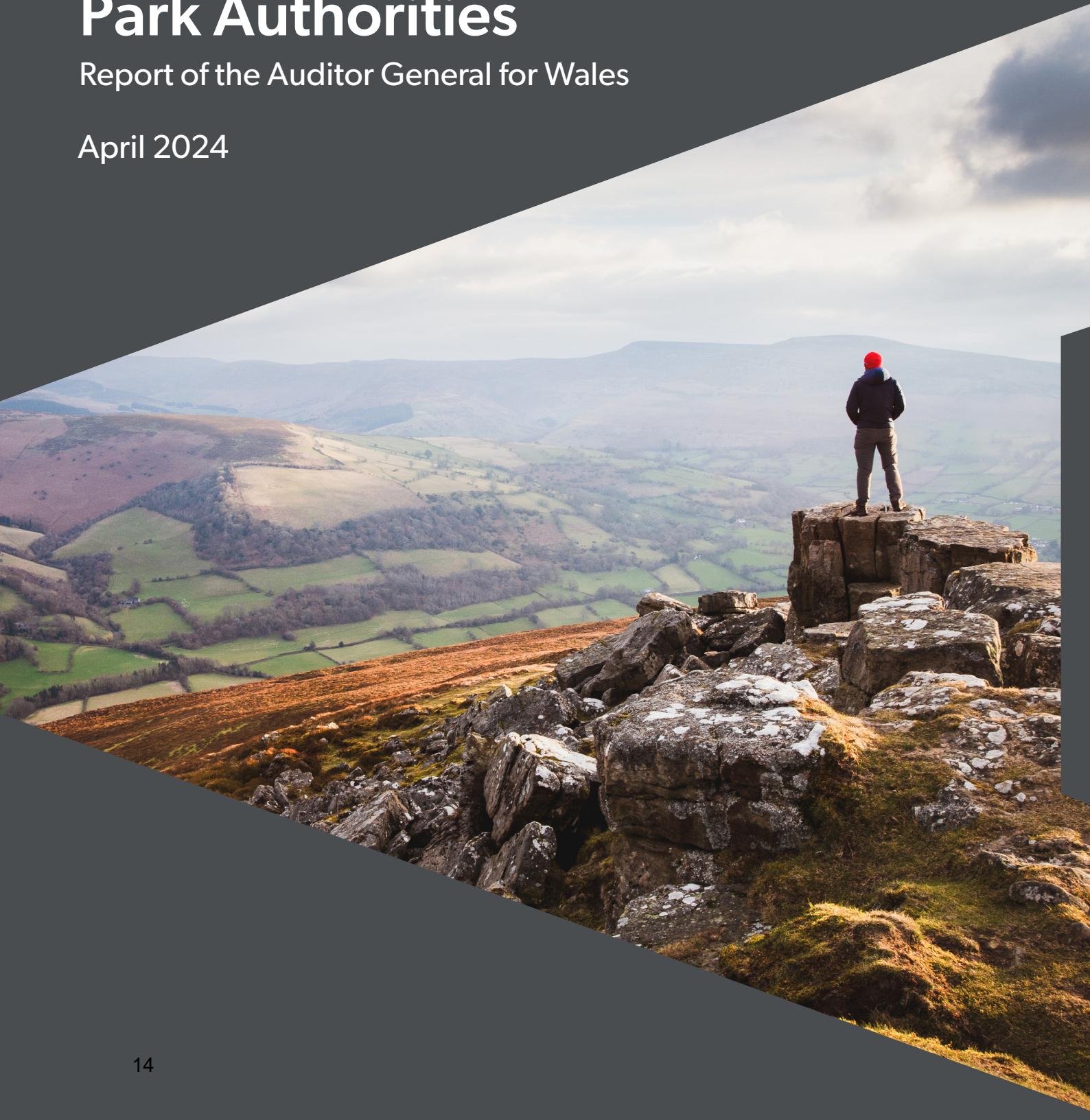
AUTHORITY MEETING – 07.02.2024

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	Carter Jonas are in the process of being appointed as agents by the Head of Property in connection with a potential sale or long-term lease. The Head of Property is also in the process of seeking competitive quotes with a view to appointing solicitors to prepare an Information Pack on the property. A further update report is due to be provided to a meeting of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Board.	NO

Governance of National Park Authorities

Report of the Auditor General for Wales

April 2024



This report has been prepared and published under section 41 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

The Auditor General audits local government bodies in Wales and conducts studies of them, including in terms of how they may improve the use of their resources in discharging their functions.

The Auditor General also audits the accounts of the Welsh Government and its sponsored and related public bodies, including NHS bodies, and he has powers to report to the Senedd on the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which those organisations have used, and may improve the use of, their resources.

The Auditor General is independent of the Senedd and government.

The Auditor General undertakes his work using staff and other resources provided by the Wales Audit Office, which is a statutory board established for that purpose and to monitor and advise the Auditor General.

Audit Wales is the umbrella brand of the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit Office, which are each separate legal entities with their own legal functions. Audit Wales is not itself a legal entity. While the Auditor General has the auditing and reporting functions described above, the Wales Audit Office's main functions are to provide staff and other resources for the exercise of the Auditor General's functions, and to monitor and advise the Auditor General.

© Auditor General for Wales 2024

You may re-use this publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium. If you re-use it, your re-use must be accurate and must not be in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as Auditor General for Wales copyright and you must give the title of this publication. Where we have identified any third party copyright material you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned before re-use.

For further information, or if you require any of our publications in an alternative format and/ or language, please contact us by telephone on 029 2032 0500, or email info@audit.wales. We welcome telephone calls in Welsh and English. You can also write to us in either Welsh or English and we will respond in the language you have used. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay.

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

Contents

The governance model for National Park Authorities provides a clear framework to discharge their key functions, but weaknesses in its implementation present a risk to good governance.

Summary report

What we reviewed and why	4
What we found	6
Key facts about National Park Authorities	6
What is 'good governance'?	8
Recommendations	10

Detailed report

National Park Authorities have a clear governance model	12
National Park Authorities recognise the value of collaboration but governing through complex partnership structures presents challenges	15
Servicing governance requirements risks stretching officer capacity	16
Weaknesses in elected member selection processes risk undermining good governance	17
The Welsh Government has a comparatively rigorous process for appointing members, but there is limited on-going support to appointed members	19
The extent to which members are being held accountable for their contribution to the governance of National Park Authorities is unclear	21
Weaknesses in how the governance model is being implemented raises questions about its suitability	23

Appendices

1 Audit scope, approach and methods	25
-------------------------------------	----

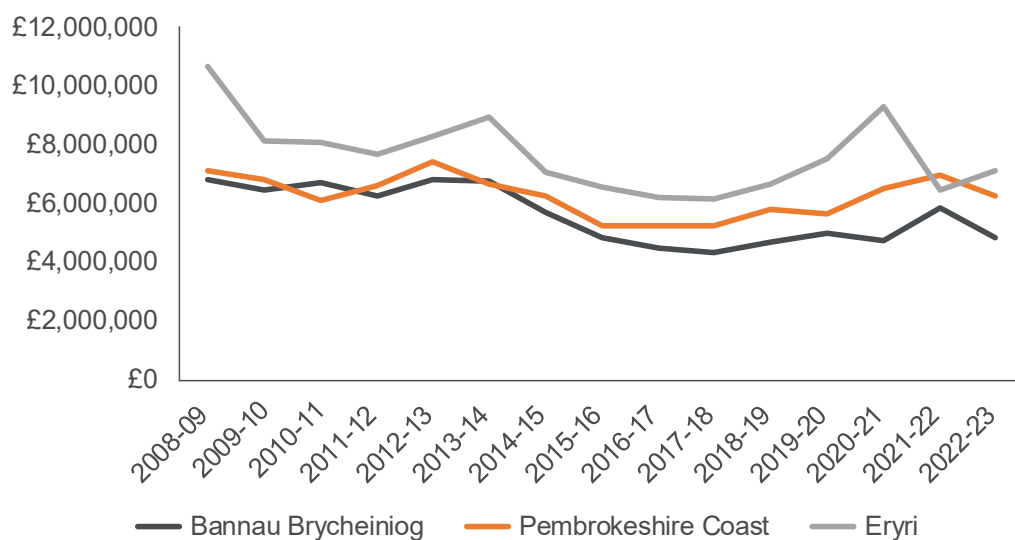
Summary report

What we reviewed and why

- 1 As part of the Auditor General's local government studies programme in 2022-23, we reviewed the governance arrangements across the National Park Authorities (NPAs) in Wales. Our review considered five key elements:
 - governance model and structures;
 - key functions and responsibilities within these structures;
 - governance culture;
 - infrastructure to support effective governance; and
 - arrangements to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of governance.
- 2 This report concludes the first part of a two-stage review considering the governance arrangements across Special Purpose Authorities in Wales. There are two cohorts of Special Purpose Authorities within the Welsh local government sector. They are the three NPAs, and the three Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs). The second stage of this review – which looks at the governance arrangements across the three FRAs – is included as part of our [work programme](#) for 2023-24.
- 3 We examined the governance of NPAs for a number of reasons. Firstly, key themes identified through our reviews in NPAs in recent years include opportunities to strengthen governance arrangements. For example, in recent reviews we have highlighted:
 - stretched officer capacity;
 - tension between key priorities when discharging their functions;
 - reliance on short-term grant funding;
 - challenging financial positions and use of reserves; and
 - difficulties in performance management of partnerships.

4 Secondly, all NPAs in Wales have been operating with reducing budgets over the last 15 years. This is best illustrated in the changes to their revenue outturn expenditure between 2008-09 and 2022-23. For example, in real terms, the total revenue outturn expenditure¹ for the three NPAs combined in 2022-23 was 26% lower than it was in 2008-09. **Exhibit 1** shows the difference across the three NPAs. This challenging operating environment makes good governance even more important to manage the reductions in funding in a way that secures value for money.

Exhibit 1: National Park Authorities’ real terms revenue outturn expenditure between 2008-09 and 2022-23



Source: Audit Wales analysis of [Revenue outturn expenditure, by authority \(gov.wales\)](#), adjusted in line with [HM Treasury GDP Deflators](#) published in September 2023

1 Revenue expenditure is the costs of running local authority services such as staffing, heating, lighting and cleaning, together with the expenditure on goods and services consumed within the year.

- 5 Thirdly, we have highlighted significant governance issues within Bannau Brycheiniog NPA in recent years.² These issues are potentially in part related to the wider governance model.
- 6 In a broader context, weaknesses in governance arrangements have also been highlighted in English national parks. For example, the Landscapes Review³ found challenges relating to the size, make-up, and purpose of NPAs' membership, as well as in legislation and funding. The review made a series of recommendations to the UK Government, which were accepted in part.⁴

What we found

- 7 Our review sought to answer the question: Do special purpose local authorities in Wales have effective governance arrangements that support good outcomes for citizens?
- 8 Overall, we found that: the governance model for National Park Authorities provides a clear framework to discharge their key functions, but weaknesses in its implementation present a risk to good governance.

Key facts about National Park Authorities

- 9 National parks are areas of land that have been designated as protected landscapes due to their Special Qualities.
- 10 All of the national parks in Wales, Scotland and England have a clearly defined list of Special Qualities. They set out what makes the area special and unique. The combination of these Special Qualities is at the heart of the area's designation as a national park.
- 11 Across the UK there are fifteen national parks, of which three are in Wales – Bannau Brycheiniog, Eryri and Pembrokeshire Coast (**Exhibit 2**).
- 12 In its Programme for Government⁵, the Welsh Government sets out its intention to designate a new national park, based around the current Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in north-east Wales. At the time of reporting, the Welsh Government had commissioned Natural Resources Wales to evaluate the case for the designation and a series of consultations was underway.

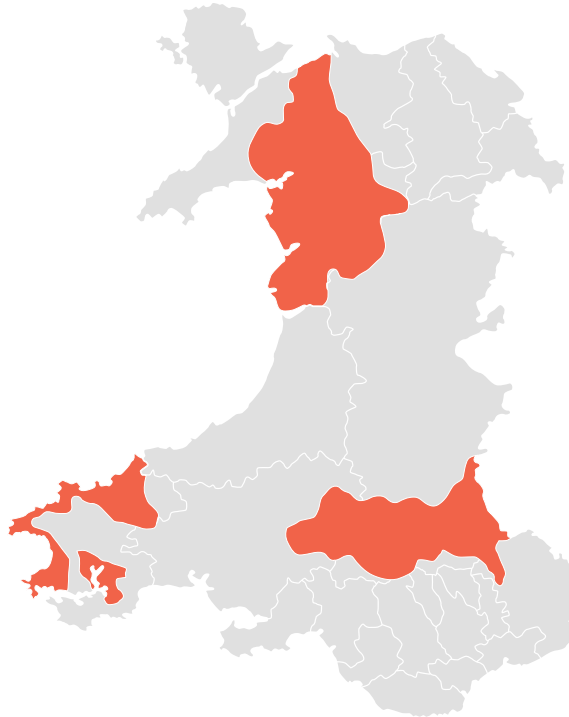
2 Audit Wales, [Delivery of the Change Programme](#), February 2021

3 Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), [Landscapes review: National Parks and AONBs](#), September 201

4 DEFRA, [Landscapes review: government response](#), January 2022

5 Welsh Government, [Programme for Government – Update](#), December 2021

Exhibit 2: national parks of Wales



Source: Audit Wales

- 13 The three national parks in Wales cover an area of 4,122 square kilometres. This represents approximately 20% of the land area of Wales. Eryri was designated in 1951, followed by Pembrokeshire Coast in 1952 and Bannau Brycheiniog in 1957.⁶ Most of the land within national parks is privately owned.
- 14 National Park Authorities have two purposes under the Environment Act 1995 (the Act):
- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage of the area; and
 - to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the Special Qualities of the national park by the public.
- 15 A concept known as the Sandford Principle dictates that, where these two purposes are in conflict and the conflict cannot be reconciled through management, the first duty takes precedence. In addition to their two statutory purposes, NPAs have a duty to co-operate with other public bodies locally to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities without incurring significant expenditure. Under Section 62 of the Act, partners such as unitary authorities must also have due regard to the NPAs' purposes in their work.

6 The National Parks of Wales: National Parks Wales
20

- 16 Whilst their statutory purposes and duty under the Environment Act 1995 drive much of the NPAs' work, they must also comply with their obligations under other legislative requirements, such as the socio-economic duty and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Key responsibilities of NPAs include:
- creating a national park management plan;
 - maintaining the functions of a local planning authority within the national park; and
 - acting to fulfil the two purposes and duty – eg by promoting opportunities for people to access and enjoy the area and conserving the qualities that make the area unique and special.
- 17 Governance by an independent authority distinguishes national parks from other designated landscapes, such as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). These areas have similar environmental protections but the organisations that manage them lack comparable functions, such as planning functions, which are retained by the relevant local authorities. There are five AONBs in Wales.⁷

What is 'good governance'?

- 18 Public sector organisations need to be governed in a manner reflecting the public and environment that they serve. To support this, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) have defined good governance in the public sector (**Exhibit 3**).

Exhibit 3: definition of good governance

The arrangements put in place to ensure that the intended outcomes for stakeholders are defined and achieved. To deliver good governance in the public sector, both governing bodies and individuals working for public sector entities must try to achieve their entity's objectives while acting in the public interest at all times. Acting in the public interest implies primary consideration of the benefits for society, which should result in positive outcomes for service users and other stakeholders.

Source: CIPFA/IFAC

- 19 To embed this definition, it has been further developed into seven principles (**Exhibit 4**).

⁷ These are the Anglesey Coast, the Gower Peninsula, the Llŷn Peninsula, the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley, and the Wye Valley. The Wye Valley covers an area in both England and Wales.

Exhibit 4: seven principles of good governance



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



Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.



Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.



Determining the interventions necessary to optimize the achievement of the intended outcomes.



Developing capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.



Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.



Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit, to deliver effective accountability.

Source: CIPFA/IFAC

Recommendations

The table below sets out the recommendations that we have identified following this review. We expect NPAs and the Welsh Government to formally receive this report, consider its findings, and to monitor their respective NPA's response to our recommendations.

Exhibit 5: recommendations

Recommendations

Supporting members to carry out their role

- R1 This report highlights weaknesses in the ongoing support and guidance provided to members appointed by the Welsh Government. To address this, we recommend that NPAs and the Welsh Government work together to:
- agree the support and guidance that will be provided to NPA members;
 - agree which of this support and guidance will be provided by the Welsh Government and which will be the responsibility of NPAs; and
 - clearly communicate this to Welsh Government appointed members.

Ensuring member nominations support good governance

- R2 This report highlights a lack of clarity and inconsistency in how local authority members are nominated to sit on NPAs. It also highlights a lack of diversity amongst local authority NPA members. To help address this, we recommend that NPAs work with the WLGA and the Welsh Government to:
- review whether the protocol for nominations remains fit for purpose;
 - raise awareness of the protocol and how it can support nominations; and
 - promote its usage amongst relevant local authorities.

Recommendations

Improving accountability for members

- R3 To provide assurance on members' contribution to the governance of NPAs, and to help inform future training and development provision, we recommend that the Welsh Government, NPAs and constituent local authorities work together to develop an accountability framework for all members of NPAs that:
- evaluates their contribution to the NPA; and
 - can be used to help to target support and development to enable NPA members to be effective in their role.

Reviewing whether the model is delivering what was intended

- R4 This report highlights weaknesses in the implementation of the governance model and how these issues raise questions about its suitability. To ensure it remains fit for purpose and reflects the distinct and different challenges each faces we recommend that, within the timescales of designating a new national park, the Welsh Government reviews the governance model for NPAs.

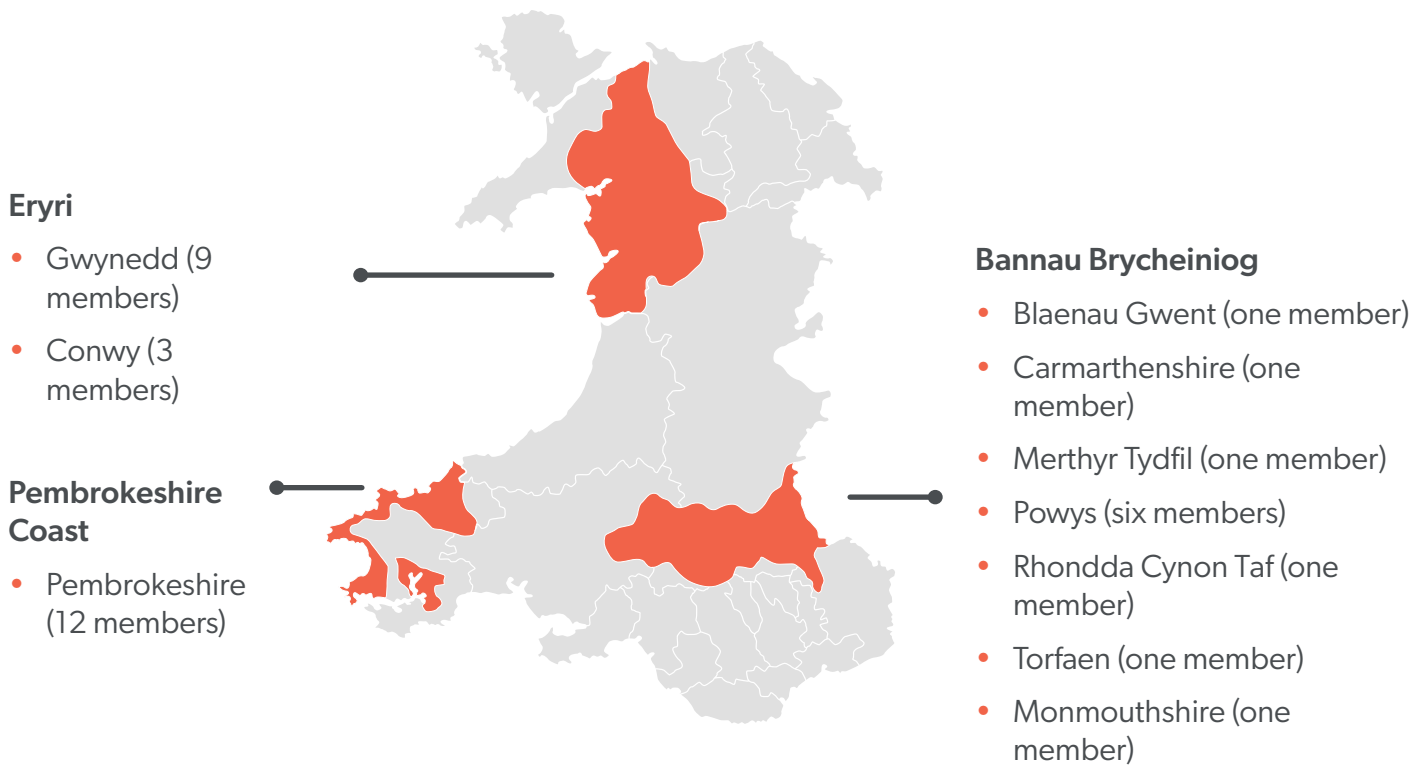
Detailed report

National Park Authorities have a clear governance model

- 20 The model of governance across the three NPAs in Wales is clearly defined. The make-up of their membership is set out in legislation⁸ underpinning the designation of national parks. Each NPA is formed by 18 members:
- two thirds (12) of members are drawn from those elected to their local authorities, where their geographical boundaries lie fully or partly within the national park. Every five years, members are nominated to sit on the NPA, reflecting the political balance of the constituent authorities. These are set out in **Exhibit 6**.
 - one third (6) of members are appointed by Welsh Ministers to provide a national focus and to ensure there is sufficient technical expertise.
- 21 This means that NPAs' governance model is designed to provide both democratic accountability through the inclusion of elected representatives from local communities, and strategic and sector expertise through members appointed by the Welsh Government.

8 [Environment Act 1995 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

Exhibit 6: nominating principal local authorities for Welsh national parks



Source: Audit Wales

22 National Park Authorities have clear and well-established committee structures. Beyond the broad governance model set out in the Environment Act 1995, each NPA has discretion to establish a committee structure that best reflects their requirements locally. These structures are outlined in **Exhibit 7**. Each NPA also has a sub-committee structure to support its key committees, and working groups are also established, often to deal with specific issues or to oversee particular projects or assets. These provide members with opportunities to undertake more in-depth, real-time scrutiny, compared to when items are presented to a broader membership (eg at full Authority meetings). Through our interviews and document reviews we found that these structures are well-established and have clear terms of reference which reflect statutory requirements and key work streams of NPAs. This means that NPAs' committee structures help them to discharge their statutory responsibilities.

Exhibit 7: National Park Authorities' committee structures

Committees	Eryri	Bannau Brycheiniog	Pembrokeshire Coast
Full Authority	✓		✓
Planning / Development Management Committee	✓		✓
Standards Committee	✓		✓
Audit and Risk Committee			✓
Finance and Performance Committee			✓
Performance and Resources Committee	✓		
Audit and Corporate Services Review Committee			✓
Operational Review Committee			✓
Human Resources Committee			✓
Sustainable Development Fund Committee			✓
Chairs Committee			✓
Member Support and Development Committee			✓
Total number of key committees:	4	7	8

Source: Audit Wales

23 National Park Authorities' schemes of delegation provide clarity on decision making responsibilities. For example, we found that a new scheme of delegation was recently adopted in Bannau Brycheiniog NPA. This has helped to clarify roles and requirements and provide additional flexibility (e.g. around member involvement in specific working groups). Similarly, Eryri NPA reviewed its governance procedures recently to ensure they are fit for purpose in light of changes to ways of working following the Covid-19 pandemic. Clarity on key responsibilities around decision making is a fundamental aspect of good governance.

National Park Authorities recognise the value of collaboration but governing through complex partnership structures presents challenges

- 24 National Park Authorities demonstrate a strong commitment to partnership working. For example, in recent years, we have highlighted NPAs' successes in establishing local partnerships with key partners to progress their aims and objectives. These include [Visit Pembrokeshire](#)⁹ and [Fforwm Eryri](#)¹⁰. This means that partnership working is central to each NPA's way of working and is important to meet key legislative requirements and avoid duplication.
- 25 National Park Authorities rely on their influence and ability to convene partnerships to help manage the challenges facing national parks. However, they have a limited role in some statutory partnerships. For example, NPAs' role on Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) is limited to strategic planning matters. And despite being able to involve NPAs' in other work strands, only one of the four CJCs has taken the opportunity to do this.¹¹ This risks curtailing NPAs' influence in key areas. This is an issue because, as highlighted in our recent reviews on sustainable tourism¹², the demand on NPAs is significantly impacted by matters within the wider remit of CJCs, such as travel infrastructure to support the visitor economy.
- 26 Servicing partnership structures is stretching capacity. For example, Bannau Brycheiniog NPA, due to its location, is part of three CJCs and two Public Service Boards (PSBs)¹³. Through our interviews we found that this causes a considerable draw on senior officers' capacity. In relatively small organisations such as NPAs, there is also a limited number of senior officers to delegate attendance at meetings. Coupled with NPAs' limited role and influence in some statutory partnerships, this raises questions about the value of attending in the broader context of reducing resources and capacity pressures.

9 Visit Pembrokeshire is a destination management partnership established between Pembrokeshire Coast NPA and Pembrokeshire County Council.

10 Fforwm Eryri is a partnership of key stakeholders established to develop and implement Eryri NPA's national park management plan, [Cynllun Eryri](#).

11 [Corporate Joint Committees – commentary on their progress | Audit Wales](#)

12 [Sustainable Tourism in Wales National Parks | Audit Wales](#)

13 The area covered by Bannau Brycheiniog National Park means that the NPA is an invited partner on four PSBs but is currently a member of two – Powys PSB and Carmarthenshire PSB.

Servicing governance requirements risks stretching officer capacity

- 27 There are constructive working relationships between members and officers in NPAs. Through our interviews and meeting observations we found that members mostly act collegiately and when they provide challenge to officers, it is done constructively and appropriately. This was not always the case in all NPAs. For example, member behaviour contributed to the significant governance failings highlighted in Bannau Brycheiniog NPA in recent years. However, following a significant turnover in membership, we found that Members in Bannau Brycheiniog NPA are now focused on rebuilding and maintaining good relationships with each other and with officers. Constructive working relationships are important in supporting a strong governance culture.
- 28 Despite this, members do not always display confidence in providing strategic direction and robust challenge to officers. In particular, through our interviews and observations we found that not all members are clear on their role and able to fully contribute to decision making processes.
- 29 Administering the NPA governance arrangements (for example, supporting the range of committee meetings) can be resource intensive. National Park Authorities are also subject to significant reporting requirements. For example, as Special Purpose Local Authorities, NPAs must prepare detailed financial statements in line with CIPFA guidance, despite the revenue and capital budgets of NPAs being significantly smaller than all principal councils. Capacity pressures raise risks that officers have limited time to provide members with the support they require to govern effectively.
- 30 The Welsh Government has sought to boost capacity to support governance across NPAs in recent years. It has funded a central joint post to lead on inclusion, diversity and governance matters. Hosted by Pembrokeshire Coast NPA, this role works across all three NPAs and provides a platform to increase capacity through a shared resource and to improve collective governance. Specifically, the role is designed to help coordinate member training, support governance, promote diversity, increase the diversity of visitors to designated landscapes and help NPAs to respond to key Welsh Government policy initiatives.

Weaknesses in elected member selection processes risk undermining good governance

- 31 There are inconsistencies in how councillors are selected to sit on NPAs. The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), along with the three NPAs, have developed a protocol¹⁴ to assist local authorities in deciding which elected members should be nominated to sit on the NPAs. This protocol notes that appointments should be made according to the political balance within the local authority and that it is desirable for those nominated to represent wards wholly or partly situated within the national park boundaries. **Exhibit 8** highlights the key considerations set out in the protocol. Through our interviews we found that the protocol is not being followed consistently. This presents a number of issues:
- local authorities control who is nominated, and often members are nominated from electoral wards that sit outside the national park boundaries and have little connection to local and strategic issues affecting the NPAs. For example, at the time of our review, almost a third of the relevant elected members did not represent council wards within the boundaries of a national park.
 - priority consideration is not always given to the skills and attributes necessary to contribute effectively to NPAs' governance.
 - the extent to which local authority members aspire to serve on a NPA varies considerably. In some, several councillors are keen to serve on a NPA and therefore the local authority has a wider pool of prospective members to select from. Elsewhere, there is less competition for the role – for example, some local authority NPA members told us they're on the NPA as “no-one else wanted to go on it” and that they're there “to make up the numbers.”

14 Protocol for National Park Authority Nominations

Exhibit 8: key considerations for local authorities when nominating councillors to sit on National Park Authorities, as set out in the protocol



Source: [Protocol for National Park Authority Nominations](#)

32 There is a lack of diversity amongst local authority NPA members. For example, **Exhibit 9** shows that at the time of our review, 72% of local authority NPA members were male and 28% were female, although this varied considerably between NPAs (and was, in fact, equal in Eryri NPA). In addition, no local authority member sitting on NPAs at the time of our review came from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background. In our interviews with NPAs officers, we heard concerns that the appointments process used by local authorities does not help with this, as little consideration is given to improving the diversity of NPAs' membership. The lack of diversity is an issue because, as highlighted in the 2014 report of the Expert Group on Diversity in Local Government, it is "vital that the people who make decisions on our behalf... are in tune with and representative of their local communities."¹⁵

15 [On Balance: Diversifying Democracy in Local Government in Wales – report of the Expert Group on Diversity \(gov.wales\)](#)

Exhibit 9: gender breakdown of the 36 local authority NPA members

National Park Authority	Number of female LA members	Number of male LA members
Bannau Brycheiniog	0	12
Eryri	6	6
Pembrokeshire Coast	4	8
Total	10	26

Source: Audit Wales analysis of NPA members in September 2023

The Welsh Government has a comparatively rigorous process for appointing members, but there is limited on-going support to appointed members

- 33 The selection process for Welsh Government members is rigorous in comparison to how local authority members are selected. Applicants go through a competitive assessment which involves the relevant NPA Chair, a Deputy Director in Welsh Government, and a Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Board member. The process is regulated and overseen by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) and administered by the NPA Sponsorship Team in the Welsh Government, in consultation with the Public Appointments Unit. Members appointed by the Welsh Government are limited to serving eight years (two periods of four years) on NPAs, although the Minister may grant an extension to their tenure depending on performance and business need. Such extensions are agreed by exception and must be ratified by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.
- 34 Welsh Government members usually sit on NPAs for their full tenure which provides continuity and enables the Welsh Government to appoint replacements in a planned way. Welsh Government appointed members we spoke to were largely positive about the appointment process. However, despite the strengths of the Welsh Government's appointments process, given the ratio between appointed and elected members, its impact is limited to one-third of the membership.

- 35 At the time of our review, there was little on-going support for members from the Welsh Government following their appointment. We also found that some members were unclear about their role post-appointment and felt they took a substantial amount of time to 'get up to speed' with the role and contribute to decision-making processes. This means that, despite its rigorous appointment process, the Welsh Government does not know if the members it appoints are adequately supported and able to discharge their responsibilities effectively.
- 36 Consequently, there is lack of clarity around where the responsibility lies for providing information to new Welsh Government-appointed members. For example, despite some evidence of NPAs seeking to identify members' development requirements, we found that they are not always clear on what to include in their training and induction plans for Welsh Government appointed members. We also found that members can feel isolated and unsupported in their role as a result. This risks undermining the value of the strategic expertise and national perspective for which members are appointed by the Welsh Government.
- 37 Our report on Bannau Brycheiniog NPA's Change Programme in February 2021¹⁶ highlighted that 'once an appointment is made to a National Park Authority, there is little ongoing support provided by the Welsh Government. This can leave members exposed, especially when they are faced with significant challenges.' The Welsh Government has committed to addressing these weaknesses in the Minister for Climate Change's 2022 Term of Government letter.¹⁷ The Welsh Government has made some progress in supporting members during 2023-24, for example by providing training for all members on governance, landscapes for everyone and the nature and climate emergencies.
- 38 This is important because a lack of clarity and post-appointment support and guidance poses significant risks to good governance. For example, it can lead to members not understanding their role and therefore being unable to effectively take part in decision-making process.

16 Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority - Delivery of the Change Programme, February 2021

17 The Minister for Climate Change has responsibility for national parks and sets out her key priorities for NPAs in a Term of Government letter.

The extent to which members are being held accountable for their contribution to the governance of National Park Authorities is unclear

39 Meetings are well-attended by NPA members. They are expected to attend at least 75% of NPA meetings and members attend, on average, more than the minimum expected (**Exhibit 10**). Analysis of the attendance data shows that Members from local authorities attend approximately as often as Welsh Government-appointed members.

Exhibit 10: Member attendance at National Park Authority meetings

National Park Authority	Average meeting attendance by LA members %	Average meeting attendance by WG members %
Bannau Brycheiniog	82	82
Eryri	84	76
Pembrokeshire Coast	92	93
Overall	86	84

Source: Audit Wales analysis of meeting attendance during 2022-23

- 40 There are formal arrangements in place to oversee members' conduct and behaviour. For example, whistleblowing and complaints procedures, behaviour protocols and established standards committees to deal with complaints. This means that NPAs have established the requisite checks and balances to help discharge their statutory responsibilities and provide assurance that any wrongdoing or potential breaches of codes of conduct would be dealt with accordingly.
- 41 Beyond this, however, there are no clear arrangements in place to oversee the effectiveness of NPA members' contributions and how they perform in their role. Although the Welsh Government seeks feedback from NPAs regarding appointees' performance on an annual basis, this exercise is not always carried out in practice and its impact can be limited. For example, through our interviews, some Welsh Government appointed members expressed concerns about the Welsh Government's review of their performance, highlighting a lack of feedback on their effectiveness and how they might improve in their role. Likewise, the contribution of local authority members is not consistently evaluated. This means that, despite being a remunerated¹⁸ role, NPAs cannot demonstrate the value for money provided through members' contributions.
- 42 The lack of feedback on performance also risks NPAs not having a good understanding of the training and development needs of members. We found that, although some NPAs carry out surveys in a bid to inform member training programs, these do not always receive good response rates. Officers also highlighted poor attendance by members at training courses provided. This risks undermining good governance through members not having a clear understanding of their roles and not being equipped to effectively carry out key functions.

18 Each member is paid a basic salary of £4,738 every year for undertaking their role, reflecting an assumption of a minimum expectation of 44 days' work every year. Using this figure, members' total remuneration across the three NPAs amounts to around £250,000 every year. Some members receive additional salary – e.g. authority and committee chairs receive a senior salary on top of their basic salary. NPAs publish an annual statement of remuneration for members.

Weaknesses in how the governance model is being implemented raises questions about its suitability

- 43 The governance model for NPAs is designed to blend democratic accountability with strategic expertise and national perspectives. However, weaknesses in how it is being implemented mean that the strengths of the model ‘on paper’ do not always ensue in practice. This raises questions about the suitability of the model. **Exhibit 5** highlights our recommendations following this review, including our expectation that the Welsh Government reviews whether the governance model for NPAs is delivering what was intended. It would be prudent for the Welsh Government to reflect on these matters in the context and timescales of its commitment to designating a new National Park covering the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.



Appendices

1 Audit scope, approach and methods

1 Audit scope, approach and methods

Scope

We sought to answer the question ‘Do special purpose local authorities in Wales have effective governance arrangements that support good outcomes for citizens?’

To answer this, we looked at structures of governance, the model of governance, how members and officers work within structures, and the approaches taken to review and improve governance arrangements.

We did not look at individual member or officer conduct, nor have we formed conclusions about each NPA individually. We have also not assessed governance of AONBs, principal local authorities, or other bodies, for this review.

Approach

Our approach in this audit has been to understand how governance structures are in each Authority ‘on paper’, how they are in reality, and then how they are reviewed. We aimed to provide assurance over the effectiveness of governance in Welsh NPAs overall.

We managed our fieldwork to be mindful of the pressures currently faced by officers. This includes COVID-19 recovery, the cost-of-living crisis, and the officer capacity pressures identified in our report. We ensured that our coverage was sufficient to give an overview of the whole sector but did not detract from service delivery. We worked flexibly to organise our fieldwork with officers.

Our approach was informed by the principles of good governance published by CIPFA and IFAC. These are outlined in the report above (**Exhibit 4**).

Methods

Our fieldwork was completed between January and July 2023, utilising the following methods:

- document review – we reviewed key governance documents from each NPA. This included standing orders, job descriptions of key officers, constitutions, terms of reference, and committee papers. This also included the annual remit letter issued to each NPA by the Welsh Government.
- local interviews – we interviewed both senior officers and members of each NPA.
- national interviews – we interviewed discussed our review with the Welsh Government, as well as gaining perspectives from two English NPAs.
- surveys – we conducted a survey of senior officers who regularly interact with members. We received 26 responses (65%). We also surveyed NPA members and received 28 responses (53%).
- observations – we observed five meetings in each NPA, which included a range of Full Authority, Planning, and other committees.
- website review – we reviewed each NPA website, as well as other relevant websites, such as the WLGA, Welsh Government, and UK Government.



Audit Wales

1 Capital Quarter

Tyndall Street

Cardiff CF10 4BZ

Tel: 029 2032 0500

Textphone: 029 2032 0660

E-mail: info@audit.wales

Website: www.audit.wales

We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English.

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.

ITEM NO. 11

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	12 June 2024
TITLE	STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021/22
REPORT BY	Chief Finance Officer
PURPOSE	<p>To receive and note the “ISA260” report presented by Audit Wales.</p> <p>To approve the post-audit Statement of Accounts.</p> <p>To authorise the Chairman of the meeting, together with the Chief Finance Officer, to certify the Letter of Representation.</p>

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Further to and based upon the Outturn Report for 2021/22 approved by the Performance and Resource Committee on 13th July 2022, the draft Statement of Accounts was completed within the extended timeline by the Authority’s Head of Finance and her staff and certified (subject to audit) by the Authority’s Chief Finance Officer on 31st August 2022.
- 1.2 There has been a significant delay in getting the Statement of Accounts audited by Audit Wales due to issues arising with revaluation of property, details of which can be found in the ISA260 report. The final version (post-audit) of the Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 is presented herewith to the Authority for approval in accordance with the The Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018. Audit Wales will require a Letter of Representation from the Authority before the Appointed Auditor (the Auditor General for Wales, Adrian Crompton) can finally issue the certificate on our accounts.
- 1.3 For completeness, the Statement of Accounts presented here includes the Annual Governance Statement which has already been approved by the Authority on 15th June 2022.

2. ADJUSTMENTS ARISING FROM THE AUDIT

The main adjustments since the pre-audit version have been outlined in the “ISA260” report presented here by Audit Wales. These changes have no significant impact upon the Authority’s ongoing financial management.

3. APPROVAL OF STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 require that the Statement of Accounts is approved by resolution of the Authority and signed and dated by the ‘person presiding’ (Chairman) at the meeting in which they were approved. A copy of the audited accounts for 2021/22 is presented here in Appendix 1 of this report.

4. LETTER OF REPRESENTATION

The draft Letter of Representation is presented here in Appendix 1 of Audit Wales’ ISA260 report. If members of the Authority approve the post-audit Statement of Accounts, they may also authorise the Chairman of the meeting, together with the Chief Finance Officer, to certify the Letter of Representation on their behalf.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

To receive and note the “ISA260” report presented by Audit Wales.

To approve the Authority’s post-audit Statement of Accounts for 2021/22.

To authorise the Chairman of the meeting, together with the Chief Finance Officer, to certify the Letter of Representation.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Outturn Report for 2021/22 approved by the Performance and Resources Committee on 16 July 2022.

Audit Wales’ ISA260 report submitted to this meeting.

SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022



SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021/22****INDEX**

Narrative Report	3
The Statement of Responsibilities	11
Statement of Accounting Policies	12
The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	23
Balance Sheet	24
The Movement in Reserves Statement.....	25
Cash Flow Statement.....	27
Notes To The Financial Statements.....	28
Annual Governance Statement 2021-22.....	79
Glossary Of Terms.....	111

NARRATIVE REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

The narrative report provides a brief explanation of the more significant matters reported in the accounts and aims to add to and assist the interpretation of the accounting statements which are set out on pages 23 to 27 and consist of:-

- The **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement** consolidates all the gains and losses experienced by the Authority during the financial year. These gains and losses should reconcile to the overall movement in net worth.
- The **Balance Sheet** setting out the financial position of the Authority as at 31st March 2022.
- The **Movement in Reserves Statement** is a summary of the changes that have taken place in the bottom half of the balance sheet over the financial year.
- The **Cash Flow Statement** which summarises the inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions for revenue and capital purposes.

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

2. SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK'S VISION AND PRIORITIES

The National Park Authority's vision was adopted in the Snowdonia National Park Management Plan in the meeting on 13th October 2021 as follows :

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

By 2035 Snowdonia will continue to be a protected and evolving landscape, safeguarded and enhanced to provide a rich, varied and resilient natural and historic environment; providing wellbeing benefits nationally and internationally.

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

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

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

<https://snowdonia.gov.wales/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/SNPA-WELL-BEING-STATEMENT-2021-26.pdf>

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

<https://authority.snowdonia.gov.wales/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Authority-27.04.22.pdf>

3 FINANCIAL CONTEXT

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND YEAR END POSITION

The revised 2021/22 budget as reported to the Performance and Resource Committee on 13th July 2022 was as below.

	Budgeted	Actual	Variance
	£	£	£
Planning & Land Management	1,620,267	1,043,627	576,640
Corporate	5,334,234	3,855,382	1,478,852
Interest	(8,000)	(11,612)	3,612
Capital funding from revenue	1,746,003	507,881	1,238,122
Capital Charge adjustment	(591,050)	(591,050)	-
Net	8,101,454	4,804,228	3,297,226
NPG & Levy	(5,493,051)	(5,493,051)	-
TFR to/from reserves	(2,608,403)	688,823	(3,297,226)
TOTAL	-	-	-

The net variance of £3,297,226 was adjusted for end of year transfers to & from reserves (further information in par. 4.2 of said report) leaving a balance of £516,324 to be allocated. This figure was amalgamated into the revised balances in the Authority reserves. The report is item 8 on the following link -

<https://snowdonia.gov.wales/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/PerformanceResources-Committee13.07.22.pdf>

During the process of compiling the Statement of Accounts the following adjustments were made to the outturn resulting in increasing the balance to be allocated to £537,463.70. The adjusted net expenditure figures appear in the Expenditure and Funding Analysis (note 1 to the main statements).

	Outtrun	Adjustments	EFA (Note 1)
	(£)	(£)	(£)
Planning and Land Management	1,043,627	2,034	1,045,661
Corporate	3,855,382	(23,171)	3,832,211
	4,899,009	(21,137)	4,877,872
Other movements			
Balance	516,324		537,461

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

4. SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS:

Balance Sheet:

The Authority's net worth has increased by **£3,960k**, the main reasons being the **pension fund liability** decrease of **£6,433k**, as well as a net decrease in the value of **Long Term Assets** of **£3,051k** following the revaluation at the start of the year. Other movements are as follows :

- **Current Assets** value has decreased by **£131k**. The main effect due to :

Cash and investments - (£988k) arising from grant monies and additional income including :
£178k relating to ERAMMP grant scheme
£281k Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places grants (S.L.S.P.),
and £89k of SLSP grant administrative fee, unspent in 2021/22.
£480k additional income from car parking fees

Debtors – there was a decrease of £1,118k in the debtor balance in, which brings the current asset decrease to £130k. The decrease in the debtor balance in due to less grant monies due compared to the previous year such as from the Celtic Rainforest project, and SMS project.

- **Current Liabilities** have decreased by **£417k** mainly due to

£198k less grants received in advance, ,
£222k decrease in trade creditor balance
£3k increase in 'Other' Creditor balance

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account :

The net cost of services has increased by £3,791k, with the movements per directorate as follows :

▪ Planning and Land Management	+£272k
▪ Corporate (including Communication)	+£3,562k
▪ Non-distributable costs	- £43k

Main movements are as follows :

Expenditure

- £330k increase in REFCUS total spend in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21
- £653k increase in IAS19 pension adjustment to the services in 2021/22
- £2,884k revaluation loss charged to services in 2021/22
- £318k decrease in the depreciation charge to services
- £265k less expenditure on redundancies in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21
- There was generally less expenditure on grant schemes in 2021/22

Income

- £2,803k decrease in Welsh Government grants received relating to projects
- £118k less contributions from sources other than Welsh Government

In addition to receiving grant funding the Authority also generates its own income. Note 1c to the main statements shows £2,421k (£1,433k in 2020/21) generated from fees, charges and other service based income; of this the main components are as follows :

▪ Car Park fee income	£1,276k (£472k in 2020/21)
▪ Planning Fees	£227k (£248k in 2020/21)
▪ Information Centre Sales	£189k (£63k in 2020/21)
▪ Rent	£56k (£32k in 2020/21)

Overall, despite the increase in the above fees, income decreased generally in 2021/22. This decrease is mainly due to a decrease in grant contributions in the year.

5. PENSION LIABILITY

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

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

The net pension liability in the balance sheet reduces the net worth of the Authority by £884k as at 31st of March 2022. The hypothetical figure has decreased by £6,433k since 31st of March 2021. The main reason for this is the effect of the change in Actuarial assumptions in relation to national developments. (detail in note 35)

6. UNUSUAL CHARGE OR CREDIT IN THE ACCOUNTS

The main items are :

- capital grants worth £1,141k received from Welsh Government
- grants and refunds worth £242k received in relation to the pandemic

7. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

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

Capital expenditure in 2021/22 amounted to £1,609k. Details of expenditure within each service area are shown in note 30. The expenditure was financed by grants and contributions from other bodies (£1,328) and direct revenue financing (£281k).

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

The main schemes in which the Authority was involved as at 31st March 2022 were :

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

8. CAPITAL FUNDING

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

As at 31st March 2022 the Authority had no outstanding debts to finance capital expenditure, and for treasury management purposes will remain a debt-free authority.

9. USABLE RESERVES

The General Revenue Reserve balance was reviewed during the year as part of a review of Authority reserves, and currently stands at £850k.

The Authority has specific Usable Reserves totalling £9,684k and these are detailed in note 8 to the financial statements. It should be noted that most of the reserves are earmarked for specific purposes.

10. GOVERNANCE

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

Further information on governance and related issues relating to 2021/22 is provided in the Annual Governance Statement part of this document.

11. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Risks

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

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

Opportunities

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

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

12. AUTHORITY STRATEGIES

The Authority's four main strategies are :

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

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

13. IMPACT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE

The Authority has balanced its budget for 2022/23 based on the National Park Grant figure as advised by Welsh Government officers in December 2021. Welsh Government have indicated that settlement figures for 2023/24 will remain the same as the 2022/23 figures. In light of the current economic climate and considerable inflationary pressures, this will be challenging for the Authority.

At the time of writing, the Authority's cash flow is adequate, but the situation may need to be re-evaluated depending on the settlement figures announced by the Welsh Government for 2023/24.

In relation to Covid-19, the Authority has received financial support via Non-Domestic tax saving and also business support grants from Gwynedd and Conwy councils, grant support specific to Yr Ysgwrn and the job furlough scheme during 2021/22.

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

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

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about this Statement of Account is available from:

Sian Wyn Owen
Head of Finance
Snowdonia National Park Authority
National Park Offices
Penrhyndeudraeth
Gwynedd
LL48 6LF
Tel: 01766 772 251
Email: sian.owen@eryri.llyw.cymru

THE STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

THE AUTHORITY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Authority is required to:-

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

These accounts were approved by the Authority on 16 November 2022

Signature :



CLLR ANNWEN HUGHES CHAIRMAN

THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

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

The Chief Financial Officer has also:-

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

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER'S CERTIFICATE

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

Signature



31st August 2022

DAFYDD L. EDWARDS - CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

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

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

2. ACCOUNTING CONCEPTS

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

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

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

3. ACCRUALS OF EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

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

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

4. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

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

5. EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

Where such items are applicable to the 2021/22 accounts, they have been highlighted in the relevant notes e.g. revaluation losses.

6. PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENTS, CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES AND ERRORS

During 2021/22, the Authority changed its accounting policy in relation to Community Assets, which are now held at valuation rather than historic cost.

7. CHARGES TO REVENUE FOR NON-CURRENT ASSETS

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

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

8. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**8.1 Benefits Payable During Employment :**

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

8.2 Termination Benefits :

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

8.3 Post Employment Benefits :

Employees of the Authority are members of the Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by Gwynedd Council. The scheme provides defined benefits

to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Authority.

8.4 The Local Government Pension Scheme

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

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

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

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 2.7% calculated as a weighted average of 'spot yields' on AA rated corporate bonds.

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

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

Service cost comprising:

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

Re-measurements comprising:

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

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

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

8.5 Discretionary Benefits

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

9. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

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

- those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events
- those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but where a category of events would have a material effect, disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

Events taking place after the date of authorisation for issue are not reflected in the Statement of Accounts.

10. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial Liabilities

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

Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified into two types:

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

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

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

11. FOREIGN CURRENCY

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

12. GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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

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

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are

satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (non-ring fenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

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

13. HERITAGE ASSETS

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

14. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

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

15. INTERESTS IN COMPANIES AND OTHER ENTITIES

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

16. INVENTORIES AND LONG TERM CONTRACTS

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

17. LEASES (FINANCE)

As at 31/3/2022 the Authority has no finance lease arrangements.

18. LEASES (OPERATIONAL)

The Authority manages operating leases for:

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

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

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

19. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

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

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

Measurement: Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at fair value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their fair value at the year-end, but as a minimum every five years. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. [Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.]

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

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

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

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

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

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

- where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains)

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

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

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

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Buildings – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer
- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – a straight line depreciation method

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

Disposals and Non-current Assets Held for Sale

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

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

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

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

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

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

20. PROVISIONS, CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

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

Provisions

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

Contingent Liabilities

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

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

Contingent Assets

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

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

21. RESERVES

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

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

22. REVENUE EXPENDITURE FUNDED FROM CAPITAL UNDER STATUTE

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

23. VALUE ADDED TAX

VAT payable is included as an expense only to the extent that it is not recoverable from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (H.M.R.C.). VAT receivable is excluded from income. It is the Authority's practice to include any input tax which cannot be recovered from H.M. Revenue and Customs within the costs of relevant services. As a result of the change in Plas Tan y Bwlch's current business model, the Authority has not sustained any irrecoverable VAT cost there in 2021/22.

THE COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

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

2020/21	2020/21	2020/21		2021/22	2021/22	2021/22
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
6,891	(5,062)	1,829	Planning and Land Management	4,468	(2,367)	2,101
5,304	(1,597)	3,707	Corporate	9,746	(2,477)	7,269
43	0	43	Non-distributable Costs			0
12,238	(6,659)	5,579	Net Cost of Service	14,214	(4,844)	9,370
		5	Other Operating Expenditure	0		
		99	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure (note 10)	145		
		5,683	Net Operating Expenditure	9,515		
		(6,246)	Non-specific grant Income (note 11)	(5,845)		
		(563)	Surplus (-) / Defecit on Provision of Services for the year	3,670		
		296	Net surplus on revaluation of fixed assets and impairment losses charged to the revaluation reserve (note 21)	74		
		2,113	Actuarial gains/ losses on pension assets/ liabilities (note 35)	(7,704)		
		2,409		(7,630)		
		1,846	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(3,959)		

BALANCE SHEET

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

2020/21		Notes	2021/22
£'000			£'000
17,529	Property, Plant & Equipment	12	14,482
798	Heritage Assets	13	807
25	Long Term Debtors	17	12
18,352	Long Term Assets		15,301
5,334	Short Term Investments	15	7,848
117	Inventories	16	116
3,146	Short Term Debtors	17	2,028
3,859	Cash & Cash Equivalents	18	2,333
12,456	Current Assets		12,325
(2,862)	Short Term Creditors	19	(1,756)
0	Provisions	28	(689)
(2,862)	Current Liabilities		(2,445)
(7,317)	Pension Fund Liability	35	(884)
(743)	Long Term Creditors	28	(452)
(8,060)	Long Term Liabilities		(1,336)
19,886	Net Assets		23,846
(9,137)	Usable Reserves	8	(9,684)
(10,749)	Unusable Reserves	21	(14,162)
(19,886)	Total Reserves		(23,846)

The Movement in Reserves Statement

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

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT 2021/22

	General Fund & Earmarked Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	Total Usuable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 31 March 2021 brought forward	(6,560)	(164)	(2,413)	(9,137)	(10,749)	(19,886)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	3,670	-	-	3,670	(7,630)	(3,960)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (note 7)	(4,536)	-	319	(4,217)	4,217	-
Increase / Decrease in 2021/22	(866)	-	319	(547)	(3,413)	(3,960)
Balance as at 31 March 2022 carried forward	(7,426)	(164)	(2,094)	(9,684)	(14,162)	(23,846)
General Fund	(850)					
Earmarked Reserves	(6,576)	(see note 8)				
	(7,426)					

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT 2020/21

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT 2020/21						
	General Fund & Earmarked Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	Total Usuable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance as at 31 March 2020 brought forward	(5,618)	(163)	(2,257)	(8,039)	(13,693)	(21,732)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(563)	-	-	(563)	2,409	1,846
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations (note 7)	(379)	-	(156)	(535)	535	-
Increase / Decrease in 2020/21	(942)	-	(156)	(1,098)	2,944	1,846
Balance as at 31 March 2021 carried forward	(6,560)	(164)	(2,413)	(9,137)	(10,749)	(19,886)
General Fund	(663)					
Earmarked Reserves	(5,897)	(see note 8)				
	(6,560)					

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

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

2020/21 £'000		2021/22 £'000
(563)	Net Surplus or Defecit on the provision of services	3,670
(1,454)	Adjustment of net suplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements (note 22)	(5,265)
1,525	Adjusments for items included in the net suplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	689
(492)	Net cash flows from Operating Activities	(906)
(711)	Investing Activities (note 23)	2,444
(15)	Financing Activities (note 24)	(12)
(1,218)	Net increse (-) or decrease (+) in cash and cash equivalents	1,526
2,641	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	3,859
3,859	Cash and Cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period (note 18)	2,333

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

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

2021/22					
	Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	Adjustments between Outturn and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	Outturn
	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)
Planning and Land management	938	(1,163)	2,101	1,055	1,046
Corporate and Communication	3,896	(3,373)	7,269	3,437	3,832
Costs that cannot be allocated	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost of Services	4,834	(4,536)	9,370	4,492	4,878
Other Income and Expenditure	(5,700)	-	(5,700)	(5,700)	-
Surplus/ Defecit	(866)	(4,536)	3,670	(1,208)	4,878
Opening balance	(6,560)				
Surplus for the year	(866)				
Closing Balance	(7,426)				
	(850)	General Fund			
	(6,576)	Earmarked Reserves (note 8)			
	(7,426)				

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

1A NOTE ON ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE FUNDING AND ACCOUNTING BASIS

Adjustments from the general fund to arrive at the CI & E statement amounts	Adjustment for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pensions & Employee Benefit adjustments	Other differences	Total Adjustments
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Planning and Land Management	(552)	(611)	-	(1,163)
Corporate	(2,747)	(626)	-	(3,373)
Costs that cannot be allocated	-	-	-	-
Net Cost of Services	(3,299)	(1,237)	-	(4,536)
Other income and Expenditure from the Exp. And Inc Analysis	-	-	-	-
Difference between the General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Suplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(3,299)	(1,237)	-	(4,536)

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

1B NOTE ON INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ON A SEGMENTAL BASIS

Income Analysed by Segment		
	2020/21	2021/22
Fees, charges and other service income	£'000	£'000
Planning, Cultural Heritage and Land Management	(542)	(640)
Corporate	(891)	(1,781)
	(1,433)	(2,421)

Significant 'non-cash' costs analysed by Segment							
	Planning, Cultural Heritage and Land Management		Corporate (including Communication)		Totals		
	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Depreciation	142	135	535	224	677	359	
Revaluation Loss	60	469	197	3,068	257	3,271	
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	617	338	-	13	617	351	
IAS 19 Pension Adjustment	176	638	285	633	461	1,271	
Employee Accrual Adjustment	52	(27)	57	(7)	109	(34)	
Totals	1,047	1,553	1,074	3,931	2,121	5,218	

1c NOTE ON EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ANALYSED BY NATURE

Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature				
The Authority's expenditure and income is analysed as follows:				
			2020/21	2021/22
Expenditure/ Income			£'000	£'000
Expenditure				
Employee benefits expenses			5,265	5,724
Other services expenses			5,996	4,861
Non distrubutable costs			43	-
Depreciation, amortisation, impairment, revaluation losses			934	3,629
Total Expenditure			12,238	14,214
				-
Income				
Fees, charges and other service income			(1,433)	(2,421)
Net interest on net defined benefit liability (IAS 19 pension adjustment)			111	157
Interest and investment income			(12)	(12)
Government grants and contributions			(5,226)	(2,423)
Non specific grant income			(6,246)	(5,845)
Gain on disposal of assets			5	
Total income			(12,801)	(10,544)
Defecit on the provision of services			(563)	3,670

2. ACCOUNTING STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED

There are no standards that have an effect on the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts.

3. CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

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

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

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

Those assumptions made by the Actuary relating to the pension fund are disclosed in note 35.

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Pensions Liability (note 35)	<p>Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and, for the Local Government Pension Scheme, the expected return on pension fund assets.</p> <p>An assessment of the liabilities is provided by Hymans Robertson. Further information is provided within note 35.</p>	<p>Relatively small changes in the assumptions made can have a significant impact on the pension net liability. The pension net liability shown in the balance sheet will only become payable over the retirement period of current and retired employees, so adjustments to the liability can be spread over a number of years through changes in employee and employer contributions. Increases in employer contributions have a direct impact on the budget.</p> <p>The effect of the change in actuarial assumptions is referred to in note 5 of the Narrative Report.</p>
Property valuations (note 12)	<p>The Authority revalues its assets every 5 years. The last full valuation was undertaken on 1st April 2021. It is possible that property values could fluctuate considerably within this 5 years time frame. In this respect an annual review is undertaken by the Head of Finance and Head of Property to identify any interim valuations required.</p> <p>It bases its valuations on assumptions about asset conditions, useful lives, residual values and market conditions.</p> <p>These judgements are underpinned by the best available information and made by qualified valuers but are still based on estimates.</p>	<p>A fluctuation in property values would impact on the values held in the Balance Sheet and on the corresponding depreciation charge.</p>

5. MATERIAL ITEMS OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

The Authority received specific grants from Welsh Government and other public bodies worth £2,520,566 in 2021/22.

£242,579 support grants were received in lieu of the effect of the pandemic.

6. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

The Statement of Accounts have been approved for publication by the Chief Finance Officer as at 31st August 2022. Events after this date are not reflected in neither the financial statements nor the notes. Where events before this date provide information about the situation before 31st March 2022, the figures in the financial statement and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to show the effect of this information.

7. ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

This note details the adjustments that are made in the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the Authority in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Authority to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

2021/22	Useable Reserves			Movement in Unuseable Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE CAPITAL ADJUSTMENTS ACCOUNT				
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
Charges for depreciation, impairment and revaluation losses on non-current assets	(742)	-	-	742
Losses on revaluation	(2,884)	-	-	2,884
Net book value of assets disposed of	-	-	-	-
Capital grants and contributions applied	168	-	-	(168)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(351)	-	-	351
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
Capital grants received in previous financial years and used in 2021/22	-	-	604	(604)
Capital grants received in previous years and transferred to revenue in 2021/22	(57)	-	-	57
Capital Expenditure Charges against the General Fund 2020/21	281	-	-	(281)
ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE CAPITAL GRANTS UNAPPLIED ACCOUNT				
Capital grant received in 2020/21 and transferred to revenue in 2021/22	-	-	-	-
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	286	-	(286)	-
ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE CAPITAL RECEIPTS RESERVE				
Capital Receipts used in 2021/22	-	-	-	-
Capital receipts in 2021/22 not utilised	-	-	-	-
ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE PENSION RESERVE				
Reversal of Items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,979)	-	-	1,979
Employers Pension Contribution and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	708	-	-	(708)
ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE ACCUMULATED ABSENCES ACCOUNT				
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	34	-	-	(34)
Total	(4,536)	-	319	(4,217)

2020/21	Useable Reserves			
	General Fund Balance	Capital Receipts Reserves	Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	Movement in Unuseable Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE CAPITAL ADJUSTMENTS ACCOUNT				
Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
Charges for depreciation, impairment and revaluation losses on non-current assets	(677)	-	-	677
Losses on revaluation	(257)	-	-	257
Net book value of assets disposed of	(16)	-	-	16
Capital grants and contributions applied	905	-	-	(905)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(272)	-	-	272
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement				
Capital grants received in previous financial years and used in 2020/21	-	-	334	(334)
Capital grants received in previous years and transferred to revenue in 2020/21	(5)	-	5	-
Capital Expenditure Charges against the General Fund 2020/21	172	-	-	(172)
ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE CAPITAL GRANTS UNAPPLIED ACCOUNT				
Capital grant received in 2019/20 and transferred to revenue in 2020/21	-	(10)	10	-
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	505	-	(505)	-
ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE CAPITAL RECEIPTS RESERVE				
Capital Receipts used in 2020/21	-	-	-	-
Capital receipts in 2020/21 not utilised	-	-	-	-
ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE PENSION RESERVE				
Reversal of Items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(1,289)	-	-	1,289
Employers Pension Contribution and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	674	-	-	(674)
ADJUSTMENTS PRIMARILY INVOLVING THE ACCUMULATED ABSENCES ACCOUNT				
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(109)	-	-	109
Total	(369)	(10)	(156)	535

8. TRANSFERS TO/FROM EARMARKED RESERVES

	Balance at 31 March 2020	Transfers out 2020/21	Transfers in 2020/21	Balance at 31 March 2021	Transfers out 2021/22	Transfers in 2021/22	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Earmarked Revenue and Capital reserves (approved as earmarked revenue and capital expenditure)	(372)	50	(234)	(556)	556	(775)	(775)
Specific Risks Reserves (to meet probable budget pressures)	(424)	-	-	(424)			(424)
Planning Reserve (To meet costs of Public Enquiry)	(225)	-	-	(225)	-	-	(225)
Match Funding Revenue Reserve (For Convergence Fund Purposes)	(1,063)	297	(298)	(1,064)	216	(114)	(962)
Revenue Grants reserve	(1,720)	313	(702)	(2,109)	810	(265)	(1,564)
Pen y Pass Income reserve (for facilities related to Snowdon)	(56)		-	(56)	-	-	(56)
Section 106 reserve (for purposes related to affordable housing)	(240)	50	(105)	(295)	36	(226)	(485)
Projects reserve	(405)	190	(289)	(504)	154	(592)	(942)
Asset Management Reserve	(234)	29	(239)	(444)	57	(536)	(923)
Staff Resilience Reserve	(120)	-	-	(120)	-	-	(120)
Commercial Risk reserve	(100)	-	-	(100)	-	-	(100)
	(4,959)	929	(1,867)	(5,897)	1,829	(2,508)	(6,576)
Other Reserves				-			-
General Fund	(659)	-	(4)	(663)	45	(232)	(850)
Capital:				-			-
Capital Grants Unapplied reserve	(2,257)	1,321	(1,477)	(2,413)	1,184	(865)	(2,094)
Useable Capital Receipts reserve (to only finance capital expenditure)	(164)	20	(20)	(164)	-	-	(164)
	(8,039)	2,270	(3,368)	(9,137)	3,058	(3,605)	(9,684)

9. OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE

2020/21		2021/22
£'000		£'000
5	Gains/losses on disposal of non-current assets	0

10. FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2020/21		2021/22
£'000		£'000
111	Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	157
(12)	Interest receivable and similar income	(12)
99	Total	145

11. NON-SPECIFIC GRANT INCOME

2020/21		2021/22
£'000		£'000
(3,745)	National Park Grant	(4,190)
(1,249)	Levies on Constituent Authorities	(1,373)
(1,252)	Capital Grants and Contributions	(282)
(6,246)	Total	(5,845)

12. PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Movement on Balances

2021/22	Land and Buildings	Vehicles Plant & Equipment	Community	Surplus Assets	Assets under Construction	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or valuation						
At 1 April 2021	18,892	2,177	108	-	210	21,387
Additions	382	121	25		106	634
Disposals		(104)				(104)
Reclassification	(21)					(21)
Revaluation gain (loss) to the CIES	(2,859)		(25)			(2,884)
Revaluation gain/ (loss) to the Revaluation Reserves	(485)		512	40		67
At 31 March 2022	15,909	2,194	620	40	316	19,079
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairments						
At 1 April 2021	(2,276)	(1,583)	-	-	-	(3,859)
Depreciation	(158)	(188)				(346)
Impairment	(496)					(496)
Disposals		104				104
At 31st March 2022	(2,930)	(1,667)	-	-	-	(4,597)
Net Book Value at 31 March 2022						
	12,979	527	620	40	316	14,482
Net Book Value at 31 March 2021						
	16,617	594	108	-	210	17,529

2020/21	Land and Buildings	Vehicles Plant & Equipment	Community	Surplus Assets	Assets under Construction	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or valuation						
At 1 April 2020	18,702	1,951	108	-	147	20,908
Additions	615	332	-		185	1,132
Disposals		(106)				(106)
Reclassification	-					-
Revaluation gain (loss) to the CIES	(250)		-			(250)
Revaluation gain/ (loss) to the Revaluation Reserves	(296)		-	-		(296)
At 31 March 2021	18,771	2,177	108	-	332	21,388
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairments						
At 1 April 2020	(1,791)	(1,493)	-	-	-	(3,284)
Depreciation	(485)	(180)				(665)
Impairment	-					-
Disposals		90				90
At 31st March 2021	(2,276)	(1,583)	-	-	-	(3,859)
Net Book Value at 31 March 2021	16,495	594	108	-	332	17,529
Net Book Value at 31 March 2020	16,911	458	108	-	147	17,624

Depreciation

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

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

Revaluations

A revaluation of all land and building was carried out at 1st April 2021.

Capital Commitments

The only capital commitment on tendered contracts the Authority has as at 31/03/2022 is:

- Dolgellau Heritage Townscape Scheme - £209k

13. HERITAGE ASSETS

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

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

2021/22	Ynys y	Craig yr		
	Pandy Slate Mill	Aderyn	Ysgwrn	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or valuation				
At 1 April 2021	-	28	818	846
Additions	-	-	31	31
Disposals	-	-	0	0
Reclassification	-	-	21	21
Revaluation gain/ (loss) to the Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-
31 March 2022	-	28	870	898
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment				
1 April 2021	-	-	(48)	(48)
Depreciation and Impairment	-	-	(43)	(43)
31 March 2022	-	-	(91)	(91)
Net Book value at 31 March 2022	-	28	779	807
Net Book value at 31 March 2021	-	28	770	798

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

14. ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

As at 31st March 2022 there were no assets held for sale. (As at 31/03/2021 no assets were designated as Assets for Sale).

15. SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS

As at 31st March 2022 the Authority held term deposits worth £7,848k. (£5,334 as at 31st March 2021).

16. INVENTORIES

Stocks are brought into account at cost price. Stocks held on 31st March 2022 consisted of :-

		Balance as at 31 March 2021	Balance as at 31 March 2022
		£'000	£'000
Information Centres	Goods for resale	82	75
Access	Snowdon maps	4	3
	Stones & bags	5	7
Plas Tan y Bwlch	Bar	1	1
	Goods for Resale	6	7
	Catering and cleaning	0	2
Administation and Customer Care	Protective Clothing	3	3
Agricuture	Trees	10	12
Ysgwrn	Café and shop goods	3	3
Pen y Pass	Goods for resale	2	2
Llyn Tegid	Goods for resale	1	1
Total		117	116

17. DEBTORS

2020/21		2021/22
£'000		£'000
	Amounts falling due within one year :	
96	Trade	93
119	Prepayments	54
2,931	Other	1881
3,146		2028
	Long Term debtors (amounts falling due after one year)	
25	Car loans to employees	12
25		12

18. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

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

31 March 2021		31 March 2022
£'000		£'000
2	Cash held by the Authority	2
921	Bank current accounts	418
2,936	Short-term deposits with banks	1,913
3,859	Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,333

19. CREDITORS

2020/21		2021/22
£'000		£'000
	Amounts payable within one year :	
(1,484)	Trade	(1,262)
(491)	Other	(494)
(1,975)		(1,756)

20. USABLE RESERVES

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

21. UNUSABLE RESERVES

2020/21		2021/22
£'000		£'000
(7,967)	Revaluation reserve	(7,920)
(10,385)	Capital adjustment account	(7,377)
7,317	Pensions Reserve	884
286	Accumulated Absences Account	251
(10,749)		(14,162)

The Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Authority arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment (and Intangible Assets). The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

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

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

2020/21		2021/22
£'000		£'000
(8,424)	Balance as 1st April	(7,967)
-	Upward revaluation of assets	(3,125)
296	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services	3,199
296	Surplus or deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	74
161	Depreciation on revaluation gains written off to the Capital Adjustment	(27)
(7,967)	Balance as 31st March	(7,920)

Capital Adjustment Account

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

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

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

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

2020/21 £'000		2021/22 £'000
(10,035)	Balance ar 1st April	(10,385)
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	
677	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	742
257	Revaluation losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	2,884
16	Book value of equipment disposals	-
272	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	352
(8,813)		(6,407)
	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation reserve	
(161)	Depreciation adjustment	27
(8,974)	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	(6,380)
	Capital financing applied in the year	
-	Capital grants received in previous years and transferred to revenue in 2021/22	57
(905)	Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	(168)
(334)	Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve	(605)
(172)	Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund balances	(281)
(10,385)	Balance at 31st March	(7,377)

Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Authority accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Authority makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Authority has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

2020/21		2021/22
£'000		£'000
4,589	Balance at 1st April	7,317
2,113	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit liability/ (asset)	(7,704)
1,289	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	1,979
(674)	Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(708)
7,317		884

Accumulated Absences Account

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

2020/21		2021/22
£'000		£'000
177	Balance ar 1st April	286
(177)	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	(286)
286	Amount accrued at the end of the current year	251
109	Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(35)
286	Balance at 31 March	251

22. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – OPERATING ACTIVITIES

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

2020/21		2021/22
£'000		£'000
-677	Depreciation and impairment	(358)
-257	Revaluation losses on Property Plant and Equipment	(3,270)
-16	Revaluation gains against past losses	-
-1,298	Movement in creditors	702
1,423	Movement in debtors	(1,067)
-14	Movement in stock	(1)
-615	Provision of Services costs for post employment benefits	(1,271)
-1,454	Balance at 31 March	(5,265)

The cash flows from operating activities includes bank interest received of £12k (£11k in 2020/21).

23. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – INVESTING ACTIVITIES

2020/21		2021/22
£'000		£'000
	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	665
1,139		
	Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	-
-10		
	Proceeds from short term and long term investments	2,514
-133		
	Other receipts from investing activities	(735)
-1,707		
-711	Balance at 31 March	2,444

24. CASH FLOW STATEMENT – FINANCING ACTIVITIES

2020/21		2021/22
£'000		£'000
	Car loan repayments and related interest together with finance lease interest	(12)
-24		
	New car loans advances	-
10		
-14	Balance at 31 March	(12)

25. MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

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

The allowances paid to members were:-

2020/21		2021/22
£'000		£'000
91	Members Allowances	97
0	Travel & Subsistence	0
91		97

Further information is available on the Authority's website. See the following link : [HTTPS://WWW.SNOWDONIA.GOV.WALES/AUTHORITY/PUBLICATIONS/MEMBER-ALLOWANCES](https://www.snowdonia.gov.wales/authority/publications/member-allowances)

26. STAFF REMUNERATION

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

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

2020/21		2021/22
(£'000)		(£'000)
91	Chief Executive Officer	92
23	SNPA Median Salary	29
3.88	Ratio	3.15

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

2020/21				2021/22		
Salary	Employer Pension Contribution	Total		Salary	Employer Pension Contribution	Total
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
91	18	109	Chief Executive Officer	92	18	110
7	1	8	Chief Finance Officer (Section 151)*	7	1	9
63	13	76	Director of Corporate Services	64	13	77
63	13	76	Director of Planning and Land Management Services	64	13	77

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

No officers received a sum of over £60k (excluding Pension and Employer National Insurance Contributions) including a redundancy payment in 2021-22.

Number of Officers that received over £60k including salary and redundancy benefits.							
2020-21				2021-22			
Planning and Land Management	Corporate	Total	Range	Planning and Land Management	Corporate	Total	
0	1	1	60,000-64,999	0	0	0	
0	1	1	65,000-69,999	0	0	0	

Termination Benefits

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

Exit package cost band	Number of compulsory redundancies		Number of other departures agreed		Total number of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each		
	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	2020/21	2021/22	
£'000							£'000	£'000	
0-40		5	0	0	0	5	0	42	0
40-60		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
60-80		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
80-100		1	0	0	0	1	0	84	0
100-150		1	0	0	0	1	0	130	0
Total		7	0	0	0	7	0	256	0

27. EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

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

2020/21 £'000	Regulatory area	2021/22 £'000
31	Fees payable to the auditor general for Wales with regard to external audit services carried out under the Code of Audit Practice prepared by the auditor general for Wales	29
17	Fees payable to the Auditor General for Wales in respect of statutory inspections and the LG Measure 2009	18
48	Total	46

Figures as noted in the Audit Wales Annual Audit Plan 2021-22 (including an adjustment to the financial audit cost due to extra work required and therefore also to the total cost figure for 2020/21).

28. GRANT INCOME

The Authority credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2021/22

2020/21		2021/22
£'000		£'000
	REVENUE GRANTS	
	Credited to Services	
	Planning and Land Management	
409	Natural Resources Wales	25
14	National Trust	8
10	RSPB LIFE	10
653	EU LIFE	416
2,485	Welsh Government	354
85	Local Authorities	42
212	Heritage Lottery Fund	195
-	Welsh water	-
10	Woodland Trust	27
59	National Grid	77
121	WCVA	85
29	HMRC (Furlough scheme)	4
1	Other	30
4,088		1,273
	Corporate	
5	Natural Resources Wales	254
572	Welsh Government	243
72	Local Authorities	1
225	HMRC (Furlough Scheme)	23
2	Other	1
876		522
4,964	Total	1,795

2020/21		2021/22
£'000		£'000
	CAPITAL GRANTS	
	Credited to non-specific grant income	
	Planning and Land Management	
40	Heritage Lottery Scheme	-
245	Welsh Government	7
48	Other	
333		7
	Corporate (including Communication)	
913	Welsh Government	275
6	Other	
919		275
1,252	Sub-total	282
	Credited to Services	
	Planning and Land Management	
416	Welsh Government	305
187	Heritage Lottery Fund	126
(1)	Other	
602		431
	Corporate	
-	Welsh Government	428
(1)	Other	
(1)		428
1,854		1,141
	Capital Grants Received in Advance and utilised in the current year	
293	Welsh Government	604
34	Heritage Lottery Fund	
7	British Mountainerring Council	
2,188	Sub-total	604
2,188	Total Capital Grants	1,745

2020/21	GRANTS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE	2021/22
£'000		£'000
	Amounts payable within one year :	
(887)	Grants received in advance	(689)
(887)		(689)
	Long Term payable (amounts falling due after one year)	
(743)	Grants received in advance	(452)
(743)		(452)

The Authority has received a number of grants, contributions and donations that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that will require the monies or property to be returned to the giver. The balances at the year-end are as follows:

The £452k under Long Term grants represents :

- £253k Welsh Government grant for works on Hafod Eryri
- £95k ERAMMP grant.
- £48k contributions relating to the Dark Skies project.
- £1k relating to the Nant Peris TAIS scheme
- £56k LIFE Scheme – Welsh Water Grant

29. RELATED PARTIES

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

The Authority has adopted a materiality level of £1k for disclosure of Related Party Transactions relevant to Members and Staff.

Welsh Government

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

Members

Members of the Authority have direct control over the Authority's financial and operating policies. Details of members' interests are recorded in the Register of Members' interests, open to public inspection at the Authority's offices during

working hours. A member declared ownership of a business in which the authority purchased Washroom/Toilet consumables, these were business transactions uninfluenced by the member for a total below the materiality level. Another member declared that a relative is employed by Bangor University, income of £3k was received for accommodation at Plas Tan y Bwlch. This was in the normal course of business and uninfluenced by the member. Another member declared an interest that a relative is the owner of a Business in which authority purchased various hardware goods, these were business transactions uninfluenced by the member for a total below the materiality level. The total of members' allowances paid in 2021/22 is shown in note 25.

Other Public Bodies

The Constituent Local Authorities within whose boundaries the Authority's own boundary runs, contribute to the finances of the Authority by means of a statutory levy, determined by the Welsh Assembly Government. Each of these authorities provides a number of councillors to serve as members of the National Park Authority, broadly in proportion to the size of the levy they contribute and their area within the National Park. The representation of the 18 members of Snowdonia National Park Authority is as follows - Gwynedd Council (9), Conwy Council (3) and Welsh Government (6). Further detail is available from the Authority agenda for the Annual General Meeting held in June each year. A member representing Welsh Government also disclosed that a close family member is a Natural Resources Wales' Board member. The member did not make any decisions in relation to NRW income and expenditure.

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

Officers

The Authority's Chief Finance Officer has declared an interest as he was Gwynedd Council's Head of Finance up until 31st December 2021. The Authority received circa £1.1m (including the levy) from Gwynedd Council in 2021/22 (£1.1m in 2020/21) This total also includes income received for searches relating to the Planning Service which are outside the influence of the Chief Finance Officer as well as income in relation to various grants which are included in note 28. Income is also received from Conwy County Council for searches relating to the Planning Service

A Head of service declared interest in a relative owning a metalwork business in which the Authority has paid £2k in 2021/22. The payments were in relation to Capital Grant Expenditure and a business purchase for agricultural purposes.

Entities controlled or significantly influenced by the Authority

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

The Authority had contracts with Gwynedd Council to provide the Authority with the following services during 2021/22:

- Pension Fund administration & Payroll Support Service (£7k)
- Internal audit Service (£9k)
- Temporary Support Service to the Finance Department (£6k)
- Temporary Human Resource Service (£16K)

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

30. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING

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

2020/21		2021/22
£'000		£'000
-	Opening Capital Financing Requirement	-
	Capital Investment	
	Property, Plant & Equipment	
	Planning and Land Management	
61	Ysgwrn	101
-	Pen y Pass & Llyn Tegid	16
53	Lidar scheme (Carneddau)	-
30	Equipment	31
42	Mobile Observatory and Dark Skies projects	-
-	Woodlands	45
-	Woodlands (SLSP Grant)	7
186		200
	Corporate (including Communication)	
-	Car park upgrades	40
-	Upgrade public conveniences	53
113	I.T. General Replacement programme	9
149	Vehicles	15
-	Equipment	26
29	Snowdon Partnership Scheme	16
54	Electricity charging points	7
-	New website	91
31	Dol Idris (TAIS scheme)	(1)
7	Ogwen Centre (TAIS scheme)	2
30	Nant Peris (TAIS scheme)	(3)
30	Betws y Coed Information Centre	9
-	I.T. (SLSP Grant)	43
351	Main Offices Heating System	39
-	Ogwen - Fibre Scheme	20
104	Morfa Dyffryn Boardwalks	20
-	Decarbonisation (SLSP Grant)	41
-	Electric Vehicle Charging Points (SLSP Grant)	35
23	Plas Tan y Bwch improvements	-
27	Hafod Eryri	-
5	Energy Efficiency Measures (grant scheme)	-
953		462
1,139		662

2020/21 £'000	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute	2021/22 £'000
	Planning and Land Management	
94	Built Environment schemes	9
253	Dolgellau Townscape Heritage Scheme	167
25	Dark Skies projects	58
18	Woodlands (Welsh Govt. grant)	3
28	Woodlands (SLSP grant)	104
-	Biodiversity (Welsh Govt. grant)	69
-	Conservation projects	42
2	Gorseddau	-
1	St Davids Hotel	-
421		452
	Coporate	
104	Access Improvements	72
33	Ffridd Uchaf	33
-	Pont Llugwy Capel Currig	6
-	Canolfan Ogwen (TAIS Scheme)	2
43	Bwlch Mawr - Brithdir	56
7	Cader Idris	24
-	Lon Gwyrfai (Welsh Govt. grant)	6
9	Llyn Nantlle (SLSP grant)	5
-	Eryri Community Fund	138
-	Crafnant - Capel Currig (SLSP grant)	147
-	Cwm Rhwyddfôr (SLSP grant)	6
196		495
617	REFCUS Total	947
1,663	Total Expenditure	1,609
	Sources of Finance	
	Capital Receipts	
(1,854)	Government Grants and other Contributions	(1,141)
(334)	Grant received in previous years and applied in 2020/21	(564)
99	SLSP grants Administration Fee	89
505	Grant received in advance in 2021/22	288
(172)	Sums set aside from revenue: Direct revenue contributions	(281)
(1,663)		(1,609)
	Closing Capital Financing requirement	
-	Increase/decrease in Capital Financing Requirement	-

From the total spend of £1,609,k (£1,663k in 2020/21), £947k (£617k in 2020/21) relates to expenditure on fixed assets not owned by the Authority. The relevant grants and contributions finance amounts to £595k (£345k in 2020/21). The net revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute is therefore £351k (£272k in 2020/21).

31. LEASES**AUTHORITY AS LESSEE**

Finance Leases The Authority as lessee has no finance leases.

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

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

31 March 2021		31 March 2022
£'000		£'000
91	Not later than 1 year	138
210	Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	340
10,105	Later than 5 years	12,070
10,406	Total	12,548

Lease costs of £36,710, (£28,355 in 2020/21) on **equipment** were charged to the Corporate Directorate within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year.

Lease costs of £4,899, (£7,159 in 2020/21) on **Authority vehicles** were charged to the Corporate Directorate in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year.

Lease costs of £82,583 (£83,266, in 2020/21) on **properties** were charged to Corporate (£70,103) and Planning and Land Management (£12,480,) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year.

AUTHORITY AS LESSORFinance Leases

As at 31st March 2022 the Authority has no finance lease as lessor.

Operating Leases

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

The income receivable for 2021/22 was £56,242, (£32,581 in 2020/21).

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

31 March 2021		31 March 2022
£'000		£'000
62	Not later than 1 year	60
427	Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	397
75,785	Later than 5 years	75,706
76,274	Total	76,163

Figures are subject to the effect of rent reviews, and income generated and also the number of visitors for Hafod Eryri. The Hafod Eryri rental has been projected on the basis of 2019/20 figures, whilst acknowledging no income for 2020/21 nor 2021/22.

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

32. IMPAIRMENT LOSSES

There were impairment losses of £496k arising on property, plant and equipment during 2021/22. The impairment losses are mainly a result of non-enhancing capital expenditure.

33. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

At 31st March 2022 the Authority had no contingent liabilities.

34. NATURE AND EXTENT OF RISKS ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

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

The above risks were managed through the Authority's debt recovery arrangements and Annual Treasury Management Strategy, with no significant negative impacts in 2021/22. The value of the Authority's financial instruments is the same as their fair value.

35. PENSION FUND

PARTICIPATION IN PENSION SCHEMES

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

The Authority participates in two post-employment schemes:

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

TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

We recognise the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge we are required to make against the General Fund is based on cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year.

CHANGE IN THE FAIR VALUE OF PLAN ASSETS, DEFINED BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS AND NET LIABILITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022.

Period ended 31 March 2022	Assets	Obligations	Net (liability) / asset
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fair Value of employer assets	41,635	0	41,635
Present value of funded liabilities	0	48,550	(48,550)
Present value of unfunded liabilities	0	402	(402)
Opening position as at 31 March 2021	41,635	48,952	(7,317)
Service cost			
- Current service cost *	0	1,822	(1,822)
- Past Service Cost (including curtailments)	0	0	(0)
Total Service Cost		1,822	(1,822)
Net interest			
- Interest income on plan assets	831	0	831
- Interest cost on defined benefit obligation	0	988	(988)
Total Net Interest	831	988	(157)
Total defined benefit cost recognised in Profit or (Loss)	831	2,810	(1,979)
Cashflows			
- Plan participants' contributions	218	218	0
- Employer contributions	680	0	680
- Benefits paid	(996)	(996)	0
- Unfunded benefits paid	(28)	(28)	0

- Contributions in respect of unfunded benefits	28	0	28
Expected closing position	42,368	50,956	(8,588)
Remeasurements			
- Change in demographic assumptions	0	(1,010)	1,010
- Change in financial assumptions	0	(3,289)	3,289
- Other experience	463	13	450
- Return on assets excluding amounts included in net interest	2,955	0	2,955
Total remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income (OCI)	3,418	(4,286)	7,704
Fair value of employer assets	45,786	0	45,786
Present value of funded liabilities	0	46,306	(46,306)
Present value of unfunded liabilities	0	364	(364)
Closing position as at 31 March 2022	45,786	46,670	(884)

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

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

Period ended 31 March 2021	Assets	Obligations	Net (liability) / asset
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fair Value of employer assets	32,215	0	32,215
Present value of funded liabilities	0	36,436	(36,436)
Present value of unfunded liabilities	0	368	(368)
Opening position as at 31 March 2020	32,215	36,804	(4,589)
Service cost			
- Current service cost *	0	1,135	(1,135)
- Past Service Cost (including curtailments)	0	43	(43)
Total Service Cost	0	1,178	(1,178)
Net interest			
- Interest income on plan assets	741	0	741
- Interest cost on defined benefit obligation		852	(852)
Total Net Interest	741	852	(111)
Total defined benefit cost recognised in Profit or (Loss)	741	2,030	(1,289)
Cashflows			
- Plan participants' contributions	209	209	0
- Employer contributions	646	0	646
- Contributions in respect of unfunded benefits	(843)	(843)	0
- Benefits paid	(28)	(28)	0
- Unfunded benefits paid	28	0	28
Expected closing position	32,968	38,172	(5,204)
Remeasurements			
- Change in demographic assumptions	0	10,557	(10,557)
- Change in financial assumptions	0	547	547
- Other experience	0	(324)	324
- Return on assets excluding amounts included in net interest	8,667	0	8,667
Total remeasurements recognised in Other	8,667	10,780	(2,113)

Comprehensive Income (OCI)			
Fair value of employer assets	41,635	0	41,635
Present value of funded liabilities	0	48,550	(48,550)
Present value of unfunded liabilities	0	402	(402)
Closing position as at 31 March 2021	41,635	48,952	7,317

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

This liability comprises of approximately £364k in respect of LGPS unfunded pensions and £0 in respect of Teachers' unfunded pensions. For unfunded liabilities as at 31st March 2022, it is assumed that all unfunded pensions are payable for the remainder of the member's life. It is further assumed that 90% of pensioners are married (or cohabiting) at death and that their spouse (or cohabitee) will receive a pension of 50% of the member's pension as at the date of the member's death.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEFINED BENEFIT OBLIGATION

	Liability split		Weighted Average Duration at Previous Valuation
	£'000	Percentage (%)	
Active members	3,366	76	52
Deferred members	295	7	52
Pensioner members	773	17	68
Total	4,434	100	

(Figures are for funded obligations only and do not include the unfunded pensioner liabilities. The durations are effective as at the previous formal valuation as at 31st March 2022).

SCHEME HISTORY

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£,000
Present value of liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme	(37,044)	(38,018)	(43,173)	(36,804)	(48,952)	(46,670)
Fair Value of Assets in the Local Government Pension Scheme	31,283	32,666	35,421	32,215	41,635	45,786
Surplus / (deficit) in the scheme :	(5,761)	(5,352)	(7,752)	(4,589)	(7,317)	(884)

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Authority has in the long run to pay post-employment (retirement) benefits. The total liability of £46,670k has a substantial impact on the net worth of the Authority as recorded in the Balance Sheet i.e. reducing it by £884k. Statutory provisions for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Authority remains healthy :

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

The total contributions by the Authority, as estimated by the Actuary, for the year to 31st March 2022 is £708k. The Actuary estimates employers contributions for the period to 31st March 2023 at £666k.

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

31 March 2021		31 March 2022
(%)		(%)
70	Equity investments	68
21	Debt investments (bonds)	22
8	Property	9
1	Cash	1
100		100

The Major Categories of Plan Assets as a Percentage of Total Plan Assets

The actuary has provided a detailed breakdown of Fund assets in accordance with the requirements of IAS19. This analysis distinguishes between the nature and risk of those assets and to further break them down between those with a quoted price in an active market and those that do not. The asset split for Snowdonia National Park Authority is assumed to be in the same proportion to the Fund's asset allocation as at 31st December 2022. The split is shown in the following table. The actuary estimates the bid value of the Fund's assets as at 31st March 2022 to be £45,786k based on

information provided by the Administering Authority and allowing for index returns where necessary.

Fair Value of Employer Assets

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

Asset category	31 Mar 2022				31 Mar 2021			
	Quoted prices in active markets	Prices not quoted in active markets	Total	%	Quoted prices in active markets	Prices not quoted in active markets	Total	%
	(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)		(£'000)	(£'000)	(£'000)	
Equity Securities :								
Consumer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manufacturing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Energy & Utilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Institutions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health & Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Information Technology	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Debt Securities :								
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private Equity :								
All	0	2,617.9	2,617.9	6	0	2,588.8	2,588.8	6
Real Estate :								
UK Property	0	4,165.2	4,165.2	9	0	3,302.2	3,302.2	8
Overseas Property	0	0	0	0	0			0
Investment Funds & Unit Trusts :								
Equities	0	28,549.6	28,549.6	62	0	26,675.7	26,675.7	64
Bonds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infrastructure	0	1,112.0	1,112.0	2	0	733.9	733.9	2
Other	0	9,101.3	9,101.3	20	0	8,094.1	8,094.1	19
Cash & Cash Equivalents								
All	240.0	0	240.0	1	240.3	0	240.3	0
Totals	240	45,546	45,786	100	240.3	41,395	41,635	100

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

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

The principal assumptions used by the actuary have been :

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2021/22	2020/21
Long term expected rate of return on assets in the scheme :	2.7%	2%
Mortality Assumptions :		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners :		
Men	21.2 years	21.5 years
Women	24.1 years	23.9 years
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners :		
Men	22.3 years	22.7 years
Women	25.8 years	25.9 years
- Rate of inflation (CPI)	3.2%	2.9%
- Rate of increase in salaries	3.5%	3.2%
- Rate of increase in pensions	3.2%	2.9%
- Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	2.7%	2.0%
Take up of option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum	65% pre 1/4/2014 service and 65% post 1/4/2014 service.	50% pre 1/4/2008 service and 75% post 1/4/2008 service.

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. In order to quantify the impact of a change in the financial assumptions used, the actuary has calculated and compared the value of the scheme liabilities as at 31st March 2022 on varying bases. The approach taken is consistent with that adopted to derive the IAS19 figures provided in this note.

To quantify the uncertainty around life expectancy, the actuary has calculated the difference in cost to the Authority of a one year increase in life expectancy. For sensitivity purposes this is assumed to be an increase in the cost of benefits of broadly 3-5%. In practice the actual cost of one year increase in life expectancy will depend on the structure of the revised assumption (i.e. if improvements to survival rates predominantly apply at younger or older ages). The figures in the table below have been derived based on membership profile of the Authority as at 31st March 2022, the date of the most recent actuarial valuation. The approach taken in preparing the sensitivity analysis shown is consistent with that adopted in the previous year.

Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme		
Change in assumption	Approximate increase to Employer 31 March 2022	Approximate monetary amount 31 March 2022
	(%)	(£'000)
0.1% decrease in real discount rate	2	923
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4	1,867
0.1% increase in salary increase rate	0	149
0.1% increase in the pension increase rate	2	767

Projected Defined Benefit Cost for the period to 31st March 2023

	Assets	Obligations	Net (liability) / asset	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	% of pay
Projected Current Service Cost*	0	1,544	(1,544)	(45.9)%
Past Service Cost including curtailments	0	0	0	0
Effect of settlements	0	0	0	0
Total Service Cost	0	1,544	(1,544)	(45.9)%
Interest income on plan assets	1,235	0	1,235	36.7%
Interest cost on defined benefit obligation	0	1,270	(1,270)	(37.7)%
Total Net Interest Cost	1,235	1,270	(35)	(1.0)%
Total Included in Profit and Loss	1,235	2,814	(1,579)	(46.9)%

* The current service cost includes an allowance for administration expenses of 0.5% of payroll. The monetary value is based on a projected payroll of £3,366k.

The contributions paid by the Employer are set by the Fund Actuary at each triennial actuarial valuation (the most recent being as at 31st March 2022), or at any other time as instructed to do so by the Administering Authority.

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

Opinion on financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of Eryri National Park Authority for the year ended 31 March 2022 under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

Eryri national Park Authority's financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021-22.

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Eryri National Park Authority as at 31 March 2022 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and UK adopted international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021-22.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing in the UK (ISAs (UK)) and Practice Note 10 'Audit of Financial Statements of Public Sector Entities in the United Kingdom'. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the Eryri National Park Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on Eryri National Park Authority's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the responsible financial officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. The Responsible Financial

Officer is responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Report on other requirements

Opinion on other matters

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

- the information contained in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Narrative Report has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021-22;
- The information given in the Annual Governance Statements for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Annual Governance Statement has been prepared in accordance with guidance.

Matters on which I report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the responsible financial officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts set out on page 11, the responsible financial officer is responsible for the preparation of the statement of accounts, which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as

the responsible financial officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of statements of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

My procedures included the following:

- Enquiring of management, the Authority's head of internal audit and those charged with governance, including obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation relating to Eryri National Park's policies and procedures concerned with:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Considering as an audit team how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud. As part of this discussion, I identified potential for fraud in the following areas: posting of unusual journals and reviewing accounting estimate for biases.
- Obtaining an understanding of Eryri National Park Authority's framework of authority as well as other legal and regulatory frameworks that the Authority operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of Eryri National Park Authority.

In addition to the above, my procedures to respond to identified risks included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above;
- enquiring of management, the Performance and Resources Committee and legal advisors about actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias;

and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

•

I also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all audit team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the Authority's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

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

Certificate of completion of audit

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

Adrian Crompton

Auditor General for Wales
13 June 2024

1 Capital Quarter
Cardiff
CF10 4BZ

Maintenance and integrity of the Authority's website :

The maintenance and integrity of the Authority's website is the responsibility of Snowdonia National Park Authority; the work carried out by the auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and accordingly auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the website.

SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021-22



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

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Purpose of the Governance Framework

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

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

The Governance Framework

The Governance Framework comprises the seven principles of good governance:

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

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

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

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

Governance Structure

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

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

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

Management Team

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

Standards

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

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

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

Risk Management

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

Internal Audit

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

External Audit

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

Monitoring Officer

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

Financial Management

The Authority's financial management arrangements conform to the governance requirement of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2010). The Chief Finance Officer (who is Cyngor Gwynedd's Chief

Finance Officer) is the officer responsible for the administration of financial affairs as required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Significant Governance Issues and Actions Undertaken During the Year

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

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

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

Resilient Environments

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

Resilient Communities

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

Resilient Ways of Working

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Effectiveness of the Governance Framework

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

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

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

	<p>number of matters including a Grant of Dispensation to Members of both Gwynedd Council and Conwy County Borough Council.</p> <p>Members also reviewed the Ombudsman's Annual Report for 2020/21, and were advised of the developments applicable to this Authority. The Annual Complaints Monitoring Report was also submitted to the Standards Committee, for information.</p>
Whistle Blowing Policy	<p>The last detailed review of the Policy was undertaken by the Standards Committee in September 2016, with subsequent changes approved at the Authority meeting in December 2016.</p> <p>During 2021/22, no reports or concerns were raised in relation to any Member or Officer of the Authority under the Whistle Blowing Policy.</p>
Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy	<p>During 2021/22, no complaints of alleged fraud or corruption were made regarding any Member or Officer of the Authority, and Internal Auditors did not identify any areas of concern through their auditing work.</p>
Model Code of Conduct	<p>During 2021/22, no amendments or revisions were made to the Model Code of Conduct.</p>
Complaints – Officers	<p>During 2021/22, the Authority received a total of 15 formal complaints.</p> <p>The Authority was not subject to a formal investigation of alleged maladministration by the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales during 2021/22.</p> <p>However, a complaint was made to the Welsh Language Commissioner that the Authority was in breach of its Welsh Language Standards, by failing to provide a fully bilingual on-line pre-booking service for the Pen y Pass car park. The service was provided by an external provider Just Park.</p> <p>The Commissioner instigated an investigation and concluded that the Authority had failed to comply with 3 specific standards, namely standards 50, 52 and 56. The Authority developed an Action Plan which was agreed by the Commissioner to ensure full compliance with these standards by Easter 2022.</p>

Complaints - Members	During 2021/22, the Authority's Monitoring Officer did not receive any formal complaints relating to the Members, and no complaints were submitted directly by the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales.
Complaints – Other	<p>During the year a complaint was submitted directly to Welsh Government concerning various governance and administration issues within the Authority.</p> <p>The Authority responded to the allegations and supplied relevant information. Recommended actions were given to the Authority to strengthen governance in specific areas, which the Authority has accepted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to the Standing Orders relating to Contracts (specific changes detailed under Standing Orders relating to Contracts heading). • Bidding for Welsh Government Funding – review decision making process to meet submission deadlines in some circumstances. This was discussed and agreed by Members at the Performance and Resources Committee on the 23rd of March 2022. • Level of reserves to be standing item at all meetings between SNPA and Welsh Government. • Diversity - progress against the Authority's Strategic Equality Plan will be reviewed at monitoring meetings between SNPA and Welsh Government.
Standing Orders	<p>The Standing Orders were last reviewed and amended by the Authority on the 26th of April 2017, following receipt of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2017.</p> <p>No matters were raised relating to the implementation of the Standing Orders during 2021/22.</p>
Standing Orders relating to Contracts	<p>The Authority has accepted Welsh Government's recommendations to ensure that the Authority's processes relating to contracts are sufficiently transparent, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The threshold for publication of details of contracts awarded to be set at £1,000.

	<p>2. To review the processes for reviewing and recording details of contracts where Members, staff, families and friends have directly benefit from the awarding of contracts. This will now be extended to all staff, in addition to the current requirement on the heads of service and the management team.</p> <p>3. When awarding contracts, the general principles set out in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 should be implemented, even where the value of a contract would not trigger the 2015 Regulations requirements.</p> <p>A new draft version of the Standing Orders relating to Contracts has been produced which incorporates the above recommendations and ensures compliance with all new regulations relating to the withdrawal from the European Union. Further work is required on the draft before it can be presented to the Members for adoption in 2022/23.</p>
<p>Scheme of Delegation</p>	<p>The Scheme of Delegation was last revised and amended by the Authority in its meeting on the 13th of December 2017.</p> <p>As part of the remit of the Reviewing Governance Task and Finish Group, consideration was given to how the Authority had approached decision making during various stages of the Covid-19 pandemic, and whether there were any learning points to be incorporated for the future.</p> <p>Whilst it was acknowledged that there is a need to differentiate how the Authority needs to operate in times of national crisis and in ordinary times; it was interesting to note that the dynamic working practices implemented during the first stage of the pandemic were enabled under the current Officer Scheme of Delegation.</p> <p>The Group concluded that the current Officer Scheme of Delegation continued to be fit for purpose, and therefore no recommendation for changes were given.</p>
<p>Members' Register of Interests</p>	<p>The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 places a requirement on the Authority to publish the current Members' Register of Interests on the Authority's website.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of each Authority Member to keep their record of personal interests up to date and to report on any changes in a timely manner. Nonetheless, the Member Services Officer sends each Member a copy of their current</p>

	<p>record after each AGM of the Authority, and requests that they be reviewed and updated if required.</p> <p>During 2021/22, confirmation was given to Welsh Government that the Register is up to date and publicly available and that arrangements are in place to ensure compliance is maintained.</p>
--	--

Principle 2: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

<p>Strategic Equality Plan</p>	<p>The Annual Report on the Strategic Equality Plan was presented to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 24th of November 2021.</p> <p>The Authority’s progress on its action plan for reaching its Equality Objectives was reported, along with the Equality Impact Assessments undertaken during the year, equal pay monitoring data and staff equality data.</p> <p>The Socio-economic Duty came into force in Wales on the 31st of March 2021. Consideration must now be given to how the Authority’s strategic decisions can improve inequality of outcome for people who suffer socio-economic disadvantage. A new impact assessment template has been developed in partnership with other north Wales public sector bodies to ensure we can fully embrace our new responsibilities.</p>
<p>Direct Consultation</p>	<p>As various Covid-19 restrictions remained in place throughout the year, the Authority continued to use various online solutions to enable direct communication, consultation and engagement, as its primary means of contact.</p> <p>During 2021/22 the Authority continued to engage with local communities and stakeholders through a range of means, from traditional written consultations and online questionnaires to webinars and online meetings and workshops. When restrictions allowed, in-person consultation events took place in Covid secure spaces.</p> <p>Whilst Fforwm Eryri, the Annual Agriculture Liaison Group, North and South Access Forums to name but a few, have continue to take place virtually, discussions on how to proceed in future have commenced. What has become clear</p>

	<p>is that many see great advantages to holding on-line meetings and wish to continue, whilst others see disadvantages of not meeting in person and a wish to resume in-person meetings. The coming year will see some in-person meetings resume, some meetings will employ hybrid solutions whilst some remain entirely on-line.</p> <p>Outside of the normal direct consultations on the Authority’s business that has taken place this year, engagement and consultation has also taken place with local communities to enable information to be shared and to give people an opportunity to give their views over numerous challenges the National Park Authority and its communities have faced due to the increased visitor numbers.</p>
<p>Communication and Engagement Strategy</p>	<p>Communication and engagement is an essential element in everything the Authority does. It is also something that can always be improved upon, and the Authority’s Strategy reflects this.</p> <p>Fast paced technological advancements and the continuing growth in social media platforms and participation levels, means that the Authority needs to be fully focused on engaging effectively through the correct channels at the correct time with a wide range of audiences.</p> <p>The Authority’s new Communication and Engagement Strategy was formally adopted by the Authority on the 9th of June 2021.</p> <p>The annual report on the strategy was presented to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 23rd of March 2022. The report included data for the performance indicators set out in the strategy.</p> <p>The Content and Brand Manager has been working with the appointed contracted Creo in developing the design phase of the new website for the Authority during the year.</p> <p>The new website was launched in April 2022.</p>

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

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

<p>Cynllun Yr Wyddfa Partnership Plan</p>	<p>Although no formal update report on the Snowdon Plan was presented to Members during 2021/22, three newsletters providing an update on the work of the Partnership were issued and a discussion on the parking and transport element took place on the 22nd of January 2021 and the 20th of October 20 2021 at the Member Working Groups.</p> <p>Since launching the scheme in 2018 many of the initial projects have been completed and the Partnership intends to review the Plan during 2023 with the launch of</p>
--	---

	<p>a revised version - five years since the original Plan was created.</p> <p>One of the Plan's priorities is to implement the Snowdonia and Ogwen Parking and Transport Strategy. Many of the initial elements have been implemented with support from Transport for Wales. There is a delay in relation to Pen Y Pass and the recently approved planning application to install a barrier which would improve the efficiency of the pre-order system, as concerns have been raised by the landowner.</p> <p>A bespoke area plan for Nant Gwynant was written during the year, in conjunction with the relevant partners in the area.</p> <p>The Snowdonia Ambassador program has gone from strength to strength with over 700 qualified and approximately 200 re-qualified during the year.</p> <p>Funding has been secured to appoint an officer to lead on the rubbish-free Snowdon operation with a view to advertising the post this year.</p> <p>The Snowdon Paths app is due to be launched in its new form as the app has recently been updated to reflect the accessibility act for public bodies.</p>
<p>Cynllun Eryri (Snowdonia National Park Partnership Plan)</p>	<p>Cynllun Eryri – the new National Park Partnership Plan for 2020 – 25, was formally adopted by the Authority at its Annual General Meeting on the 23rd of September 2020.</p> <p>Fforwm Eryri's Terms of Reference have been amended to accommodate remote partnership meetings, and is now specified as the preferred mode of operation for at least 3 out of the 4 annual meetings.</p> <p>In the summer of 2021, work commenced on producing the first Annual Monitoring Report for Cynllun Eryri, with the information and data collected covering the period from September 2020 to December 2021.</p>

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

--	--

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

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

	administrative work, therefore consideration needs to be given to the additional work pressure on some of the Authority's services.
Performance Management	<p>As part of the Reviewing Governance Task and Finish Group, the mechanism for reviewing performance in relation to the Authority's Well-being Statement and the Corporate Work Programme has now been set out formally.</p> <p>It confirms that the Performance and Resources Committee will scrutinise performance on the actions contained in the Corporate Work Programme which gives an insight into progress on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Also, an annual report to be prepared and considered by the Authority following the year's end to assess overall performance on attaining the Authority's Well-being Objectives.</p>

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

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

	<p>Members' attendance at meetings during 2021/22 was 85%, compared to 90% in 2020/21 and 81% in 2019/20.</p> <p>Work is underway by the Authority's IT service to identify an appropriate platform for conducting hybrid meetings in the next year and to recommend an appropriate venue that could accommodate this.</p> <p>If the Authority proceeds down this route, there will likely be additional training needs for Chairs and Vice Chairs of committees and meetings, to ensure that meetings are managed effectively to enable everyone to participate fully.</p>
<p>Member Training</p>	<p>As noted above, Covid-19 restrictions were in place for most of 2021/22, and therefore very few face to face training opportunities were available for Members.</p> <p>However, on the 25th of March 2022, the first in-person Member Development Day was held for 2 years.</p> <p>In 2021/22, member attendance at training events was 75% (69% in 2020/21).</p> <p>As part of the work of the Reviewing Governance Task and Finish Group, a recommendation has been put forward to develop a Member Development Strategy. Initial work will be focused on the expected change to Members following local government elections on the 5th of May 2022. It is proposed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a collective skills assessment is conducted, which will be mandatory for all new Members to complete; • the internal induction sessions are reviewed and improved; • everyone appointed Chair or Vice-Chair to be offered training on chairing meetings; and • consideration be given to having a mentor for each new Member appointed in May 2022.
<p>Staff Performance Appraisals and Training</p>	<p>Learning and development needs are identified in annual performance appraisal reviews and a training plan is produced by the Head of Personnel, which outlines training priorities for the year ahead.</p>

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

	<p>Members discussed these issues in detail and commissioned a report, which concluded that the Authority's pay structure was not competitive, compared to other public sector employers.</p> <p>Members also recommended that acknowledging bilingualism should be included within the review of the Authority's pay structure. Members considered that the ability to be bilingual was essential in enabling the Authority to provide its services, there is a business case to recognise such in its pay structure.</p> <p>After consultation with staff and Unions, approval was given by the Authority on the 9th of April 2022 for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustment in the Authority's pay bands by two pay points (upwards) on the pay spine. • An additional day's leave on Saint David's Day from 2022 onwards. • The retention of the last pay point in any pay band subject to attaining an agreed standard in English and Welsh.
--	--

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

<p>Financial Statements</p>	<p>The draft Statement of Accounts was not completed within the extended timeline of 31st of August 2021. They were certified (subject to audit) by the Authority's Chief Finance Officer and presented to the Authority on the 13th of October 2021.</p> <p>Prior to this, Members had approved the Outturn Report for 2020/21 at an Authority special meeting on the 30th of June 2021.</p> <p>The Statement of Accounts was audited by Audit Wales, and the final version (post-audit) of the Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 along with the Final Letter of Representation was presented to Members at a special Authority meeting on the 24th of November 2021 for approval in accordance with The Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018.</p> <p>At the same meeting, the Audit Wales presented its annual ISA260 report to the Authority. The Auditor</p>
------------------------------------	---

	confirmed that he would be presenting an unqualified opinion on the Authority's financial statements and related notes.
Risk Management	<p>The Risk Register is reviewed and updated quarterly by the Heads of Service and Management Team.</p> <p>Identified risks as noted in the Risk Register are allocated as a responsibility to named officers and target dates are set for mitigation. The Risk Register is reviewed by Members at each Performance and Resources Committee and any removal of risks from the Register is ratified annually at an Authority meeting.</p>
External Audit	<p>At the Authority meeting on the 28th of April 2021, Audit Wales presented its report setting out its findings following its Review of Resilient and Sustainable Services. Full details of the findings are set out under Section 6 (Significant Governance Issues) in this Statement.</p> <p>At the same meeting, Audit Wales presented their Audit Plan for 2021/22. The Audit Plan had incorporated the possible effects of Covid-19 on the work of the Authority as well as on Audit Wales' ability to carry out its work.</p> <p>The Audit Plan set out revised arrangements for the Audit of Financial Statements, which would be dependent on when the Authority could complete the accounts. It also set out the intention of carrying out a performance audit which would reflect the risks and opportunities highlighted in the 2019/20 review of involvement and the 2020/21 review of corporate resilience.</p> <p>Further to this, at the Authority meeting on the 8th of December 2021, Audit Wales issued a Certificate to confirm that following an audit of the Authority's Assessment of its performance for 2020/21, the Authority had discharged its duty under section 15 (2) (8) and (9) of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.</p> <p>At the Authority meeting on the 9th of February 2022, Audit Wales presented an Annual Audit Summary of the work undertaken during 2021. The report noted that the Auditor General gave an unqualified true and fair opinion on the Authority's financial statements on the 29th of November 2021, in advance of the statutory deadline.</p>

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

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

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

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

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

Pay Policy Statement	<p>Section 38 (1) of the Localism Act 2011 places a requirement on Local Authorities to prepare pay policy statements. Whilst National Park Authorities are exempt from this requirement, it has been considered good practice to adopt such a statement, and accordingly this is done annually by the Head of Personnel.</p> <p>The Authority's Pay Policy Report for 2021/22 and Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 was presented to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 23rd of March 2022, ensuring transparency in staff remuneration at the Authority.</p>
-----------------------------	--

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

	<p>Move forward with arrangements without translating English contributions.</p> <p>Introduce a system of pre-registration for the public.</p> <p>Staff to investigate the best location for hybrid committees and make a recommendation to the Authority in due course.</p>
<p>Member Scrutiny</p>	<p>During 2021/22, a report was received by the Performance and Resources Committee on the 14th of July 2021 regarding the Task & Finish Group's progress on the scrutiny of Snowdonia's Carbon Account (established in 2020/21); and a report was received by the Authority on the 13th of October 2021 on the progress of the Task & Finish Group to scrutinise the protection of Welsh Place Names.</p> <p>The Task and Finish Group on Reviewing Governance also reported their recommendations to the Members Working Group on the 6th of April 2022. Part of the group's remit was looking at Strategic Scrutiny. A number of recommendations were made, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Future Task and Finish Groups to have Terms of Reference agreed at the outset which identifies a final reporting date, to ensure the groups remain focused. 2. Appointing Members on Task and Finish Groups should be reviewed. People with expertise or interest in the subjects should be appointed. 3. Delay setting the 2022/23 scrutiny topics until the Final Remit Letter is received from the Minister, and subject to this, support the following areas for future Task and Finish Groups, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions on Climate Change • Actions on the Wildlife and Nature Emergency • Contingency Planning and how we deal with Future Events

Significant Governance Issues and Actions Proposed for 2022/23

Audit Wales: Resilient and Sustainable Services

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

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

Proposals for Improvement

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

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

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

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

The Authority's Risk Profile

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

Risk	Result	Action Identified / Progress to date
Income Generating Target (Plas Tan y Bwlch).	Failure to keep within the Authority's budget.	<p>At the Authority meeting on 23rd October 2020 the decision was taken to continue operating Plas Tan y Bwlch as a B&B type business in the short to medium term and to proceed with staff restructuring as outlined in the report. This decision means that the risk to the Authority has reduced somewhat. However, there is still risk to the Authority, although both the likely effect and impact have reduced somewhat.</p> <p>Following the process of re-opening the economy, Plas has had a busy season operating as outlined above. We recently reported to the Plas Board. As with the rest of the sector, we have suffered from staff shortages in places and the uncertainty of Covid. At present we are in the process of calculating the income to date for the year but we are aware that there have been cost overruns on staff as well as fuel costs for running and heating Plas. These additional costs will not be offset by income generation and have the potential to have a minor impact on the Authority's accounts.</p>

<p>Risk (publicity) as a result of the Traffic Scheme / Snowdonia Green Key Policy</p>	<p>Mismanagement leading to lack of credibility in the Authority and its partners.</p>	<p>Development of the Snowdon Plan has established a better relationship between the individual elements relating to management on Snowdon, including the Sherpa service.</p> <p>A sub-group to Cynllun Yr Wyddfa has been formed to review the Sherpa service and transport / parking issues in the area. A traffic management study for Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) and Ogwen has been commissioned and received. The partners have considered the report's recommendations with Welsh Government. A public consultation with the communities has taken place. Transport for Wales are considering a regional approach for such matters and the formation of Corporate Joint Committees which have specific responsibility for transport may provide further opportunities.</p> <p>Unprecedented numbers of UK day visitors are expected again this summer as lockdown eases, which will cause problems for local communities. Although a partnership approach is taken, the public perception of responsibility will fall on the Authority. A number of mitigation measures have been put in place with partners for the 2021 season and will be continued for the 2022 season.</p>
<p>Aspects of financial risk associated with LIFE Celtic Rainforest project including non-compliance with procurement rules or spending on ineligible costs resulting in the grant not being awarded, or</p>	<p>SNPA and other partners required to self finance aspects of project expenditure to date.</p>	<p>Second mid-term report to EC (and associated grant claim) due end of April 2022. Project has reached the spend threshold for submitting the claim on time.</p> <p>Official feedback from the Commission to the first mid-term report largely positive, with no major concerns raised. Minor concerns to be addressed alongside Project monitor in time for next mid-term</p>

fluctuation in the Euro / pound exchange rate.		<p>report.</p> <p>The project successfully reached the spending threshold required to enable the £2m from Welsh Government to be claimed. Welsh Government's financial contribution has now come to an end.</p>
--	--	---

Opinion

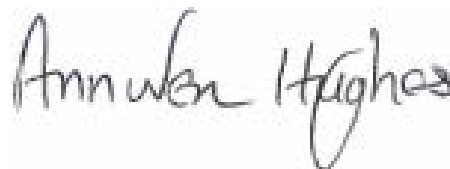
We propose over the coming year to take steps to address the matters referred to in part 6 to further enhance our governance arrangements. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvements that were identified in our review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementation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



EMYR WILLIAMS

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK
AUTHORITY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

DATE: 15.06.2022



ANNWEN HUGHES

**SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK
AUTHORITY CHAIR**

DATE : 15.06.2022

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACCRUALS

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

CAPITAL CHARGE

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

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

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

CAPITAL RECEIPTS

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

COMMUNITY ASSETS

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

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES/ASSETS

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

REVENUE EXPENDITURE FUNDED FROM CAPITAL UNDER STATUTE

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

DEFINED BENEFIT SCHEME

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

FINANCE LEASE

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

OPERATING LEASE

A lease other than a finance lease.

FIXED ASSETS

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

USEFUL LIFE

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

ABBREVIATIONS

CIPFA Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

LASAAC Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee

IFRS International Financial Reporting Standard

IAS International Accounting Standard

ERAMMP Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring & Modelling Programme

TAIS Tourism Amenity Investment Support

Audit of Accounts Report – Eryri National Park Authority

Audit year: 2021-22

Date issued: May 2024

Document reference: 4287A2024

This document has been prepared as part of work performed in accordance with statutory functions.

In the event of receiving a request for information to which this document may be relevant, attention is drawn to the Code of Practice issued under section 45 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The section 45 code sets out the practice in the handling of requests that is expected of public authorities, including consultation with relevant third parties. In relation to this document, the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit Office are relevant third parties. Any enquiries regarding disclosure or re-use of this document should be sent to the Wales Audit Office at infoofficer@audit.wales.

We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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

Contents

We have now completed the audit of your 2021-22 accounts. Following a protracted audit with in particular issues arising in relation to the valuation of assets, we intend to issue an unqualified audit report on your Accounts. This report contains the main findings of our audit.

Audit of Accounts Report

Introduction	4
Proposed audit opinion	5
Significant issues arising from the audit	5
Appendices	
Appendix 1 – Final Letter of Representation	8
Appendix 2 – Proposed Audit Report	11
Appendix 3 – Summary of Corrections Made	15

Audit of Accounts Report

Introduction

- 1 This report summarises the main findings from our audit of your 2021-22 accounts.
- 2 We were provided with draft accounts on 9 September 2022. This was later than the revised Welsh Government deadline of 31 August 2022.
- 3 Following a protracted audit with issues arising in particular regarding the valuation of assets, we are now in a position to provide an audit opinion.
- 4 We have already discussed the issues arising from this report with the head of finance and her team.
- 5 Auditors can never give complete assurance that accounts are correctly stated. Instead, we work to a level of 'materiality'. This level of materiality is set to try to identify and correct misstatements that might otherwise cause a user of the accounts into being misled.
- 6 We set this level at £234,000 for this year's audit.
- 7 There are some areas of the accounts that may be of more importance to the reader and we have set a lower materiality level for these, as follows:
 - Senior Officer Remuneration £1,000
 - Related Party Transactions £10,000
- 8 We have now completed the audit of the 2021-22 financial statements.
- 9 In our professional view, we have complied with the ethical standards that apply to our work; remain independent of yourselves; and our objectivity has not been compromised in any way. There are no relationships between ourselves and yourselves that we believe could undermine our objectivity and independence.

Proposed audit opinion

- 10 We intend to issue an unqualified audit opinion on this year's accounts once you have provided us with a Letter of Representation based on that set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 11 We issue a 'qualified' audit opinion where we have material concerns about some aspects of your accounts; otherwise we issue an unqualified opinion.
- 12 The Letter of Representation contains certain confirmations we are required to obtain from you under auditing standards.
- 13 Our proposed audit report is set out in **Appendix 2**.
- 14 We identified recommendations for the Authority during the audit. These will be presented to officers in a management letter in due course for their consideration.

Significant issues arising from the audit

Uncorrected misstatements

- 15 There are no misstatements identified in the accounts, which remain uncorrected.

Corrected misstatements

- 16 There were initially misstatements in the accounts that have now been corrected by management. However, we believe that these should be drawn to your attention and they are set out with explanations in **Appendix 3**.

Other matter arising from the audit

- 17 In the course of the audit, we consider a number of matters relating to the accounts and report any issues arising to you. There are two matters that we would like to bring to your attending this year.

Quality of the draft accounts

- 18 Our initial audit work identified several qualitative issues with the draft accounts which included:
 - a. Figures missing from, or in the wrong part, of notes
 - b. Missing headings and sub-totals
 - c. Missing disclosure notes
 - d. Missing comparative figures
 - e. Incorrect cross referencing between notes
- 19 Whilst we anticipate some minor issues to be identified during the audit, the number of matters this year was much higher than would be expected.

- 20 A robust quality review of the draft accounts should be built into the preparation of the annual accounts before being provided for audit.

Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment

- 21 The CIPFA Code of Practice on local authority accounting (the code) allows for fixed assets to be revalued every five years, provided that the carrying amount of those assets does not differ materially from the current value at the end of the reporting period. Given it was five years since assets had been revalued the Authority was required to revalue its property assets for the 2021/22 accounting period. This valuation was to provide asset valuation as at 1 April 2021.
- 22 The code further requires that different classes of assets are valued using specific valuation techniques. Where possible, an existing use value (EUV) is calculated based on observable information such as rental yields in the area or potential future income generation. Where this information isn't available the valuation is calculated using the depreciated replacement cost (DRC) method.

Existing Value in Use (EUV)

- 23 The initial valuer had completed valuations of assets using the EUV methodology and we were able to obtain sufficient evidence to support these calculations, however, the quality of the evidence initially provided was poor. Examples are as follows:
- The initial report provided by the valuer showed no movement in the valuation of car parks despite the income generated by the car parks increasing.
 - Extracts of information were pasted into spreadsheets with no supporting calculations provided.
 - Incorrect information was included in the report where one asset was noted as being valued using the EUV method when it was actually valued using the DRC method.
 - The nature of the responses to queries was, at times, unprofessional.
 - The valuation of Yr Ysgwrn was not provided until months after the initial valuations were provided to the Authority.

Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC)

- 24 DRC is a common valuation technique in public sector organisations as assets are often specialised with no observable information available on which to base an EUV valuation. The DRC approach requires a calculation of the cost to re-build a modern equivalent asset which is then depreciated to account for the condition of the existing asset.
- 25 To obtain assurance that the valuations have been completed correctly we selected a sample of revalued assets to ensure that;
- the method used was in line with CIPFA code requirements;
 - the calculations were based on reasonable assumptions; and

- the valuations had been appropriately accounted for in the accounts.
- 26 For our sample of assets valued using the DRC approach the valuer was unable to demonstrate that they had followed the approach required by the CIPFA code.
- 27 Rather than calculating the cost of a modern equivalent asset the valuer simply uplifted the previous valuation by a percentage. The valuer was unable to provide evidence to support the percentage used and how it complied with the requirements of a DRC valuation.
- 28 The Authority requested a revised valuation of DRC assets and submitted revised terms of reference to the valuer in July 2023. In September 2023 the valuer pulled out of the work, stating a lack of availability and capacity to complete the work.
- 29 A second valuer were appointed to complete the DRC valuation and the valuation report was provided in April 2024.
- 30 Our audit work concluded that the work completed by the second valuer is in line with CIPFA code requirements and is appropriately supported. The revised valuation has now been included in the accounts.
- 31 The impact of the revised valuation is a correction of £6,833,000 changing from a net revaluation gain of £3,489,000 to a net revaluation loss of £3,344,000.

Appendix 1

Final Letter of Representation

[Audited body's letterhead]

Auditor General for Wales
Audit Wales
1 Capital Quarter
Cardiff
CF10 4BZ

12 June 2024

Representations regarding the 2021-22 financial statements

This letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements (including that part of the Remuneration Report that is subject to audit) of Eryri National Park Authority for the year ended 31 March 2022 for the purpose of expressing an opinion on their truth and fairness and their proper preparation.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made enquiries as we consider sufficient, we can make the following representations to you.

Management representations

Responsibilities

We have fulfilled our responsibilities for:

- the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with legislative requirements and Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021-22; in particular the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance therewith;
- the design, implementation, maintenance and review of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.

Information provided

We have provided you with:

- full access to:
 - all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as books of account and supporting documentation, minutes of meetings and other matters;

- additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
- unrestricted access to staff from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence;
- the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- our knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects Eryri National Park Authority and involves:
 - management;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements;
- our knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, regulators or others;
- our knowledge of all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements;
- the identity of all related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware;

Financial statement representations

All transactions, assets and liabilities have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

The methods, the data and the significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates, and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.

Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed.

All events occurring subsequent to the reporting date which require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted for or disclosed.

All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to the auditor and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions. The effects of uncorrected misstatements identified during the audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Representations by Eryri National Park Authority

We acknowledge that the representations made by management, above, have been discussed with us.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of true and fair financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. The financial statements were approved by the Authority on 12 June 2024.

We confirm that we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to you. We confirm that, as far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which you are unaware.

Signed by:

Signed by:

Dewi Morgan
Chief Finance Officer
12 June 2024

Tim Jones
Chair
12 June 2024

Appendix 2

Proposed Audit Report

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

Opinion on financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of Eryri National Park Authority for the year ended 31 March 2022 under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

Eryri national Park Authority's financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021-22.

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Eryri National Park Authority as at 31 March 2022 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and UK adopted international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021-22.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing in the UK (ISAs (UK)) and Practice Note 10 'Audit of Financial Statements of Public Sector Entities in the United Kingdom'. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the Eryri National Park Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on Eryri National Park Authority's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the responsible financial officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

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

My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Report on other requirements

Opinion on other matters

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

- the information contained in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Narrative Report has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021-22;
- The information given in the Annual Governance Statements for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and the Annual Governance Statement has been prepared in accordance with guidance.

Matters on which I report by exception

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

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my team;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or

- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the responsible financial officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts set out on page 11, the responsible financial officer is responsible for the preparation of the statement of accounts, which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the responsible financial officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of statements of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

My procedures included the following:

- Enquiring of management, the Authority's head of internal audit and those charged with governance, including obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation relating to Eryri National Park's policies and procedures concerned with:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Considering as an audit team how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud. As part of this discussion, I identified potential for fraud in the following areas: posting of unusual journals and reviewing accounting estimate for biases.
- Obtaining an understanding of Eryri National Park Authority's framework of authority as well as other legal and regulatory frameworks that the Authority operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the

financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of Eryri National Park Authority.

In addition to the above, my procedures to respond to identified risks included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above;
- enquiring of management, the Performance and Resources Committee and legal advisors about actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.
-

I also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all audit team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the Authority's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

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

Certificate of completion of audit

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

Adrian Crompton

Auditor General for Wales

13 June 2024

1 Capital Quarter

Cardiff

CF10 4BZ

Appendix 3

Summary of Corrections Made

During our audit, we identified the following misstatements that have been corrected by management, but which we consider should be drawn to your attention due to their relevance to your responsibilities over the financial reporting process.

Exhibit 1: summary of corrections made

Value of correction	Nature of correction	Reason for correction
£6,931,000	<p>Note 12 Property, Plant and Equipment</p> <p>Various amendments were required to the Property Plant & Equipment note resulting in a cumulative reduction in the net book value of assets in the balance sheet of £6,931,000.</p> <p>£6,833,000 of this adjusted value relates to the revised valuation of assets following the appointment of a new valuer as detailed in paragraphs 21-31.</p> <p>Other errors relating to Property, Plant and Equipment, which have now been corrected are detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the initial revaluations were posted to the opening balances of Note 12 instead of being shown as an in-year movement.• the re-valuation of Yr Ysgwrn had not been provided by the valuers and was therefore omitted from the draft accounts.• an asset had been incorrectly included as an addition in the accounts before it had been received. <p>These corrections also impact the Revaluation Reserve and Capital Adjustment Account in Note 21.</p>	<p>To ensure the valuation was completed in line with international accounting requirements and conventions.</p> <p>To ensure the valuation of assets in the accounts accurately reflected their current value.</p> <p>To ensure disclosures are made in line with CIPFA code requirements.</p>
£6,150,000	<p>Movement in Reserves Statement</p>	<p>To ensure accuracy of the financial statements.</p>

Value of correction	Nature of correction	Reason for correction
	<p>Numerous adjustments were required to the statement to ensure it agreed to other sections of the financial statements and to account for audit adjustments made to the Revaluation Reserve and Capital Adjustment Account.</p> <p>Cumulative adjustments have been made as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Fund & Earmarked Reserves: Increase of £428,000 - Unusable Reserves: Reduction of £6,578,000 - Total Reserves: Reduction of £6,150,000 	
£5,700,000	<p>Note 1 Expenditure and Funding Analysis</p> <p>The £5.7m adjustment to Other Income and Expenditure between the Outturn and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure was missing from the note.</p>	To ensure the analysis reconciles to other statements and disclosures in the accounts.
£1,141,000	<p>Note 28 Grant Income</p> <p>Grants received in advance were included in the creditors note in the draft accounts. The Code requires that these are disclosed within the grant income note.</p> <p>The amounts have been removed from note 19 Creditors and added to note 28 Grant Income.</p> <p>This adjustment has no impact on the primary statements.</p>	To ensure the disclosure complies with CIPFA code requirements.
£802,000	<p>Cashflow Statement</p>	To ensure entries in the statement are classified

Value of correction	Nature of correction	Reason for correction
	<p>Misclassification errors were identified in the cashflow statement workings.</p> <p>The correction of these errors resulted in proceeds from short terms and long term investments increasing by £802,000 and Other Receipts from investing activities decreasing by £802,000.</p>	correctly in line with CIPFA code requirements.
£383,000	<p>Note 21 Capital Adjustment Account</p> <p>Impairment was misclassified in the disclosure and incorrectly included in the revaluation line rather than the depreciation and impairment line of the disclosure.</p> <p>The adjustment has no impact on the primary statements.</p>	To ensure disclosures are in line with CIPFA code requirements.
£325,000	<p>Note 1b Income and Expenditure on a Segmental Basis</p> <p>The total Employee Accrual Adjustment brought forward from 2020-21 did not agree to the audited 2020-21 accounts. An adjustment was made to reflect the correct figure.</p> <p>This adjustment has no impact on the primary statements.</p>	To ensure comparative information agrees to the 20-21 audited accounts.
£209,000	<p>Note 12 Capital Commitments</p> <p>The Capital Commitment disclosure had been omitted from the draft accounts. This has now been added to note 12.</p>	To ensure the information within the accounts is complete and in line with CIPFA disclosure requirements.
£198,000	<p>Revaluation Reserve</p>	To ensure the disclosures are in line with CIPF code requirements.

Value of correction	Nature of correction	Reason for correction
	<p>Revaluation losses of £198,000 were posted in error to the revaluation reserve instead of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This meant the assets had a negative reserve balance which is not allowed by the CIPFA code.</p> <p>This adjustment also impacts the Capital Adjustment Account and Note 12 Property Plant & Equipment.</p>	
£160,000	<p>Note 1c Expenditure and Income analysed by Nature</p> <p>Misclassification errors in the working paper meant that other services expenses was overstated by £160,000, depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment were understated by £4k and Government Grants and contributions were understated by £156k.</p> <p>The correction reallocated costs to the correct line of the note.</p> <p>This adjustment has no impact on the primary statements.</p>	<p>To ensure expenditure is correctly classified within the accounts.</p> <p>To ensure the accounts agree to underlying records.</p>
£155,000	<p>Note 21 Revaluation Reserve</p> <p>£155,000 non-enhancing capital expenditure was charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement via the Capital Adjustment Account instead of through the Revaluation Reserve.</p> <p>The adjustment will reduce the revaluation losses shown in the Capital Adjustment Account and increase downward revaluations in the revaluation reserve by £155,000.</p>	<p>To ensure the accounting treatment is in line with the CIPFA code requirements.</p>

Value of correction	Nature of correction	Reason for correction
£54,000	<p>Note 19 Creditors</p> <p>Our sample testing identified a number of creditors were included in the balance sheet that had previously been paid and should have been removed from the ledger and balance sheet.</p> <p>A full review of historic creditor balances was completed by the Authority which resulted in the removal of £54,000 of creditors from short term creditors in the balance sheet.</p>	<p>To ensure that only liabilities that existed at the year end were included in the balance sheet.</p>
£35,000	<p>Note 21 Accumulated Absence Account</p> <p>The Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis was missing from the draft accounts.</p> <p>The value has been added to the disclosure.</p> <p>This reduced the balance of the reserve in the balance sheet by £35,000.</p>	<p>To ensure the disclosure complies with CIPFA code requirements.</p>
£28,000	<p>Note 35 Transactions Relating to Post-Employment Benefits</p> <p>Pension contributions of £28k in respect of unfunded benefits were misclassified as a re-measurement rather than employer contributions in the financial statements.</p> <p>The correction reduces the remeasurement in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement by £28k and increases payroll expenditure by £28k.</p> <p>Corresponding corrections have also been made to Note 7 Adjustments between</p>	<p>To ensure transactions are appropriately classified within the accounts.</p>

Value of correction	Nature of correction	Reason for correction
	accounting basis and funding basis and Note 21 Pension Reserve.	
£27,000	<p>Note 21 Revaluation Reserve</p> <p>The Depreciation on revaluation gains written off to the Capital Adjustment Account awss missing from the disclosure.</p> <p>This adjustment reduced the value of the reserve in the balance sheet.</p>	To ensure the disclosure complies with CIPFA code requirements.
£20,000	<p>Note 1c Expenditure and income Analysed by Nature</p> <p>A posting error in the ledger meant that employee expenditure in note 1c and the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement was understated by £20,000.</p> <p>This adjustment also reduces the surplus or deficit on provision of services.</p>	To ensure all expenditure is captured in the accounts.
Various	<p>Note 7 Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under regulation</p> <p>Numerous presentational adjustments were required as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Totals were added to the table; • A comparative table was added to the accounts; • Removal of columns not required by the CIPFA code; • Addition of a column for total unusable reserves as required by the CIPFA code, totalling £4,217k; • Addition of figures to the capital grants unapplied column, totalling £319k. 	To ensure the disclosure complies with CIPFA code requirements.

Value of correction	Nature of correction	Reason for correction
Various	<p>Note 29 Related Parties</p> <p>Various narrative additions were required to ensure the note accurately disclosed all required related party transactions and relationships in line with CIPFA code requirements.</p>	To ensure the disclosures are complete and in line with CIPFA code requirements.
N/A	<p>Note 26 Staff Remuneration</p> <p>Two employees had been incorrectly included in the table of officers receiving over £60,000 in note 26. This is because directors' remuneration is disclosed in a separate table and should not be duplicated in the £60,000 table.</p> <p>The note has been corrected to show that there were no employees paid in excess of £60k.</p>	To ensure that the disclosures are in line with CIPFA Code requirements.
N/A	<p>Note 26 Staff Remuneration</p> <p>The median salary and ratio calculations in note 26 incorrectly excluded two directors resulting in an incorrect value being disclosed.</p> <p>The calculations have been corrected and the note has been updated.</p>	To ensure that the disclosures are in line with CIPFA Code requirements.
Narrative	<p>Numerous amendments were required throughout the accounts to correct narrative and presentational issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorrect or out of date information in accounting policies - The incorrect version of the AGS was included in the draft accounts - Figures missing from or in the wrong part of notes 	To ensure the completeness and accuracy of the accounts.

Value of correction	Nature of correction	Reason for correction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Missing headings and sub-totals- Inconsistent use of minus sign and brackets to denote negative figures- Missing disclosure notes- Missing comparative figures- Incorrect cross referencing between notes	



Audit Wales

1 Capital Quarter

Cardiff CF10 4BZ

Tel: 029 2032 0500

Fax: 029 2032 0600

Textphone: 029 2032 0660

E-mail: info@audit.wales

Website: www.audit.wales

We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English.
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	12 th June 2024
TITLE	APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON COMMITTEES, PANELS, WORKING GROUPS AND EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION
REPORT BY	Chief Executive
PURPOSE	To appoint Members for the forthcoming year

1. SUMMARY

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

2. RECOMMENDATION

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

3. COMMITTEES

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

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

Local Authority Appointees	(2)	1) Cllr. Elfed Powell Roberts (up to 14/06/26) 2) Cllr. Dilwyn Owain Roberts (up to 14/06/26)
Welsh Government Appointee	(1)	1) Mrs. Sarah Hattle (up to 09/12/24)
Independent Members	(3)	1) Mrs. Sharon Warnes (up to 08/12/24) 2) Mr. Martin James Hughes (up to 05/07/25) 3) Mr. Mark Jones (up to 25/04/28)

4. **PANEL**

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

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

5. **WORKING GROUPS**

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

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

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

Welsh Government Appointee	(1)	1) Mrs. Sarah Hattle
----------------------------	-----	----------------------

Trade Union Representatives	(4)	Apportioned in accordance with the Constitution of the Working Group
-----------------------------	-----	--

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

Local Authority Appointees	(2)	1) Cllr. Elfed Powell Roberts 2) Cllr. Elwyn Edwards
----------------------------	-----	---

Welsh Government Appointees	(1)	1) Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson.
-----------------------------	-----	------------------------------

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

Councillor Meryl Roberts; Mr. Tim Jones, **Vacancy**.

6. AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

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

Local Authority Appointees (3) 1) Cllr. Elwyn Edwards
2) Cllr. Ifor Glyn Lloyd
3) Cllr. June Jones

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

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

Chair

Vice-Chair

Local Authority Appointees (2) 1) **Vacancy**
2) Cllr. Jo Nuttall

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

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

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

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

iv) **STRATEGIC PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE (CJC)** (1 Member)

One member to be chosen from:

- (i) Chair of the Authority
- (ii) Vice Chair of the Authority
- (iii) Chair of Planning & Access Committee

7. TASK & FINISH GROUPS AND STEERING GROUPS

(i) **Assets Sub-Group** (6 Members)

Councillors June Jones, Ifor Glyn Lloyd, Meryl Roberts;
Mr. Brian Angell, Mr. Tim Jones, **Vacancy**.

(ii) **Carbon Account Steering Group** (3 Members)

Councillor John Pughe Roberts; Mr. Brian Angell, Mr. Tim Jones.

(iii) **Place Names Steering Group** (3 Members)

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, June Jones, Dilwyn Roberts.

8. OTHER BODIES

- i) **Trawsfynydd Site Stakeholder Group** (1 Member)
 - 1) Cllr. Elfed Powell Roberts
- ii) **Joint Council for Wales** (1 Member)
 - 1) Cllr. Louise Hughes
- iii) **Campaign for National Parks**
(It is agreed that the 3 Welsh National Park Authorities are represented by a Member of the Authority that holds the National Parks Wales Secretariat)
- iv) **Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes** (1 Member)
 - 1) Mr. Tim Jones
- v) **Welsh Local Government Association Council** (1 Member)
 - 1) Cllr. Dilwyn Roberts
- vi) **Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau SAC** (1 Member)
 - 1) Cllr. Louise Hughes
- vii) **Eryri Transport, Parking & Active Travel Delivery Group** (1 Member)
 - 1) **Vacancy**
- viii) **Energy Island Programme Strategic Forum** (1 Member)
 - 1) Cllr. Elfed Powell Roberts
- ix) **Dyfi Biosphere Partnership** (1 Member)
 - 1) Cllr. Louise Hughes
- x) **Cambrian Coast Railway Liaison Conference** (1 Member)
 - 1) Cllr. Meryl Roberts
 - 2) In Reserve: Ms. Delyth Lloyd

ITEM NO. 13

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	12 June 2024
TITLE	ANNUAL REPORT TO THE AUTHORITY
REPORT BY	Chair of the Standards Committee
PURPOSE	To agree and to note the contents of the Annual Report

BACKGROUND

1. The terms of reference of the Standards Committee contains two general functions namely:
 - 1.1. To promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the members and co-opted members of the Authority
 - 1.2. To assist members and co-opted members of the Authority to observe the Authority's code of conduct.
2. The Standards Committee also has the following specific functions:
 - 2.1. To advise the Authority on the adoption of, or revision of, the Authority's codes of conduct
 - 2.2. To monitor the operation of the Authority's codes of conduct
 - 2.3. To advise on training of members and co-opted members of the Authority on matters relating to the Authority's codes of conduct
 - 2.4. Considering and where appropriate determining matters referred to it by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.
 - 2.5. Considering Complaints against Members and co-opted Members
 - 2.6. Granting dispensations to members or co-opted members who have a personal interest in any business of the Authority
 - 2.7. Authorising payments by the Monitoring Officer of allowances and expenses to persons who have assisted in an investigation by the Monitoring Officer
 - 2.8. To establish the procedure for determining complaints referred to it for consideration.
3. Finally, the Standards Committee also has some staff functions namely as a final internal appeal on disciplinary matters and as a final appeal on grievances or on conditions of service.

4. The present membership of the Standards Committee consists of two Local Authority Members, one Welsh Government appointed Member and three Independent Members namely Mrs Sharon Warnes (Chair), Mr Martin James Hughes (Vice Chair) and Mr Mark Jones. In accordance with the regulations governing Standards Committees both the Chair and Vice Chair have been appointed from amongst the Independent Members.

ADDITIONAL STATUTORY DUTY

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

ANNUAL REPORT

9. That the Standards Committee has met twice during the year, considered member training on both occasions.
10. The Chair of the Standards Committee presented an oral report to the committee on work undertaken by her in attending Authority committee meetings. There were a number of reasons for undertaking this work namely to observe the workings of the committees in general and to see how declarations of interests worked in practise. The Chair also wanted to ascertain how members of the public experience attending such committee meetings. The Chair was encouraged that the two committees had functioned well, with firm leadership, that members had prepared thoroughly, and the respect shown for fellow members was noted. The Chair did feel that zooming occasionally felt uncomfortable and that there had been an issue with one instance where a private conversation had been picked up by the mike. It would also be useful if members' names were announced to help members follow proceedings.

11. At its subsequent meeting on 26th April the Standards Committee trialled the Authority's new video conference facilities at Headquarters and considered the facilities to be an improvement in comparison to the facilities at Plas Tan y Bwlch. Some problems did arise at the meeting and were reported to the IT department for further investigation.
12. That there have been no matters referred to the Public Services Ombudsman or to the Adjudication Panel for Wales relating to the investigation of alleged breaches of the member code of conduct as members of this Authority.
13. That there have been no instances during the year where the Authority's Local Resolution procedure has been invoked.
14. The Standards Committee also considered a Complaints Monitoring Report that gave an insight into the nature of complaints received and whether there were any established patterns emerging.
15. The Standards Committee granted dispensations to Gwynedd Council members and Conwy County Borough Council members allowing them to take part in the determination of issues in certain limited circumstances.
16. The Standards Committee considered a report prepared by Internal Audit on support provided to Authority Members and will continue to monitor progress on training during the year. Members of the committee did however raise concerns with the low level of participation by the members of the Authority to a questionnaire by Internal Audit. The total of three responses received meant that Internal Audit has to extrapolate findings from a small sample of Authority members. The Standards Committee considered that on this occasion the Authority was fortunate as there was plenty of additional evidence and information to hand but would like to encourage members to respond fully to such matters in future when the opportunity presents itself.
17. The Standards Committee also considered a report monitoring declarations of interests made by members as part of its remit in monitoring the operation of the code of conduct.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

RECOMMENDATION

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

ITEM NO. 14

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	12 June 2024
TITLE	ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023/24
REPORT BY	Head of Administration and Customer Care
PURPOSE	To approve the Statement and allow it to be signed by the Chair and the Chief Executive.

1. INTRODUCTION

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

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Authority is requested to approve the Annual Governance Statement for the 2023/24 financial year.

Snowdonia National Park Authority Annual Governance Statement 2023-24



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

1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

Snowdonia National Park Authority has approved and adopted a code of corporate governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/Solace Framework Delivering Good Governance in Local Government. This statement explains how the Authority has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of regulation 5(2) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 in relation to the publication of a statement on internal control.

The Code of Corporate Governance was reviewed and updated, as part of a larger review of the Authority's governance arrangements in 2021/22. The new Code of Corporate Governance was formally adopted by the Authority in April 2022.

2. The Purpose of the Governance Framework

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

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

3. The Governance Framework

The Governance Framework comprises the seven principles of good governance:

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

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

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

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

Governance Structure

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

- Snowdonia National Park Authority has 18 appointed Members and during 2023/24 had 5 scheduled meetings.
- The Performance and Resources Committee was held 3 times during 2023/24. As part of its remit it undertakes audit committee functions in accordance with CIPFA requirements.
- The Planning and Access Committee was held 8 times during 2023/24. This committee is responsible for carrying out the Authority's statutory planning functions.
- The Authority's Standards Committee was held twice during 2023/24. Membership of the committee, whose remit it is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members, comprises of 3 Authority Members and 3 independent members.

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

Management Team

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

Standards

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

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

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

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

Risk Management

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

Internal Audit

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

External Audit

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

Monitoring Officer

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

Financial Management

The Authority’s financial management arrangements conform to the governance requirement of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2016). The Chief Finance Officer (who is Cyngor Gwynedd’s Chief Finance Officer) is the officer responsible for the administration of financial affairs as required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972. During the year a new appointment for the Section 151 Officer was formalised by the Authority following a change of personnel at Cyngor Gwynedd due to the retirement of the previous incumbent.

4. Significant Governance Issues and Actions Undertaken During the Year

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

The Authority's Well-being Statement for 2021-26 sets out Well-being Objectives which describes how they will help the Authority achieve the seven wellbeing goals for Wales.

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

Resilient Environments

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

Resilient Communities

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

Resilient Ways of Working

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

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

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

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

The Corporate Work Programme for 2023/24 was presented for approval as a working document by the Members at the Authority Annual General Meeting on the 14th of June 2023. The Programme sets out the projects, initiatives and specific actions that will fulfil the Authority's Well-being Objectives and Service Priorities.

Progress against the Programme has been reported to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 29th of November 2023 and on the 20th of March 2024.

5. Effectiveness of the Governance Framework

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

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

<p>Code of Corporate Governance</p>	<p>Governance was scrutinised in depth during 2021/22 by a Task and Finish Group of Officers and Members which was established especially for this purpose.</p> <p>The Code of Corporate Governance was reviewed in depth and redrafted by the Group, to ensure that it remains a cornerstone of effective governance for the future.</p> <p>The revised Code of Governance was formally adopted by the Authority in its meeting on the 27th of April 2022.</p>
<p>Standards Committee</p>	<p>The Standards Committee met twice during the year.</p> <p>The first meeting held on the 28th of April 2023 considered and agreed the statutory annual report to be presented to the Authority AGM, on how the committee’s functions have been discharged, which included an overview of conduct matters generally within the Authority.</p> <p>The meeting also considered a report from the Monitoring Officer regarding the monitoring that had taken place on the operation of the code of conduct and specifically Declarations of Members’ Interests. The meeting also considered and agreed upon a consultation response for Welsh Government on the Recommendations of the Independent Review of the Ethical Standards Framework.</p> <p>The second meeting of Standards Committee which was held on the 1st of September 2023, considered the Committee’s usual business, which included the nomination of Members for the Single Status Grading Appeals Panel, Grant of Dispensations and the consideration of the Authority’s Annual Complaints Monitoring Report as well as the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report.</p> <p>At the same meeting the Chair of the Committee reported on her observations following attendance as an observer of the Authority’s Committees to evaluate their effectiveness and governance arrangements. The Chair was encouraged to note that the committees functioned well, with firm leadership, members had prepared thoroughly, and respect was shown for fellow members.</p>

Whistle Blowing Policy	During 2023/24, no reports or concerns were raised in relation to any Member or Officer of the Authority under the Whistle Blowing Policy.
Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy	During 2023/24, no complaints of alleged fraud or corruption were made regarding any Member or Officer of the Authority, and Internal Auditors did not identify any areas of concern through their auditing work.
Model Code of Conduct	During 2023/24, no amendments or revisions were made to the Model Code of Conduct.
Complaints – Officers	<p>During 2023/24, the Authority received a total of 12 formal complaints.</p> <p>One of these complaints was later referred to the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales, who declined to investigate further.</p> <p>The Authority was therefore not subject to a formal investigation of alleged maladministration by the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales during 2023/24.</p>
Complaints - Members	During 2023/24, the Authority’s Monitoring Officer did not receive any formal complaints relating to the Members, and no complaints were submitted directly to the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales.
Standing Orders	<p>The Authority’s Standing Orders were reviewed as part of the remit of the Reviewing Governance Task and Finish Group during 2021/22.</p> <p>The review concluded that the Authority continues with its current committee structure but that the Authority should in future consider an amendment giving the Performance and Resources committee the right to make final decisions on financial and other reports (unless Authority approval is specifically required).</p>

<p>Standing Orders relating to Contracts</p>	<p>A new revised version of the Standing Orders relating to Contracts was presented to the Authority for adoption in its meeting on the 16th of November 2022.</p> <p>The revision incorporates the previously accepted recommendations given by Welsh Government and ensures compliance with all new regulations relating to the withdrawal from the European Union. It also provides a foundation for the Authority to incorporate environmental considerations into its green procurement policy.</p>
<p>Scheme of Delegation</p>	<p>The Scheme of Delegation was reviewed as part of the remit of the Reviewing Governance Task and Finish Group during 2021/22.</p> <p>The Group concluded that the current Officer Scheme of Delegation continued to be fit for purpose, and therefore no recommendation for changes were given.</p>
<p>Members' Register of Interests</p>	<p>The Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 places a requirement on the Authority to publish the current Members' Register of Interests on the Authority's website.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of each Authority Member to keep their record of personal interests up to date and to report on any changes in a timely manner. Nonetheless, the Member Services Officer sends each Member a copy of their current record after each AGM of the Authority, and requests that they be reviewed and updated if required.</p> <p>In its meeting on the 28th of April 2023, the Standards Committee reviewed Members' individual declarations of interest forms completed at Committee meetings for the previous financial year, as part of their work in monitoring the operation of the Code of Conduct. The General Members' Register of Interests was also reviewed. No issues of concern were identified.</p>

Principle 2: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement

<p>Strategic Equality Plan</p>	<p>The Annual Report on the Strategic Equality Plan was presented to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 29th of November 2023.</p> <p>The Authority’s progress on its action plan for reaching its Equality Objectives was reported, along with the Equality Impact Assessments undertaken during the year, equal pay monitoring data and staff equality data.</p> <p>A new Strategic Equality Plan for the period 2024 – 28 was adopted by the Performance and Resources Committee on the 20th of March 2023, following a comprehensive review and consultation undertaken in partnership with other public bodies across North Wales, as part of the North Wales Public Sector Equality Network.</p>
<p>Direct Consultation</p>	<p>During 2023/24 the Authority continued to engage with local communities and stakeholders through a range of means, from traditional written consultations and online questionnaires to webinars, online meetings as well as face-to-face meetings, workshops and consultation surgeries.</p> <p>Consultation is inbuilt into the wide range of workflows and projects we undertake as an Authority, be that through a formal statutory process, informally with communities and stakeholders or jointly with other public bodies. As a small Authority, it is important that we involve communities and stakeholders and consider their views from the outset, if we are to be successful with our projects.</p> <p>During the year, consultations took place around the review of our Equality Objectives with the North Wales Public Sector Equality Network, the introduction and community sessions for Plastic-Free Yr Wyddfa project, workshops and community sessions for the Conservation Areas Project, followed up by training, and at the end of the year, the start of the Article 4 Directive public consultation, amongst other things.</p> <p>In addition, a trial was established on a different approach to consult with Community and Town Councils on the process of reviewing the Eryri Local Development Plan over the next few years. Community and Town Councils agreed that the best approach was a virtual session to be ran before each stage of the consultation process. In the meantime, this agreed process can be used on the various stages of implementation required with Article 4 Directive over the coming year.</p>

<p>Communication and Engagement Strategy</p>	<p>Communication and engagement is an essential element in everything the Authority does. It is also something that can always be improved upon, and the Authority’s Strategy reflects this.</p> <p>Fast paced technological advancements and the continuing growth in social media platforms and participation levels, means that the Authority needs to be fully focused on engaging effectively through the correct channels at the correct time with a wide range of audiences.</p> <p>Following the departure of the Head of Service during the year, the Communication and Engagement Service was reorganised and split into two separate services. The new Head of Communication role was created, and an internal appointment made in the Autumn of 2023. However, this role amalgamates one of the Media Officer roles, which results in no additional staffing resources for the service.</p> <p>Due to this reorganisation, the annual report for 2023, which includes performance indicator results, was not presented to the Performance and Resources Committee in March 2024 as scheduled. However, it is expected that this will now be presented to Members in July 2024.</p>
<p>Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations Requests</p>	<p>The Authority has adopted the Information Commissioner’s Model Publication Scheme and has published a guide to information, both of which are available on the website.</p> <p>During 2023, 28 requests were received of which 15 received all the information requested (54%). Of the other 13 requests, 5 were refused or partially refused as the information requested did not exist or the authority did not hold the information, 2 requests were partially refused as the information would have identified members of the public who reported possible breaches of planning control, 2 requests were partially refused as it contained third party personal data, 1 request was refused as its disclosure would have adversely affected the course of justice, 1 request was refused as the information was intended for future publication, 1 request was refused as the information held was for the purpose of criminal proceedings which if released would have been prejudicial, and 1 request was partially refused as it was for the Authority’s response to a pre-planning application advice request, which had not resulted in a planning application. It is the Authority’s policy to keep these confidential until such time as a planning application is submitted, and accordingly is classed as exempt under</p>

	<p>Regulation 12(5)(f) of the Environment Information Regulations 2004.</p> <p>Of the 28 requests, 1 was not answered within the 20 working day time limit.</p> <p>No complaints were submitted during the year to the Information Commissioner with regard to any information request.</p>
<p>Committee Agendas and Associated Reports</p>	<p>The Authority's Committee agendas and associated reports are published on the website at least 3 clear working days before each meeting, to satisfy the statutory time limit.</p> <p>An archive of past Committee meetings agendas and associated papers is also available on the website for the last 3 years, and older agendas are available on request. Minute Books are also published annually on the website.</p>

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

<p>Cynllun Yr Wyddfa Partnership Plan</p>	<p>The process of reviewing Yr Wyddfa Partnership Plan has begun, and it is anticipated that the process will take around a year, with the intention of launching a revised plan before the summer of 2025.</p> <p>One of the priorities of Cynllun Yr Wyddfa is to deal with challenges related to parking and transport in the Wyddfa and Ogwen area. The type of improvements that have been implemented so far is the parking and travel system in Ogwen, better parking management on the A5 in Ogwen and in Nant Gwynant, the introduction of the regular T10 service through the Ogwen Valley, improvements to the Sherpa service, and sustainable travel messages on the National Park Authority's social media websites.</p> <p>In addition to the above, an Action Group was established to deal with strategic issues relating to parking and transport which includes the key partners (Cyngor Gwynedd, Conwy County Borough Council and the National Park Authority). This group has met regularly since its establishment during 2022.</p> <p>Leading up to Wales Ambassador Week 2023, the special milestone of having 1000 Eryri Ambassadors was reached.</p>
--	---

	<p>During the week, activities were held throughout Wales to celebrate the work of the Ambassadors.</p> <p>A Plastic Free Zone was defined for Yr Wyddfa project in January 2023, and covers the mountain and its gateway villages (Llanberis, Waunfawr, Beddgelert).</p> <p>The Yr Wyddfa Non-Plastic project is a 'working towards' commitment and the brevity and unique challenges of the project mean that it will include several test campaigns, allowing the Authority to measure the effectiveness of different ideas and new methods. The guiding principles behind the campaigns align with the general principles of the project: maintaining and respecting our environment, sustainable communities, and future generations.</p>
<p>Cynllun Eryri (Eryri National Park Partnership Plan)</p>	<p>Cynllun Eryri was adopted by the National Park Authority as its statutory (Partnership) Management Plan in October 2020 and officially launched in November 2020. The third annual report of progress capturing input from all Partners during 2023 is currently in draft form.</p> <p>Whilst 2023 continued to be challenging for all Partners, in gathering information for this report it is clear that outstanding examples of Cynllun Eryri's goals being progressed continue to develop at apace across the region.</p> <p>In its third year of implementation, significant progress has been made on the Action Plan of Cynllun Eryri. There are currently no Outcomes which have been assessed as <i>Not progressed and/or at risk</i>. It is therefore fair to conclude that progress has been achieved in all areas of the Action Plan of Cynllun Eryri in the year 2023.</p> <p>The draft Annual Report for 2023 will be discussed at the Fforwm Eryri meeting on 7th May 2024 and it is hoped that it will be presented to Authority members in the AGM on 12th June 2024 for adoption.</p>

<p>Eryri Local Development Plan 2016-2031</p>	<p>The revised Eryri Local Development Plan 2016-2031 (LDP) was adopted on the 6th of February 2019.</p> <p>The Annual Monitoring Report for 2022-23 was approved by the Planning and Access Committee on the 18th of October 2023, and subsequently presented to the Welsh Government.</p> <p>Prior to this, a Review Report was approved by the Planning and Access Committee on the 28th of June 2023, following a stakeholder consultation period which ran between the 7th of April and 12th of May 2023. The Report was then presented to the Welsh Government.</p> <p>The review highlighted that significant national and local contextual changes had taken place, which now need to be taken into consideration. The LDP's Sustainability Appraisal, including Strategic Environmental Assessment, and Habitat Regulations Assessment, together with other impact assessments, also needed to be reviewed. In addition, housing requirement figures were not being met. The housing requirement will need to be reconsidered to reflect the future needs of the Plan area. The distribution of the housing requirement through the Spatial Development Strategy will, therefore, also need to be reconsidered.</p> <p>The review concluded that the Full Revision procedure is the most appropriate form of revision for the Eryri LDP. However, the Authority's subsequent decision to Introduce the Article 4 Direction (see below), and the associated resource requirements that this would entail, led to Members agreeing to defer the review of the Eryri Local Development Plan for the time being, at the Planning and Access Committee meeting on the 6th of December 2023.</p>
<p>Article 4 Direction</p>	<p>Following previous discussions and consideration by Members, a report was presented to the Planning and Access Committee seeking formal approval for the Introduction of the Article 4 Direction.</p> <p>Following the publication of planning secondary legislation in the Autumn 2022, 3 new Planning Use Classes were introduced (Dwelling House, Dwelling House not used as a sole or principal residence, and Short-Term Let Accommodation), and changes between these classes would now be considered 'development'. However, at the same time, the General Permitted Development Order was amended to allow permissible changes between the new use classes i.e. planning permission would not be required.</p>

	<p>These permitted development rights may be withdrawn within a particular area by an Article 4 Direction made by a local planning authority on the basis of sound local evidence. The removal of the development rights granted by Article 4 Direction would then make it necessary to submit a planning application for changes between the 3 new Use Classes.</p> <p>Most community councils within the National Park have over 10% holiday lets and second homes, with almost half having 15%. 12 communities have over 20%. Due to this, there is an increasing significant concern regarding the accessibility of homes for local people, and the associated issues regarding viability of local communities this can lead to.</p> <p>The committee therefore approved the report justifying the Introduction of the Article 4 Direction and also approved engagement on the proposed introduction, in its meeting on the 6th of March 2024. The Article 4 Direction will not come into force until 12 months later i.e. the Spring of 2025.</p>
<p>Strategic Plan for a Sustainable Visitor Economy</p>	<p>Since the adoption of the Strategic Plan for a Sustainable Visitor Economy in Gwynedd and Eryri (2035) by the National Park Authority on the 8th of February 2023, officers from the NPA and Cyngor Gwynedd have been formalising operating structures.</p> <p>On the 17th of April 2024, the first meeting of the Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership was held, which for the first time brought together representatives from the tourism sector and community to formally discuss the visitor economy in the area for the forthcoming year. An Action Plan has been drafted, and is aimed to be adopted in the next month. The Partnership have elected Co-Chairs to represent both the business and community sectors, and Vice-Chairs in the same model.</p> <p>There is furthermore a Strategic Board which meets twice a year and a Partnership Delivery group as well as Task and Finish groups which will be established to lead on specific projects.</p> <p>At present Conwy County Borough Council have not formally adopted the Plan, but are taking it through their democratic processes with the intention of signing an MoU during 2024.</p>

<p>Corporate Work Programme</p>	<p>As the Authority now has an adopted Well-being Statement which includes its Well-being Objectives for a five-year period from 2021-26; there will therefore be no need for an annual review.</p> <p>The agreed actions in the Corporate Work Programme will now be sufficient to enable the Authority to assess its progress in attaining the Well-being Objectives and there will accordingly be no need for a separate report on Performance Indicators. The final report on the Corporate Work Programme for 2022/23 was considered by the Performance and Resources Committee on the 12th of July 2023.</p> <p>The Corporate Work Programme for 2023/24 was formally adopted by the Authority on the 14th of June 2023.</p> <p>Members were provided with updates on the progress made in meeting the Well-being Objectives, outlined in the Corporate Work Programme for 2023/24.</p> <p>Progress on the first two quarters of the financial year was reported to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 29th of November 2023. The third and (where available) fourth quarter progress report was reported to the same committee on the 20th of March 2024. A final report is expected to be presented to the Performance and Resources Committee in its meeting in July 2024.</p>
--	--

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

<p>Budget Strategy 2023-24</p>	<p>The Authority's revenue budget for 2023/24 was confirmed in the Chief Finance Officer's report to the Authority on the 8th of February 2023. The report also confirmed the levy on constituent authorities.</p> <p>An update on the Budget was presented to the Authority on the 13^h of September 2023 and to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 29th of November 2023 and the 20th of March 2024.</p> <p>The Base Revenue Budget for 2024/25 which was presented to Members in the November meeting, confirmed that the budget deficit represented was projected to be approximately 10% of the Authority's total budget.</p>
---------------------------------------	---

	<p>The March report outlined the projected year-end revenue and capital position. The report also confirmed the additional £2 million revenue and capital grant allocation by Welsh Government to meet the challenges faced by the Authority's current budgetary pressures. This allows the Authority to both reduce the operating deficit in the budget as well as to ease existing capital pressures.</p> <p>The report confirmed that the situation in terms of net spending on services continued to compare favourably with net spending from the same period in 2022/23, however inflationary pressures continued to be challenging.</p> <p>Expenditure remains higher on elements affected by inflation, particularly on energy, however confirmation was received that the budget for 2023/24 was sufficient. As the inflation level had not fallen as sharply as predicted, interest rates remained high. This continues to lead to significant interest income for the Authority. The interest income budget/target was increased to £120k to reflect this and this target had already been exceeded with over £190k of income received to date in 2023/24.</p>
<p>Mid Term Financial Plan 2024/25 – 2027/28</p>	<p>It was reported in last year's Statement that in its meeting on the 26th of April 2023, the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance presented the revised Medium Term Financial Plan for 2023/24 – 2026/27 to the Authority, which outlines a range of financial situations that could face the Authority over the next four years. The Plan outlines a model of the financial resources required by the Authority for the service levels it hopes to provide in the mid term.</p> <p>Further to this, the Chief Executive presented an overview of the Authority's financial challenges for the next 2 financial years (2025 – 2027) at a Members' Working Group meeting on the 17th of April 2024.</p> <p>The report outlined the anticipated inflationary pressures (based on Bank of England assumptions) on the Authority over the next 3 financial years to be £903,000.</p> <p>Wage inflation was also identified as an unknown. It may reduce the challenge or increase the financial pressure on the Authority, which needs to be assessed as and when such is known. The Chief Executive concluded that</p>

	<p>no significant adjustments (except for Plas Tan Y Bwlch) need to be considered in this financial year, but preparatory work needs to be undertaken for future consideration.</p> <p>Members requested officers to undertake further work on income generation, capital and revenue spend including staff retention and recruitment in key areas; and to consider further the financial position of the Authority before the end of this financial year and consider potential actions to be implemented during 2025/26 and 2026/27.</p> <p>Due to the above report and the actions approved, the Mid Term Financial Plan for 2024/25 – 2027/28 was not required to be presented formally to the Authority in April 2024, as in previous years. This will now be presented to the Performance and Resources Committee in July 2024.</p>
<p>Performance Management</p>	<p>The mechanism for reviewing performance in relation to the Authority’s Well-being Statement and the Corporate Work Programme was set out formally in 2021/22.</p> <p>The Performance and Resources Committee will scrutinise performance on the actions contained in the Corporate Work Programme which gives an insight into progress on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>The Annual Report for 2022/23 which was approved for adoption and publication by the Authority in its meeting on the 13th of September 2023, reported on Year 2 progress in achieving the Authority’s Well-being Objectives.</p>

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

<p>Members’ Role Descriptions</p>	<p>Revised role descriptions for Members and for the Chair and Vice Chair were adopted by the Authority on the 27th of April 2022.</p> <p>Changes were made to strengthen the emphasis of the role of members in setting a strategic direction and ambition for the Authority, providing an overarching introduction including the purpose of National Parks and the role of the Authority in delivering on these purposes, and strengthening the section on personal and role development.</p>
<p>Members’ Attendance</p>	<p>The online platform Zoom for holding committee and other meetings is now going into its fourth year of operation. The new technological investment for conducting hybrid meetings has embedded well, and is now well established.</p> <p>Members of the public can observe the committees in person at Plas Tan y Bwlch or can register in advance for access via Zoom. Recordings of committees can also be accessed at a later date through the Authority’s YouTube channel.</p> <p>Members’ attendance at meetings during 2023/24 was 85%, compared to 81% and 82% in the two preceding years of 2022/23 and 2021/22.</p>
<p>Member Training</p>	<p>In 2023/24, member attendance at training events was 53.5% (70% in 2022/23).</p> <p>In addition to the Authority’s Member training programme, this year Welsh Government provided funding for Members training sessions on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Governance; ➤ Landscapes for Everyone (Introduction to Diversity and Inclusion; and ➤ Nature and Climate Emergencies. <p>Course materials have been made available on the Landscapes Wales website, which allows Members who were unable to attend to access the information.</p>

	<p>Further governance related training will be provided in 2024-25 following confirmation that funding has been made available by Welsh Government for this. Scheduled for June 2024 are sessions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The NPA governance system – differences and similarities with other local government bodies; ➤ An introduction to good governance; and ➤ Practicing good governance.
<p>Staff Performance Appraisals and Training</p>	<p>Learning and development needs are identified in annual performance appraisal reviews, which outlines training priorities for the year ahead.</p> <p>Although not all staff received an appraisal during the period, as a result of a directive brought about by both Directors to encourage managers to appraise their staff there was a 32% increase in staff being appraised during 2023/24.</p> <p>Further focus will continue to be applied to ensure that as many staff as possible are annually appraised.</p>
<p>Human Resources Strategy</p>	<p>In 2022/23 average staff sickness absence was 6.95 days. During 2023/24 the average staff sickness absence was 9.1 days.</p> <p>This increase has prompted a review to be undertaken by the HR team in relation to how the Authority manages absence in general. The review will look at reasons for absence, length of absences, recurring absences and the overall financial impact of absence on the Authority.</p> <p>In the continued absence of a House Manager at Plas Tan Y Bwlch, the head of HR has continued to oversee staff there daily, impacting her ability to fully focus on HR functions.</p> <p>Further, the H.R. Team experienced significant changes during this reporting period due to the retirement of an experienced HR officer and the maternity leave absence of the HR Administrator. During January 2024 a review of the HR Team structure and amendments put forward were approved by the management team.</p> <p>One of the key changes was the decision to replace the previous HR Administrator role with a HR Advisor traineeship position spanning two years. The revised structure with all positions filled will increase efficiencies</p>

	<p>within the team and allow more focus on revising policies and procedures, staff wellbeing, and updating the HR strategy.</p> <p>Despite the temporary reduction in team members, significant progress was still made in relation to the creation of several new policies, including 'Menopause,' 'Hybrid Working,' and 'Super-Flexi,'.</p> <p>Furthermore, the team implemented a new Employee Assistance Programme and launched the Staff Engagement and Wellbeing Forum.</p>
--	---

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

<p>Financial Statements</p>	<p>It was reported in last year's Governance Statement that the Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 had yet to be formally certified and approved. This was due to difficulties that had arisen because of the need to re-evaluate the Authority's assets every 5 years.</p> <p>The Final Statement of Accounts for both 2021/22 and 2022/23 have yet to be formally presented and approved; and therefore the Final Letter of Representation by the Appointed Auditor from Audit Wales in accordance with The Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 is yet to be received.</p> <p>At the time of reporting, it is anticipated that the Final Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 will be presented to the Authority AGM on the 12th of June 2024.</p> <p>Following this, the presentation of the Final Accounts for 2022/23 and 2023/24 will be dependent on the audit timetable set out by Audit Wales.</p>
<p>Risk Management</p>	<p>The Risk Register is reviewed and updated quarterly by the Heads of Service and Management Team.</p> <p>Identified risks as noted in the Risk Register are allocated as a responsibility to named officers and target dates are set for mitigation. The Risk Register is reviewed by Members at each Performance and Resources Committee and any removal of risks from the Register is ratified annually at an Authority meeting.</p>

<p>External Audit</p>	<p>It is usual for Audit Wales to present an Audit Plan to the Authority every year. The report sets out the audit risks and proposed audit response to be undertaken during the year, along with confirmation of performance audit areas and the audit fees payable. An Audit Plan has not been received by Audit Wales for 2023.</p> <p>At the start of 2023, Audit Wales commenced a review on governance within National Park Authorities in Wales, which included effective scrutiny, partnerships, supporting recovery and resilience, the appointment of members and maximising their contribution through balancing national and local issues. The report was published on the 25th of April 2024, and will be formally presented to Members and Officers at the Authority AGM on the 12th of June 2024.</p> <p>In the summer of 2023 Audit Wales issued a brief on their proposed forthcoming audit on ‘Promoting Equality and Diversity of Access’, and Officers duly submitted the evidence requested. To date, further progress on the audit is unknown.</p> <p>Following a study undertaken on Income Diversification across the three Welsh National Park Authorities, Audit Wales presented their findings to Members at the Performance and Resources Committee on the 12th of July 2023. Audit Wales followed the individual reports with a joint three National Park report which was published in September 2023.</p> <p>The Chief Executive reported progress to Members on the report’s recommendations at the Performance and Resources Committee on the 29th of November 2023, and also in a report to the Members Working Group on the 17th of April 2024, as part of the overview given on the Authority’s Financial Challenge for the next two financial years. Full details of the findings and recommendations are set out under Section 6 (Significant Governance Issues) in this Statement.</p>

<p>Internal Audit</p>	<p>The Internal Audit Manager reports on the previous financial year's work to the Performance and Resources Committee. This year, this was reported on the 29th of November 2023.</p> <p>There were three internal audits scheduled to be undertaken during 2023/24, namely Planning Service Operational Arrangements, The Carneddau Landscapes Partnership, and Support for Members.</p> <p>The Carneddau Landscapes Partnership audit did not take place, and instead an audit on the LIFE Celtic Rainforest Project was undertaken.</p> <p>Both audits on Planning Service Operational Arrangements and the LIFE Celtic Rainforest Project were given a "Satisfactory" rating – there are controls in place to achieve the objectives but there are aspects where the arrangements can be tightened to further mitigate the risks.</p> <p>As a result of this, recommendations for improvement were given as part of the reports. Internal Audit will request an update on the progress of implementing these recommendations in due course.</p> <p>The Support for Members audit was rated as "High" - assurance of propriety can be expressed as the internal controls in place can be relied upon to achieve objectives.</p>
<p>Health and Safety</p>	<p>The Annual Health and Safety Report was presented to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 29th of November 2023 by the Head of HR, detailing incidents / accidents that were recorded including reportable incidents to the Health and Safety Executive under the 'Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)'.</p> <p>On the 23rd of January 2024 the Authority appointed a full-time Health and Safety Officer who will be the competent person for all matters relating to Health and Safety moving forward.</p>

<p>Information Centres</p>	<p>The Authority has 3 Information Centres in Betws y Coed, Beddgelert and Aberdyfi, which are managed by the Sustainable Tourism Manager, whose main objective is to ensure that the Centres are commercially viable / self-financing.</p> <p>The Information Centres Annual Report was presented to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 29th of November 2023. The report provided an overview of the 2023/24 year to date, and concluded that the Centres would end the financial year within their set operating budget.</p> <p>The main issues of note was the increased turnover seen in all 3 Centres, which was due to amongst other things better recruitment and retention, expansion of suppliers, and a favourable exchange rate for overseas visitors. It was also reported that higher than average incidents of shoplifting had taken place during the main season, but that upgraded and new CCTV systems installed had been valuable in aiding reporting.</p>
<p>Borrowing and Investment Strategies / Treasury Management</p>	<p>The Annual Report providing the actual Treasury Management (borrowing and investment) of the Authority during 2022/23, was presented to the Authority meeting on the 13th of September 2023.</p> <p>During 2022/23, the Authority's activity remained within the limits that were originally set. There has been no borrowing.</p> <p>In 2022/23, the total interest received from investments was £135,616. Interest received from car loans of £331 increases the total to £135,947 against a budget of £8,000.</p> <p>The bank and building society interest sum of £135,616 for 2022/23 is a significant increase on the amount of £10,902 received in 2021/22. The increase is a direct result of inflation and the effect on interest rates which have increased several times during the year and continue to increase.</p> <p>The Chief Finance Officer presented the Capital Strategy for 2024/25 at the Authority meeting on the 7th of February 2024.</p> <p>The report gives a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management</p>

	<p>activity contribute to the provision of National Park services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability.</p> <p>The report confirms that the Authority commences 2024/25 debt free. Members approved no change in the authorised borrowing limit and the operational boundary, and approved both the Capital Borrowing Strategy and Investment Strategy for 2024/25, and noted the content with regard to the Prudential Code.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Chief Finance Officer 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. This was due to an 18-month extension to the project which may need funding in the short-term.</p>
<p>Plas Tan y Bwlch Study Centre</p>	<p>In his report to the Authority on the 7th of February 2024, the Chief Executive reported that the Plas Tan y Bwlch Board had come to the conclusion that a viable business linked to delivery of the Authority's statutory purposes cannot be developed within the current resources available.</p> <p>In addition, the Audit Wales report on Income Diversification had recommended that within 12 months, the Authority review its operating model at Plas Tan y Bwlch to undertake a cost benefit appraisal of the facility to determine its future strategy for the site.</p> <p>The report outlined in detail the Authority's financial position and the accompanying resource implications. The report concluded that the Authority needs to reduce the revenue and capital costs resulting from operational management of Plas Tan Y Bwlch and the Authority needs to consider alternative models which includes forming partnerships or open market disposal, preferably as a going concern.</p>
<p>Yr Ysgwrn</p>	<p>Yr Ysgwrn's Annual Report for 2022/23 was presented to the Authority on the 14th of June 2023.</p> <p>The report advised that Yr Ysgwrn managed to attract financial support for a programme of activities and events from the Welsh Federation of Museums and Galleries and the Welsh Government via the Summer of Fun</p>

	<p>programme. Income data shows that the income is higher on the days when activities and events are held and maintaining a quality programme is essential in order to maintain this level of activity. Grants were also received from other sources.</p> <p>The increase in running cost at Yr Ysgwrn during the year was a challenge, reflecting the wider cost of living crisis. The increase in costs has affected all aspects of the business and in particular, heating costs. The problem was more evident in 2022/23 due to the effect of increased cost of wood pellets and gas prices and a higher dependence on gas when completing maintenance work on the biomass boiler.</p> <p>This combination of factors led to a gap of approximately £50,000 in the budget. Yr Ysgwrn's reserve fund was established in order to meet such a gap.</p>
--	--

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

<p>Pay Policy Statement</p>	<p>Section 38 (1) of the Localism Act 2011 places a requirement on Local Authorities to prepare pay policy statements. Whilst National Park Authorities are exempt from this requirement, it has been considered good practice to adopt such a statement, and accordingly this is done annually by the Head of Human Resources.</p> <p>The Authority's Pay Policy Annual Report for 2022/23 and Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 was presented to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 12th of July 2023, ensuring transparency in staff remuneration at the Authority.</p>
<p>Annual Report 2022/23</p>	<p>The Annual Report for 2022/23 was presented to the Authority meeting on the 13th of September 2023, before being published on the website and distributed to the Authority's main centres, public libraries etc., within the National Park.</p> <p>It contains the Chairman's Annual Report for the year, which sets out what was achieved, not achieved and any problems that were encountered.</p>

	<p>It also contains details of the Authority's Service Priorities and the Authority's Objectives set on an annual basis that feed into and show how it is intended to take the National Park forward in order to attain the Authority's vision; a summary evaluation of progress made in attaining the Authority's Objectives, the key work activities for 2022/23, and performance management.</p>
<p>Hybrid Committees and Broadcasting</p>	<p>Hybrid meetings are now well established in the Authority following investment in the technology needed to facilitate the meetings. Members and Officers have the choice to attend in-person at Plas Tan y Bwlch or join online through Zoom.</p> <p>The Authority meetings and the Planning and Access Committee are also webcast live on to the Authority's YouTube channel, as well as a recording of the meeting being able to be viewed at any time. Members of the public therefore can either attend the Committee meetings in-person or can access remotely.</p> <p>This not only improves access for Members and Officers but also access, transparency and reporting of the Authority's business for members of the public.</p>
<p>Grant Funding</p>	<p>Most project based work in the Authority is funded through external grant funding.</p> <p>Grant Funding updates, including any reprofiling and amendments to end dates where relevant, are given to Members through the Performance and Resources Committee every six months. Detailed information is given on capital funded projects as well as live projects.</p> <p>The Authority reviews its priorities annually, ensuring consideration is given to the timescales involved with some grant obligations, and as a result confirms the priority areas for future bids.</p> <p>Members have previously confirmed that their approval is required for projects under the following situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any multi-year projects. • Any proposal that does not fit within agreed strategic priorities. • Any proposal referred to members by the Chair or CEO. • Any in-year proposal above an agreed financial limit (agreed at £150,000).

	During the year updates were given to the Performance and Resources Committee on the 12 th of July 2023 and on the 20 th of March 2024.

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

Audit Wales: Income Diversification

During the period between November 2022 and March 2023, Audit Wales conducted a review which sought to assess whether the Authority has the right vision and systems in place to diversify its income streams, ensuring decisions are planned, managed and delivered effectively without compromising its ability to fulfil its statutory purposes and duties. The review was carried out in all three of the Welsh National Park Authorities.

Reporting on the outcome specifically for this Authority in July 2023, Audit Wales noted in its report that “National Park Authorities need greater financial resilience to effectively deliver against the ambitious agenda set out by the Welsh Government’s Minister for Climate Change. Doing this requires Authority Members and officers to have the right vision, skills and expertise to set out a strategy for income diversification. In parallel, robust governance arrangements must provide appropriate and effective scrutiny to help appraise the risks and rewards of any proposed new activity”.

The review concluded that “In Eryri, we found that the Authority has a strong track record in raising funding and managing resources. Addressing future budget shortfalls to ensure the continued delivery of its statutory purposes and management of key assets requires the Authority to set a clear vision”.

A follow up report ‘Income Diversification for National Park Authorities in Wales’ published in September 2023, was considered in detail by the Performance and Resources Committee on the 29th of November 2023. The report identified 6 key building blocks, each of which is essential for National Park Authorities when they are diversifying their income streams. The report concluded with recommendations for the Welsh Government:

“It is also clear that there are common and important issues that need to be addressed if National Park Authorities are to successfully deliver new income. With this in mind, we believe that the Welsh Government should use this report to understand the current challenges and barriers facing National Park Authorities seeking to diversify their income streams. Based on these findings, the Welsh Government should consider and clearly define:

- its vision and ambition for income generation by National Park Authorities in Wales at a national level;
- the level of risk it is comfortable with National Park Authorities in Wales taking on, and other parameters for pursuing new income streams;

- the support it will provide to National Park Authorities with respect to the skills required to pursue, and provide scrutiny of, income diversification; and
- how it will facilitate collaboration between National Park Authorities in Wales to be able to pursue joint income generation initiatives.”

Proposals for Improvement

The table below sets out the proposals for improvement for this Authority, identified by Audit Wales whilst undertaking the review and the Authority’s response.

Recommendation	
R1	<p>A strategic approach to income diversification</p> <p>Undertaking income diversification requires National Park Authorities to have enough capacity, the right skills and robust but agile systems to be in place. We recommend that the Authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ use our self-evaluation tools to identify its existing strengths and weaknesses, and develop a strategy for income diversification; and ➤ as part of its strategy for income diversification set SMART performance measures and appropriate governance systems to ensure adequate monitoring and scrutiny of delivery of the agreed action plan resulting from its self-evaluation.
Response 12.07.23	
	<p>The Authority agrees to use the self-evaluation tool to develop a strategy for income diversification.</p> <p>Income diversification can be resource intensive with limited opportunities, and any strategy will need to ensure that our scarce resources are utilised in the most effective way possible.</p> <p>With the caveat as set out above, it is agreed that the strategy will measure performance and assess whether changes are required to our governance model.</p>
Updated Response 29.11.23	
	<p>The follow-up report itself highlights the six building blocks for diversifying income generation along with the self-evaluation tool. Officers have considered these but progress on further work is restricted due to the recommendations made in the joint report which challenged Welsh Government to understand and consider the specific matters facing National Park Authorities in terms of income diversification and for Welsh Government to provide guidance on such matters.</p>

	Audit Wales report also identified the need for a single corporate strategy on income diversification, the Authority does not produce such a single document but rather provides more detail in areas of delivery which provide commercial opportunities e.g., business plans and income targets for areas such as Plas Tan y Bwlch, Yr Ysgwrn, Car Parks and Information Centres. Performance of activity with commercial opportunities are monitored at an officer level, specific officer/member boards and periodic reporting to either the Authority or the Performance and Resource Committee.
--	--

Updated Response 17.04.24	
	<p>The Chief Executive gave an overview of the financial challenge that faces the Authority over the next two financial years, in his report to the Members Working Group on the 17th of April 2024.</p> <p>The report noted that further input is awaited from Welsh Government regarding income diversification. Notwithstanding this, confirmation was given that Officers can progress on the following areas in preparation, to advise and provide options to Members on any course of action that may be required for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Car park income ➤ Planning fees ➤ Information Centres ➤ Yr Ysgwrn ➤ Commercial sponsorship

Recommendation	
R2	<p>Plas Tan y Bwlch</p> <p>We recommend that, within the next 12 months, the Authority review its operating model at Plas Tan y Bwlch to undertake a cost benefit appraisal of the facility to determine its future strategy for the site.</p>

Response 12.07.23	
	This review has already commenced, and we are in the process of collating the information.

Updated Response 07.02.24	
	The Board had considered the operational rationale for Plas Tan y Bwlch, scoping of potential business models and how such supports the delivery of National Park purposes, and concluded that the Authority needs to reduce the revenue and capital costs resulting from operational management of Plas Tan Y Bwlch and the Authority needs to consider alternative models for Plas Tan Y Bwlch which includes forming partnerships or open market disposal, preferably as a going concern.

	<p>The Authority resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To continue with the current business model 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. 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 for seeking 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 outcome of any negotiations. 7. To utilise the identified reserve to bridge any financial pressures/needs.
--	---

The Authority’s Risk Profile

The two highest risks to the Authority as reported formally in March 2024, is as follows:

Risk	Result	Action Identified / Progress to date
Insufficient core budget funding.	Cut in Services.	<p>The Budget for 2024/25 was approved by the Authority in its meeting on 7 February 2024, and was established on the basis of no change to the Welsh Government Grant for 2024/25. This continued zero increases in the level of Welsh Government funding for the National Park Grant, despite the Authority experiencing levels of inflation not seen since the 1980s.</p> <p>At the time of setting the budget it was anticipated that the 2024/25 budget will include a net contribution of £1,061,760 from the Authority's reserves, comprising of £731,330 of Revenue funding and £330,430 of Capital. This is an unprecedented level of reserve use, and whilst some of this is directly related to the use of grant received in previous years, the use of other funds is not sustainable in the long term.</p>

		<p>In previous years, SNPA has been able to retain reserve flexibility and has kept a prudent level of funds to be able to balance the budget without implementing emergency cuts. However, savings have been considered for 2024/25 and this will have to continue in future years, with a detrimental effect on services, unless the Government increases the grant.</p> <p>Following an Audit Wales report, a number of recommendations have been presented to Welsh Government to identify options for raising income – and explaining the related risks – but this work has been put on hold until guidance has been received from WG.</p> <p>Risk Rating: Effect 4 x Likelihood 4 = 16 (High)</p>
<p>Income Generating Target (Plas Tan y Bwlch).</p>	<p>Failure to keep within the Authority's budget.</p>	<p>Following the pandemic and the numerous lockdowns Plas Tan y Bwlch has been operating a hybrid business model that consists of attempting to make the most of the tourist trade by offering a B&B package to visitors, undertaking special events such as conferences and weddings whilst welcoming back some of what could be described as the previous core users of Plas Tan y Bwlch.</p> <p>Overall, this has met with mixed results. Whilst income has increased from year to year so unfortunately has the overall costs, particularly when one considers the inflationary pressures facing Plas Tan y Bwlch. With the financial pressures facing the Authority in general there is a growing need to address the deficit. The Plas Tan y Bwlch Board undertakes regular meetings to discuss the deficit and consider future options.</p> <p>Audit Wales have recommended that a Business Plan be presented to the Authority within 12 months. The Plas Tan y Bwlch Board have been tasked with formulating options on the future direction</p>

		<p>of Plas Tan y Bwlch. The Chief Executive presented a paper to the Members Working Group in January 2024 and the Authority considered the matter formally at its meeting in February 2024, when it agreed to adopt a twin track approach so as to minimize future risk to the Authority. The Authority will consider the matter next in September 2024.</p> <p>Risk Rating: Effect 4 x Likelihood 5 = 20 (High)</p>
--	--	--

In addition, the second risk regarding Plas Tan y Bwlch was updated in March as outlined in the table below. Members requested and agreed in the Performance and Resources Committee meeting dated 20th of March 2024, that both risks be combined to reflect the current situation, and to include more detail with regard to the reputational risk to the Authority, the financial risks, risks to the building itself etc.

Risk	Result	Action Identified / Progress to date
Securing the long-term future of Plas Tan y Bwlch.	Reputational risk to the Authority in managing Plas Tan y Bwlch. The Plas having to close with staff losing their livelihoods. An adverse effect on the local economy with the Authority's good name suffering.	<p>As reported previously although income is increasing year on year there is a substantial deficit that needs addressing.</p> <p>Audit Wales have recommended that a Business Plan be presented to the Authority within 12 months. The Plas Tan y Bwlch Board have been tasked with formulating options on the future direction of Plas Tan y Bwlch. The Chief Executive presented a paper to the Members Working Group in January 2024 and the Authority considered the matter formally at its meeting in February 2024, when it agreed to adopt a twin track approach so as to minimize future risk to the Authority. The Authority will consider the matter next in September 2024.</p> <p>It has also become clear that there are a number of issues with the building itself resulting in excessive damp penetration and the loss of letting rooms. We are currently investigating the situation and have a Condition Survey of the building.</p>

		<p>This report has been discussed at the Board and we have asked for details on what requires urgent work, with a view to researching the possibility of submitting an application for grant funding for the remainder of the work. A decision can then be made on if and how to invest further in the Plas with the money already to hand. In the meantime listed building consent has been obtained to undertake urgent works and works that can be implemented in conjunction with other works that will alleviate the problem of water ingress causing damp penetration.</p> <p>Risk Rating: Effect 3 x Likelihood 4 = 12 (Medium)</p>
--	--	---

In view of the above requests, the Risk Register will be formally reviewed and presented for approval at the next Performance & Resources Committee in July 2024.

7. Opinion

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

EMYR WILLIAMS

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE
SNOWDONIA NATIONAL
PARK AUTHORITY**

DATE: 12.06.2024

**CHAIR
SNOWDONIA NATIONAL
PARK AUTHORITY**

DATE : 12.06.2024

ITEM NO. 15

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	12 June 2024
TITLE	CORPORATE WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24
REPORT BY	Director of Corporate Services
PURPOSE	Progress Report on the Final Quarter for 2023-24. (The Fourth Quarter, January – March 2024).

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Enclosed is a report on the Corporate Work Programme containing details of the progress made in the Final Quarter of 2023-24 in undertaking the agreed projects and initiatives for achieving the Authority's agreed Wellbeing Objectives
- 1.2 Officers will be in attendance at the meeting to give further detailed information if required.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. **To examine and discuss the attached Corporate Work Programme.**

3. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 3.1. Corporate Work Programme 2023-24: Final Quarter update, fourth quarter, January – March 2024.







WELLBEING OBJECTIVES 2023-24: CORPORATE WORK PROGRAMME
 The Authority's Well-Being Objectives, Corresponding Projects/Initiatives and Outcomes of Success
Quarter 4 (Final) Update : January - March, 2024

The Wellbeing Objectives have been cross-referenced to targets set for SNPA in the current Welsh Government Remit Letter indicated in table with:
 (Appendix 1 : Targets of Remit Letter)

RESILIENT ENVIRONMENTS

This outcome will be achieved by:	AC 1	IMPROVING RECREATION MANAGEMENT AND ANY NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF RECREATION
-----------------------------------	------	---

Out-come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
AC 1.1	 Qtrs. 1-3	<p>Monitor visitor numbers through people counters to establish the impact of users across the National Park. Report produced based on data for 2022.</p> <p>Report produced and available on website: https://authority.snowdonia.gov.wales/information/visitor-monitoring-figures/ Access and Wellbeing Manager presented report to Members' Working Group in November 2023.</p>	Continuous Next report due June/July 2023	Ho Partnerships Access & Well-being Mgr.










Progressed and within Timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**





Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023








Not progressed and/or will **not** be completed by March 2024.


Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
<p>AC 1.2 </p> <p>1.2.1</p> <p>a.</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p>Qtrs. 1 – 2</p> <p>Qtr. 3</p>	<p>2023 Season Messaging Campaign Eryri Ni 2023 with a focus on sustainable tourism implemented and results/reach reported on:</p> <p>SNPA have delivered an online campaign to address visitor management challenges and encouraged people to visit sustainably:</p> <p>Implemented the Eryri Ni 23 Campaign – Gold Ambassadors will be eligible for social media graphics in partnership with the NPA. Gold Ambassadors will be able to sign up by an agreed date and will receive custom suite of tiles featuring their company’s logo to promote the strategy’s key messages. They will also receive a physical promotional pack for their business.</p> <p>Social media campaign well received online on the Authority’s central social media channels, and messages were amplified using 40 Eryri Ambassadors as ‘Digital Ambassadors’ to share our messaging further. A paid article on ‘7 ways to visit Eryri sustainably’ was also published by North Wales Live.</p> <p>A successful Visitor Season Review Workshop was held in December 2023 by Warden, Property, Communications and Partnership Departments.</p>	<p>Dec. 2023</p>	<p>Hof Communication Hof Partnerships Sustainable Tourism Officer</p>
<p>b.</p>	<p></p> <p>Qtrs. 1- 3</p>	<p>Develop solutions to motorhome issues including engagement and communication measures</p> <p>A dedicated page on the Eryri website has been produced to encourage responsible visits from motorhome owners: https://snowdonia.gov.wales/visit/plan-your-visit/campervans-and-motorhomes/</p> <p>An extended and improved version of the Eryri Campervan leaflet has been produced in 2023 which has now widened the list of official camp sites on the leaflet, and dispensers have been installed in more areas where the Warden Service can easily refer visitors.</p>		


 Progressed and within Timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023










 Not progressed and/or will **not** be completed by March 2024.


Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
1.2.2	Qtrs. 1 - 3	<p>At least two itineraries have been developed on our website that are focussed on Special Qualities including Welsh culture and sustainable tourism:</p> <p>7 guides completed in total including ‘5 walks in Eryri steeped in mythology’ and ‘How to visit Eryri without a car’ as examples.</p>	Dec. 2023	Ho Communications
AC 1.3	 Qtrs. 1- 2 Qtr. 3 Qtr. 4	<p>Improved provision for public engagement at Betws y Coed Information Centre, Ogwen and Hafod Eryri via an upgrade of visitor facilities and interpretation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Betws y Coed Information Centre Sandbox and VR exhibition open to public ➤ Improvements to Betws y Coed IC signage completed ➤ Work with NRW and the National Trust to implement Phase 2 of the Ogwen interpretation improvements <p>Betws y coed exhibition has been completed and opened but some aspects of the work will be altered over the Winter. Ogwen interpretation on course to be completed by March 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Interpretation at Betws y Coed Visitor Centre Completed. ➤ Groundworks for new entranceway and signage scheduled for Feb/March 2024. ➤ Phase 2 work at Ogwen on course to be completed in Qtr 4. <p>Improvements to signage at Betws y Coed and Phase 2 work at Ogwen completed.</p>	Completion by: April/May 23 October 23 March 2024	Hof Comms. Marketing Mgr. Hof Comms.


 Progressed and within Timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023










 Not progressed and/or will **not** be completed by March 2024.


Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
AC 1.4 	 Qtrs. 1-2 Qtr. 3 Qtr. 4	Identify and quantify access work to mitigate the effects of people pressure and review annually National Park's access work continues with maintenance, improvements and the development of promoted tours. Senior Warden – Access, has been appointed who will co-ordinate medium to large projects. The work of assembling, prioritizing, and programming restarts with a work prioritisation meeting in November. Work continues – in the process of receiving new software to manage the access network. The software will enable us to create reports, assess the work and follow up with an inspection. Work continues with internal work force and external contractors.	Ongoing	Ho Wardens & Access (WaA)
AC 1.5 	 Qtrs. 1- 3 Qtr. 4	Produce an Engagement Strategy for footpath works in Snowdonia The work will be prioritised in the last quarter for completion in 2024. Work will be completed by October 2024.	Feb. 2024	Ho WaA
AC 1.6 	 Qtrs. 1-3 Qtr. 4	Produce guidelines for undertaking access route works in Snowdonia The work will be prioritised in the last quarter for completion in 2024. Work will be completed by October 2024.	Feb. 2024	Ho WaA


 Progressed and within Timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023

 Not progressed and/or will **not** be completed by March 2024.






Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
AC 1.7	 Qtrs. 1- 2 Qtr. 3 - 4	Ensure that promoted routes are regularly surveyed, maintained and improved when necessary and reported annually to the Management Team Work continuous and will be prioritised in the work programmes of area wardens – Ongoing Work on-going. New network management software will assist with the management and reporting of the work.	Ongoing Annual report	Ho WaA
AC 1.8	 Qtrs. 1- 4	Area Wardens to work with communities and partners to identify and take advantage of opportunities to provide a range of promoted routes for varying abilities The work continuous and is prioritised in the work programmes of area wardens.	Ongoing	Ho WaA
AC 1.9 	 Qtrs. 1- 4	Work across the Authority to integrate work programmes and progress implementation of Warden Area Plans Each warden has an area plan which is regularly inspected by the Senior Wardens. The Wardens are encouraged to collaborate with other departments on projects. An example of collaboration is the WG grant funded Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places nature project work with the Conservation, Wood and Agriculture Service. The work is on-going.	Ongoing	Ho WaA
AC 1.10 	 Qtrs. 1- 2 Qtr. 3- 4	Support the work of the Wyddfa Di-blastig project officer The first annual report is in preparation and will be presented to Members' Working Group in December 2023. A dedicated page on our website covers the main campaigns and events of the project: https://snowdonia.gov.wales/visit/snowdon/plastic-free-yr-wyddfa/ Annual report presented to Working Group in December 2023. Priorities for remainder of the project – until October 2024 – have been set through the Appraisal system.	On going to Oct. 2024	Ho Partnerships


 Progressed and within Timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023


 Not progressed and/or will **not** be completed by March 2024.









This outcome will be achieved by:	AC 2	RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE
-----------------------------------	------	---


Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status 	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
AC 2.1  Annual Report		<p>Ensuring the implementation of the current LDP policies that contribute to mitigating climate change</p> <p>Climate change mitigation was a consideration in the preparation of much of the current LDP, including settlement strategy (where houses are developed), flood mitigation, and energy generation through renewables. An Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) of progress of all LDP policies is submitted to Members and then the Welsh Government each Autumn, and this has concluded that these policies have been broadly complied with. This policy area has evolved significantly in recent years, and this will raise several important issues in the review of the LDP in 2025.</p>	Reported annually	Ho Dev. Man. & Compliance (DM&C) Ho Planning Policy (PP)
AC 2.2 	 Qtrs. 1-2 Qtr. 3 - 4	<p>Energy efficiency and reducing carbon footprint of SNPA buildings to be integral part of new Asset Management Plan (AMP - to be adopted from April 2024) and aligned with Wales Prosperity for All – A Low Carbon Public Estate targets</p> <p>Work ongoing – several projects for energy efficiency improvements to Pen y Pass, Ysgwrn and Headquarters being completed through the SLSP project funding stream. To date energy efficiency measures in LED lighting, draught proofing and improved thermal performance of buildings has yielded a saving of 223,000 KWH of energy per annum, currently worth circa. £100,000 of energy saving to the Authority.</p> <p>Projects Tendered and awarded for Pen y Pass and planning permission secured for double glazed doors and windows at Aberdyfi Information Centre (24/25 work schedule). Quotations sought for works to Ysgwrn Bungalow. Thermal and soundproofing improvements to HQ meeting rooms completed.</p>	AMP adopted April 2024 Then Ongoing	Ho Property


 Progressed and within Timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023

 Not progressed and/or will **not** be completed by March 2024.





Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
AC 2.3 	 Qtrs. 1- 2 Qtr. 3 Qtr. 4	<p>Develop an Action Plan for SNPA to be carbon neutral by 2030 based on the recommendations of the Carbon Study report</p> <p>Carbon Task and Finish group considered the Aquetera report and recommended that the Asset management Strategy included the carbon account for each asset managed. Revised Standing Orders accommodates procurement that includes carbon footprint of goods if desired. Wider procurement in relation to goods and carbon is under discussion with both of our Local Authorities.</p> <p>Head of Property in the process of integrating carbon accounting into the Authority's Asset management strategy. WG Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places grant funding has been utilised to address some of the recommendations of the Aquetera report.</p> <p>Further work to incorporate Carbon management to incorporate into the asset management strategy undertaken. To be scrutinised by members during 2024.</p>	Dec.2023 Ongoing 2030	CEO Ho Property
AC 2.4 	 Qtr. 1 - 3 	<p>Develop an Action Plan showing how the area of Eryri can migrate towards being carbon neutral</p> <p>The Member Group on Carbon have discussed 3 main areas, following an assessment of the 2 reports produced by consultants (Aquaterra and Small World Consulting). The first will apply to the Authority's estate and internal processes and procurement, building on the work undertaken by Aquaterra. This will be led by the Head of Property where low carbon policies will be integrated into the Authority's internal processes and procedures. The second area (in part building on the work of Small World Consulting), will be to ensure that both the National Park's statutory plans contribute fully towards the Authority's zero carbon goals. It is important that these form part of the strategy for both of these plans. Both teams are fully informed of the significance of this issue and the need to integrate it at the outset of the process. The third area will be that of leadership in this field. Whilst many of the issues affecting the carbon agenda can't be directly controlled by the Authority, we can undertake a strong leadership and advocacy role. In this regard the Chief Executive will present a paper on the 'Race to Zero' if adopted it will provide a clearer rational in developing an action plan. These 3 areas will now take priority for the Authority in addressing the zero carbon agenda, and Members will be kept fully informed of progress in this</p>	Dec. 2023	Dof Planning & Land Man. (DP&LM)

 Progressed and within Timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**

 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023

 Not progressed and/or will **not** be completed by March 2024.

		regard. Peatland strategy has been reviewed and a woodland strategy is being developed.
	Qtr. 4	The Carbon Strategy will be discussed at the April Working Group with a final version to be submitted for approval at a Full Authority meeting in July 2024.

Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
AC 2.5 	 Qtrs. 1 - 2	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 Eryri hosts the Strategic Lead for Nature Recovery and Carbon Sequestration post. Work is progressing an outline findings/strategy is to be considered early in 2024. Seven objectives identified and work programme drafted to attain them. Two main outcomes emerging from the work programme are an Enabling Strategy aimed at WG and the Designated Landscapes management bodies and a test piece at the interface between the DL management bodies and the land managers who operate within them, currently called the 'Little Book of Options'. Funding mechanisms and skills recruitment and retention the subject of a questionnaire sent out to staff. Drafting a strategic framework as a basis for prioritised action plans for nature restoration, as part of the Biodiversity Deep Dive Task & Finish Group for the DLs. The strategic framework will form the first page of the Enabling Strategy which will go on to discuss information exchange, asset recognition, integrated thinking and decision-making, scenario planning, agreements, behaviour change, and governance. Content for the Little Book of Options is being drafted while seeking partners for delivery, likely to be aimed at beef and lamb producers in Eryri. Yr Ysgwrn to be the subject of some scoping work on data use and integrated thinking and decision-making.	Ongoing	CEO Strategic Lead



Progressed and within Timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**








Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023



Not progressed and/or will **not** be completed by March 2024.

Qtr. 3 - 4	The strategic framework has been discussed with the Biodiversity Deep Dive group and revised. It will form part of a report to be submitted to the Minister for Climate Change early in 2024. The work aligns very well with the outcomes of the strategic lead role and has been a useful platform to discuss approaches to our collective response to the nature and climate emergencies. The final consultation period for the Sustainable Farming Scheme opened 14 December, closing 7 March demanding some focus which will continue into the new year. The annual Eryri Agri-Liaison meeting (November) began the process of discussing ideas, issues, approaches, and opportunities for collaboration with the farming unions. Other external discussions have covered game management, wildfire prevention and control, dark skies, carbon credits, spatial mapping, and Welsh policy context.
------------	--

This outcome will be achieved by:	AC 3	IMPROVING MANAGEMENT AND UNDERSTANDING OF CULTURAL HERITAGE
-----------------------------------	------	--

Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
AC 3.1 	 <p>Qtrs 1 -2 </p> <p>Qtr. 3 </p> <p>Qtr. 4 </p>	<p>Development and adoption of the SNPA Cultural Heritage Strategy</p> <p>Internal work on the strategy is progressing through staff workshops. External research completed. The strategy is structured.</p> <p>Briefs drafted for external development of key strategy area – prioritisation of listed building work.</p> <p>Incomplete. Significant progress has been made on the project, however it hasn't yet been presented to members, due to current additional responsibilities being undertaken by the Head of Service. The project will be completed in 2024/25.</p>	March 2024	Ho Cultural Heritage












Progressed and within Timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**





Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023











Not progressed and/or will **not** be completed by March 2024.


Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
AC 3.2 	 Qtrs. 1+2 Qtr. 3 - 4	<p>Ensure that the Carneddau Landscape Partnership Scheme Work Programme for 2023/24 is completed on time to ensure that the Project remains on track for completion by 2025. Prepare update report to members</p> <p>The Carneddau Landscape Partnership Plan has made very good progress during the first two quarters and the project is running according to schedule.</p> <p>The Scheme continues to run on schedule. Report submitted to Members' Working Group in December 2023.</p>	Ongoing 2025 Spring 2024	Ho Cultural Heritage Carneddau LPS Manager
AC 3.3 	 Ongoing – summer 2024 Qtrs. 1-2  Qtr. 3  Qtr. 4	<p>Submit a final report on the Dolgellau Townscape Heritage Scheme</p> <p>The project is on schedule for completion by end of the 2023 calendar year.</p> <p>Work on a high priority building within the TH Scheme has been delayed. The Project Manager's contract of employment has been extended for 3 months in order to oversee completion of the Scheme.</p> <p>The project is due for completion during Summer 2024.</p>	Dec. 2023	Ho Cultural Heritage Dolgellau TH Project Mgr.


 Progressed and within Timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023










 Not progressed and/or will **not** be completed by March 2024.


Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status 	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
AC 3.4 	 Qtrs.1-3 Qtr. 4	Develop the Harlech and Ardudwy Cultural Heritage project that will enable the Authority to apply for external funding in due course and submit an EOI to the Heritage Lottery Fund Engagement work with Ysgol Dyffryn Ardudwy School has been completed. Community engagement work was carried out in September and October. Funding for the project has been secured and officers will be delivering the project from April 2024.	Dec. 2023	Ho Cultural Heritage CH Project Officer
AC 3.5 	 Qtrs. 1-3 Qtr. 4	To actively contribute to the work programme of the North West Wales Slate Landscape World Heritage Site Action Plan The Ynysypany interpretation project is moving forward. Officers sit on the designation's various groups and advise on various developments. Traditional skills training has been organised for Summer and Autumn 2024, to enhance heritage skills in the area and to improve the condition of the built heritage of the WHS. Ynysypany interpretation will be completed in Summer 2024.	Ongoing	Ho Cultural Heritage
AC 3.6 	 Qtrs. 1-3 Qtr. 4	Wardens to lead monthly walks with guest specialist to promote nature, culture and heritage Walks have been held monthly with varying numbers of attendees. We will need to try to promote the trips further targeting different audiences. We will be inviting experts on the trips that start in January. Monthly walks continue – in discussions to develop walks with guest specialists.	Ongoing 2023/24	Ho WS


 Progressed and within Timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023

 Not progressed and/or will **not** be completed by March 2024.






Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
AC 3.7 	 Qtrs.1-2 Qtr. 3- 4	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 Officers attend meetings and contribute to a Climate Change Mitigation workshop which is scheduled for December 2024. We work closely with colleagues in other designated landscaping of Wales. Officers from across the Authority have contributed to the Climate Change Mitigation Workshop and will continue to feed into the group's work programme.	Ongoing	Ho Cultural Heritage
AC 3.8 	 Qtrs. 1-2 Qtr. 3 Qtr. 4	Sustain and develop Yr Ysgwrn as a museum and cultural centre of national repute and present an annual report to Members Ysgwrn experienced a positive year with visitor numbers and income higher than the previous year. Several successful grant applications were submitted during the year, enabling a high quality program of activities and education. School visits and several teacher training events and family activities arranged for January-March 2024, in order to sustain and generate interest in the site. Yr Ysgwrn has had a successful year in 2023/24 with increased visitor numbers. The annual report was submitted to members in June 2023.	Dec. 2023	Ho Cultural Heritage
AC 3.9 	 Qtrs. 1-3	Progress Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plan/Delivery as a baseline of information for developing potential capital projects in subsequent years This initial work has been completed and further work is currently being commissioned for listed buildings throughout Snowdonia.	March 2024	Ho Cultural Heritage Ho Planning Policy

 Progressed and within Timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023


 Not progressed and/or will **not** be completed by March 2024.


This outcome will be achieved by:	AC 4	ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF POST BREXIT LAND MANAGEMENT SCENARIOS
-----------------------------------	------	---

Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
AC 4.1 	 Qtrs. 1-2 Qtr. 3 Qtr. 4	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 process. Has been restricted in input potential to date, but new developments offer better potential. The Biodiversity deep dive has also opened a new avenue of pursuing objectives. Tree and woodland Strategy will feed into the above. Work is underway, circa 40% complete Ongoing, pace and volume of work has increased significantly on all of the above fronts. Joint response on Welsh Government proposals under the SFS consultation prepared. Work of the Biodiversity Deep Dive is continued to be supported.	Ongoing	Ho CWA * CEO Dir. P&LM
AC 4.2	 Qtrs.1 - 4	Maintain close working relationship with the land based sector to ensure that the Authority has an understanding of the ongoing implications off Brexit on land management Ongoing, close working relationship is maintained with the land based sector.	March 2023 Ongoing	Ho CWA










*Head of Conservation Woodlands and Agriculture (CWA)


 Progressed and within Timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023


 Not progressed and/or will **not** be completed by March 2024.










This outcome will be achieved by:	AC 5	ADDRESSING THE DECLINE IN NATURE
-----------------------------------	------	---


Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
AC 5.1 	 Qtrs. 1-2  Qtr. 3  Qtr. 4	<p>Develop an Action Plan based on understanding and contents of e.g. SoNaRR (State of Natural Resources report), State of the National Park etc. to inform on priorities for nature recovery in Snowdonia Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) development underway</p> <p>State of the Park report underway and work out to tender. NRAP being developed in house by biodiversity team.</p> <p>Data collection contracts in place for State of the Park report. First draft of NRAP produced and about to be sent out to stakeholders for initial comments. Work on-going.</p>	March 2024	Ho CWA
AC 5.2 	 Annual report	<p>Continuing to deliver biodiversity enhancement through the development management process and to ensure adherence with any forthcoming Welsh Government published guidance</p> <p>Whilst the Welsh Government have discussed publishing guidance on biodiversity enhancement, this has not yet been done. However, in the absence of any formal methodology for delivering biodiversity enhancement, planning officers and the planning ecologist have attempted to deliver some sort of biodiversity enhancement on the majority of new developments. This is still an evolving area, and the Authority will continue to work closely with the Welsh Government on trying to formalise this process.</p>	Reported annually	Hof DM&C Ho PP


 Progressed and within Timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023

 Not progressed and/or will **not** be completed by March 2024.

Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
AC 5.3 	 Qtrs.1-2 Qtr. 3 - 4	Ensuring an SPG on biodiversity is produced to support the Development Management process by 2023 once guidance by Welsh Government is published The Authority submitted a response to the proposed changes to Planning Policy Wales: Net benefit for biodiversity and ecosystems' resilience during May 2023. The finalised policy for inclusion in the next iteration of Planning Policy Wales (version 12) is programmed towards the end of 2023. Still waiting the publication of the finalised policy and guidance in the next iteration of Planning Policy Wales.	March 2024	Ho PP
AC 5.4 	 Qtrs. 1-2 Qtr. 3 - 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) and develop further programmes Conservation, Woods and Agriculture element of the work is on target. Update report presented to Members during July Performance and Resources (P&R) Committee. Progress made, CWA elements on track. Second update report will be presented to Members during March P&R Committee.	Twice yearly update reports on individual projects	Ho CWA Project Managers
AC 5.5 	 Qtrs.1-2 Qtr. 3 Qtr. 4	To progress a National Park wide survey of Trees and Ancient Woodland sites (PAWS) and prepare a Tree and Woodland Strategy for Eryri PAWS work progressing well. Strategy circa 40% complete 9 of 15 surveys completed for this year. Remaining due for completion in last quarter. Tree strategy is at midway point and draft of second phase due before end of financial year. New year work programmes being set for financial year. Tree strategy completed initial drafts and second consultation/comments stage, being refined before final version issued for approval and adoption.	March 2025	Ho CWA

 Progressed and within Timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**

 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023

 Not progressed and/or will **not** be completed by March 2024.

OUTCOMES:

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).*


RESILIENT COMMUNITIES







This outcome will be achieved by:	CC 1	MAINTAINING AND INCREASING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF RESIDENTS
-----------------------------------	------	--


Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 2.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
CC 1.1	 Qtrs. 1 - 2 Qtr. 3 - 4	<p style="color: red;">Develop an online resource as part of the new website relating to activities and routes within the National Park targeted and tailored appropriately</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A filter has been implemented on the Walks and Routes site that will let our audience tailor their results based on Location, Difficulty, Duration, Surroundings, Special Qualities and Trammer Access. ➤ Promoted routes uploaded to the website (Arthog & Betws y Coed Bridges) ➤ Visiting guides uploaded such as “Choosing the right path on Yr Wyddfa” and “5 Wales steeped in Mythology” <p>Winter campaign implemented focusing on accessible and seasonal routes on areas outside of Yr Wyddfa region.</p>	Ongoing	Ho Comms. Ho W&A Brand & Content Manager
CC 1.2	  Qtrs. 1 - 4	<p style="color: red;">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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support and participate in Caru Eryri 2023-24 volunteering scheme with partners including Cymdeithas Eryri ➤ Reflect and review the Volunteer and Wellbeing events of 2022, update KPIs and set new targets and recommendations for 2023 ➤ Set up volunteer programme for the coming year ➤ Host series of wellbeing events <p>All the above have been achieved and an updated Volunteering Strategy and annual report was presented to Members in June 2023. Volunteering Officer is increasing the offer for Corporate Volunteering and continues to expand the breadth and range of volunteering experiences within the National Park.</p>	Ongoing	Ho Partnerships Volunteer & Wellbeing Offcr.


 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023





 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023


Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 2.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
CC 1.3	 Qtrs. 1-2  Qtr. 3-4	<p>Develop volunteering opportunities for under-represented, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups</p> <p>Volunteer and Wellbeing Annual Report 2022 shows clear increase in volunteers although the data available for people with protected characteristics is difficult to gather. Refugee groups and other charitable organisations have all been part of the programme in 2022-23 and the Volunteer Officer continues to expand relationships in these areas.</p> <p>As above – this is ongoing work for the Wellbeing and Volunteer Officer.</p>	Ongoing	Ho Partnerships Access & Wellbeing Manager Volunteers & Wellbeing Officer
CC 1.4	 Annual report	<p>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</p> <p>The Planning Policy team undoubtedly are taking a pro-active role in encouraging affordable housing by working with other agencies in the sector. They work closely with housing agencies, the Rural Housing Enabler and the Housing Authorities in Gwynedd and Conwy Councils. However, despite this the target set out in the LDP of delivering 25 affordable housing units per annum has been missed. There are possibly many factors at play here – challenging economic climate, deeply rural nature of some sites, and other agencies focusing on less peripheral / more viable sites. Officers will continue to work to address these issues, and these issues will be further addressed when it comes to the time to review the LDP in 2025.</p>	Reported annually	Ho DM&C Ho PP


 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023

 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023









Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 2.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
CC 1.5	 Qtrs. 1-2 Qtr. 3 Qtr. 4	<p>Article 4 Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Produce a Draft evidence report seeking legal advice ➤ Present evidence report to Members for decision to proceed or otherwise ➤ If proceeding with Article 4 Directive in Eryri, commence a 12 month period of notice and public consultation <p>Article 4 justification paper drafted and legal advice sought during Summer 2023. Report on Article 4 direction drafted for Members Working Group in October.</p> <p>Draft Article 4 justification paper drafted and an initial report on Article 4 direction taken to Members Working Group in October and to Planning and Access Committee in December. Members supported in principle the need to proceed with the preparatory work of introducing the Article 4 Directive in Eryri. Further legal advice received regarding the relationship between Introducing an Article 4 Direction and existing policy in the adopted Local Development Plan. The legal opinion confirmed that Strategic Policy G provides an adequate policy 'hook' for the Local Planning Authority to decide planning applications for second and holiday homes and also confirmed that the policy hook is sufficient to proceed with the preparation and adoption of a Supplementary Planning Guide to provide further guidance. A further report to approve engagement on the proposed introduction of an Article 4 Direction will be taken to March 2024 P&A Committee with a view to consult during Spring 2024. Work is ongoing preparing for the six week engagement period in the Spring. Members also supported the need to continue discussions with the Welsh Government and Gwynedd Council to seek additional planning resources in the long term in order to implement Article 4 effectively in Eryri.</p> <p>Member approval was given at the March Planning & Access Committee to have a public consultation of the proposal including significant publicity (including a letter to all households within the National Park) – and this will include a 12-month formal notice period. This will take place during April – May 2024. If supported, the target implementation date would be June 2025. There will be a need to produce an SPG to address the policy vacuum in the intervening period.</p>	Oct/Nov Dec 2023	Dof P&LM


 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023


 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023

This outcome will be achieved by:	CC 2	SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE
-----------------------------------	------	--------------------------------

Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 2.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
CC 2.1 	 Qtrs. 1+2  Qtr. 3 Qtr. 4	<p>Members to consider a draft Youth Manifesto</p> <p>A workshop tour around schools has been commenced to promote the Park's work and receive opinions about what they would like to see happen. The workshops will provide opinions and information that will form part of the Manifesto.</p> <p>Draft Manifesto will be presented to the Management Team in February and presented to working group shortly after.</p> <p>The Youth Manifesto will be presented and hopefully adopted by the 22/05/2024 working group.</p>	Sept. 2023	Ho WaA. Young People's Officer
CC 2.2 	 Qtrs. 1-2 Qtr. 3 Qtr. 4	<p>Develop the Young Rangers scheme to ensure efficient partnership work, provide broad opportunities and source funding to sustain the scheme</p> <p>The young Ranger scheme continues with a variety of activities across the Park. We continue to look for funding sources and have received promising advice with Lottery funding.</p> <p>Young Ranger sessions continue with good attendance, each session varying from 5 – 12 attendees. Following consultation work and adoption of the manifesto, an application will be submitted to the Lottery. Funding has also been sought through the National Parks Partnership.</p> <p>NPP funding has been received – been a successful year with various activities undertaken. With funding – summer exchange opportunities will be arranged with Welsh NP's.</p>	Feb. 2024	Ho WaA


 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023


 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023







This outcome will be achieved by:	CC3	PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM TO ADD VALUE TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES
-----------------------------------	-----	--


Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status 	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 2.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
CC 3.1 	 Qtrs. 1-3 Qtr. 4	<p>Work with Cyngor Gwynedd and Conwy CBC 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</p> <p>Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Strategic Plan was completed and launched officially on 25th September 2023. Work is ongoing to establish the Partnership and Steering Group to produce the first Action Plan by the end of March 2024.</p> <p>The first meeting of the new Partnership will take place on 17th April 2024 where Chair and Vice Chair roles will be appointed to represent both the Community and Tourism sectors. An Action Plan has been drafted and is being circulated for approval to all Partners. This is expected to be finalised by July 2024 to begin implementation.</p>	Launch Sept. 23 Action Plan March 2024	Hof Partnerships Sustainable Tourism Officer


 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023








 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023


Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 2.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
CC 3.2 	  Qtrs. 1-2 Qtr. 3 Qtr. 4	<p>Opportunities to encourage greener transport are being developed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Actively seek opportunities to input to the North Wales Transport Commission that will help support the sustainable transport vision for Snowdonia ➤ 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. <p>Nant Gwynant and Ogwen partnership groups meet on a monthly basis and have had significant reach in the 2023 season through joint approaches in both areas. TfW projects for the financial year 2023-4 are: Eryri Signage Strategy, to develop recommendations for improved and consistent signage into the National Park; Llanberis Transport Hub, take concept designs into Wel-Tag Stage 1&2 process gathering input from all stakeholders; Sherpa'r Wyddfa Network, continue to develop and improve the services which run around the Yr Wyddfa area; T10 Service Bangor to Corwen, continue to improve this service. Delivery Group has not met since April 2023 – TfW are leading on this and are arranging the next meeting with all members to move the Delivery Plan forward.</p> <p>Delivery Group met in January 2024, and Action Plan is now being progressed at a Strategic Level. Director of Planning & Land Management has arranged discussions with other Planning Authorities in the region to ensure that revision of LDPs are in line with ambitions for Sustainable Transport across the region. North Wales Transport Commission has published its final report which references and uses the work achieved by the Authority as an exemplar of good practice.</p> <p>Delivery Plan is in draft format and a meeting to co-ordinate launch of LDPs for Gwynedd, Conwy and Eryri has taken place to ensure that policies are aligned for the future.</p>	Ongoing - April 25	Ho Partnerships Sus. Tour. Officer


 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023








 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023


Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 2.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
CC 3.3 	 Qtrs. 1- 3	Encourage visitors to come via public transport, at different times of year and to different areas in order to ease pressure during the peak season and help businesses with seasonality issues, through developing the Welsh National Park Experiences through the Eryri Ni 2023 campaign Online visiting guides, social media campaign, warden advice videos, paid articles and digital ambassadors all contributed towards off-peak season messaging. At the end of Q2 messaging around Dark Skies were implemented as part of the Eryri Ni 23 campaign to encourage visiting during the winter season.	Dec. 2023	Ho Comms.
CC 3.4 	 Qtrs. 1-2 Qtr. 3 - 4	Continue to develop the Eryri Ambassadors scheme and utilise to help spread messaging in relation to CC3.3. Develop sustainable tourism models Eryri Ambassador scheme continues to develop and grow in popularity – with the aim of reaching 1000 Eryri Ambassadors by the scheme's 3 rd birthday in November 2023. November 2023 also sees the first all Wales Ambassador week where Eryri is hosting an all Wales Zoom event and a Dark Skies event in Plas Tan y Bwlch. Ambassador Scheme continues to grow and develop – reached 1,000 Ambassadors in November 2023. Refresher Module for 2024 Accreditation has been published and has proven to be very popular. New modules on the Carneddau Landscape Partnership and LIFE Celtic Rainforest Project to be launched in 2024.	Ongoing February 2024	Ho Partnership Snowdon Partnership Officer


 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023

 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023








Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 2.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
CC 3.5 	 Annual report	Ensuring the current LDP positively implements its policies to contribute to sustainable tourism, that add value to local communities The Annual Monitoring Report presented to Members and the Welsh Government each Autumn, concluded that the Authorities policies are being implemented effectively in this regard. In addition, the excellent work being done by the Gwynedd Eryri Sustainable Visitor Strategy will provide a useful baseline for when the review of the LDP will commence in 2025.	Reported annually	Ho DM&C HoPP
CC 3.6	 Qtrs. 1-2  Qtr. 3 Qtr. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with TfW to develop a Delivery Plan via the Northern Eryri Delivery Group that was established last year 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>Delivery Group has not met since April 2023 – TfW are leading on this and are arranging the next meeting with all members to move the Delivery Plan forward</p> <p>As CC 3.2 – Delivery Group has met in January 2024, and Action Plan is now being progressed at a Strategic Level. Director of Planning & Land Management has arranged discussions with other Planning Authorities in the region to ensure that revision of LDPs are in line with ambitions for Sustainable Transport across the region. North Wales Transport Commission has published its final report which references and uses the work achieved by the Authority as an exemplar of good practice.</p> <p>Delivery Plan is in draft format and a meeting to co-ordinate launch of LDPs for Gwynedd, Conwy and Eryri has taken place to ensure that policies are aligned for the future.</p>	March 2024	Ho Partnerships


 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023


 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023








This outcome will be achieved by:	CC4	PROMOTING AND ACTIVELY SUPPORTING THE WELSH LANGUAGE
-----------------------------------	-----	---


Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 2.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
CC 4.1	  Qtrs. 1-2 Qtrs. 3-4	<p>Continue 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>A program of activities and events was held for families and for adults, which celebrate different aspects of Welsh culture, e.g. the Vanishing Words exhibition, art activities and musical evenings</p> <p>Yr Ysgwrn will be hosting several family activities and community heritage events from January-March 2024. Yr Ysgwrn sustains a varied and popular programme of public events and provides excellent opportunities for participation, socialising and volunteering opportunities through the medium of Welsh.</p>	Ongoing	Ho Cultural Heritage
CC 4.2	  Qtrs. 1+2	<p>Develop the ‘Geiriau Diflanedig’ major exhibition project through collaboration with Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museums Wales and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (supported by the SLSP fund), bringing ‘The Lost Words’ exhibition to Wales for the first time and showcasing the epic bilingual feat of the anthologies</p> <p>The exhibition was launched in June with an official opening. This work has been successfully completed, including a new education resource.</p>	Ongoing until end of exhibition March 2024	Ho Cultural Heritage


 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023








 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023


Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 2.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
CC 4.3 	 Qtrs. 1-2 Qtr. 3 Qtr. 4	<p>Safeguarding and promoting use of Welsh place names by completing the next stage of the standardisation of Eryri place names</p> <p>The work on the next stage on the names of Eryri's lakes continues and it is planned to present a report to the Authority in November 2023.</p> <p>Report Submitted to the Authority in November 2023. Lake names have been standardised and a partnership established with Ordnance Survey to improve the presence of Welsh language names on OS mapping. The next phase of standardisation will progress on Eryri's waterfalls.</p> <p>Collaboration continues with the Welsh Language Commissioner and Ordnance Survey. Place name mapping workshops have been organised for Summer 2024.</p>	March 2024	Ho Cultural Heritage
CC 4.4 	 Qtrs. 1- 2 Qtr. 3- 4	<p>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. ➤ Attend Eisteddfod Pen Llyn. ➤ Complete the interpretation projects at Ogwen and Hafod Eryri <p>Opportunities to learn and use the Welsh language are provided by pairing fluent Welsh speaking volunteers with those wishing to learn or improve their oral Welsh. The Authority had a very successful week on the Eisteddfod field. The stand was well attended with many different activities being held throughout the week. Tirweddau Cymru also had representation on the stand. Work continues on developing the interpretation provision at Cwm Idwal Centre. The elements of the project funded through Natural Resources Wales grant money such as additional information panels and the commissioning of films will have been completed within the target. However, work on other aspects of the project continues with the aim of delivering them as soon as possible within this financial year.</p> <p>As above – pairing of learners and Welsh speakers is a policy for the Caru Eryri Programme and volunteer Warden Programme.</p>	Ongoing Aug. 2023 March 2024	Vol. & Wellbeing Officer Comms. Officer (GAE) “


 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023

 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023



Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 2.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
CC 4.5 	 Qtrs. 1 – 3 Qtr. 4.	<p>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</p> <p>The work continues through the Carneddau Landscape Partnership Plan and the Harlech and Arduwy Cultural Heritage Plan has contributed over 150 names to the List of Historic Place Names in Wales, including the names of some of the ruins in the area.</p> <p>Place names are being collected and contributed to the Historic List of Welsh Place Names. Place name recording days are planned for 2024.</p>	Ongoing until Dec. 2025	Ho Cultural Heritage
CC 4.6 	 Annual report	<p>Ensuring Development Policy 18: The Welsh Language and the Social and Cultural fabric of Communities is effectively utilised within the development management process</p> <p>The Annual Monitoring Report which is presented to Members and the Welsh Government each Autumn, has concluded that the above policy is being implemented effectively.</p>	Reported annually	Ho DM&C Ho PP


 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023


 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023

This outcome will be achieved by:	CC5	DEVELOPING A LOCAL ECONOMY WHICH SUPPORT BOTH THE DESIGNATION AND THE MANAGEMENT OF SNOWDONIA AS A NATIONAL PARK
-----------------------------------	------------	---

CC 5.1		Ensuring the positive implementation of current LDP policies to develop a local economy which support the designation of the NP	Annual report	Ho DM&C Ho PP
	Annual report	The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) of the LDP which is submitted to Members and the Welsh Government each Autumn concluded that the above policies are being implemented effectively. The review of the LDP in 2025 will provide an opportunity to review existing information and evidence to ascertain whether any policy or approaches currently adopted need to change.		
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	Ho PP
	Annual report	This has been done by officers, and the decision was taken for the review to commence in 2025 (a decision to defer it by a year was taken to allow officers time to implement the Article 4 Direction).		

 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**

 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023

 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023

OUTCOMES:

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*)


RESILIENT WAYS OF WORKING






This outcome will be achieved by:	CW 1	DEVELOPING A SKILLED WORKFORCE
-----------------------------------	-------------	---------------------------------------

Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status 	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
CW 1.1	 Qtrs. 1 - 2 Qtr. 3 Qtr. 4	<p style="color: red; margin: 0;">Engaging with our staff at all levels to assist performance management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="color: red;">➤ All Authority staff members will be appraised within the 12 months <li style="color: red;">➤ Training needs assessments of all staff will have been undertaken within the 12 months <p>The 2023 staff appraisal process has been underway since May. Once the process is completed we will assess the training needs of staff members.</p> <p>There is a 12% increase in staff appraisals received so far this period compared to last year with a final review of returns to be taken at the end of the 12-month period.</p> <p>Learning and development needs continue to be identified via annual performance appraisal reviews, which outlines training priorities for the year ahead. Although not all staff received an appraisal during the period, as a result of a directive brought about by both directors to encourage managers to appraise their staff there was a 32% increase in staff being appraised during 23/24. Further focus will continue to be applied to ensure that as many staff as possible are annually appraised.</p>	Ongoing March 2024	Ho Human Resources (HR)

 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023


 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023


Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
CW 1.2	 Qtr. 1 - 4	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 Staff are encouraged and supported to attend peer groups.	Ongoing March 2024	Ho HR Heads of Service
CW 1.3	 Qtr. 1 - 4	To further develop our workforce and provide staff with every opportunity to develop to meet future challenges Secondment opportunities are considered and offered where feasible. Staff are encouraged and supported to develop their qualifications within their respective fields of expertise and/or gain experience and knowledge by taking on additional projects and/or responsibilities.	Ongoing March 2024	Ho HR Hof Service




This outcome will be achieved by:	CW 2	DEVELOPING AND PROMOTING BEST PRACTICE
-----------------------------------	-------------	---


CW 2.1	 Qtrs. 1- 4	Share achievements of Decarbonisation projects through SLSP funding with other bodies within designated landscapes and wider public estate Work ongoing, regular meetings of North Wales Decarbonisation Officer Group and Ystadau Cymru attended by Ho Property.	Ongoing	Ho Property
--------	--	---	---------	-------------


 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023

 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023







Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status 	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
CW 2.2	 Qtrs. 1 - 3 Qtr. 4	<p>Collate information re. best practice (re. Health & Safety) in other National Parks, gain staff feedback and draft paper for discussion/consideration by Member Working Group</p> <p>Work in progress of collating best practices and reviewing SNPA policies as required. Health and Safety best practices of other NPs and regional LAs have been collated and discussions held at Management Team level on the way forward. Discussions concluded that two part time posts might provide better H&S support but depending on advert response a full time post would also be considered. A Job Description was drawn up and the post advertised. A discussion paper was submitted to the P&R Committee to update Members.</p> <p>Interviews were held to appoint Health and Safety Officer(s) early January. Following interviews it was decided to offer the post on a full time basis to one successful candidate, he has now commenced in post.</p>	March 2024	Ho HR
CW 2.3	 Qtrs. 1- 2 Qtr. 3 Qtr. 4	<p>Review staff working arrangements in response to WG target of home working and blended home/office working where it is possible for staff to do so</p> <p>Following initial engagement between the Head of HR, the Management Team and Heads of Service to commence discussions in relation to adopting a long-term Hybrid Working Model for the Authority, Job Descriptions of roles within each service were ranked in accordance to <i>Office Based/ Home Working/ Hybrid/ Remote Worker</i>. Further a Hybrid Working Policy and Super Flexi Policy are currently being written and once completed and approved will be shared with staff and trade unions for negotiation purposes prior to embarking on a trial period for both policies.</p> <p>The Hybrid Working and Super Flexi policies have been completed and shared with staff and trade unions.</p> <p>Both policies were approved on the 11.01.24. and the Hybrid Working policy launched on the 12.01.24. The Super Flexi policy is scheduled to launch on the 01.03.24. for an initial 12 month trial basis.</p>	Dec. 2023	Ho HR


 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023


 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023










This outcome will be achieved by:	CW 3	EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WORKING
-----------------------------------	-------------	--------------------------------------


Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status 	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
CW 3.1	 Qtrs. 1+2	Cynllun Eryri is being implemented successfully and the first annual progress report has been presented to the Authority. Present second annual report to Authority Second annual report was presented to the Authority in May 2023.	June 2023	Ho Partnerships
CW 3.2 	 Qtrs. 1 - 4	Support the work of the National Designated Landscapes Partnership (NDLP) in Wales CEO chairs the Partnership. Good practice and information on grant sourcing is shared between the members of the partnership. Consideration given to skill needs across the 8 landscapes. Arrangements for 2024 seminar is progressing well.	Ongoing	CEO
CW 3.3 	 Qtrs. 1 – 3 Qtr. 4	Continue to support the work of UK wide National Park Authorities, the National Park Partnership, National Parks Foundation and other associated collaborative initiatives Resources being generated for members of NPP and NP Foundation e.g. BMW initiative. Further proposals are being developed. AGM of both NPP and NP Foundation have been held in the 3 rd quarter. CEO has resigned from board of NPP, seeking to recruit a representative from Wales. CEO term as trustee of the Foundation is to cease during 2024. Foundation to seek nominees for a new trustee.	Ongoing	CEO


 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023

 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023








Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
CW 3.4 	 Qtrs. 1 - 2  Qtr. 3 - 4	<p>Contribute to the formation and development of the planning function of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC)</p> <p>No significant development in terms of appointing officers for the planning function, however a budget for the planning function has been agreed.</p> <p>No further update – awaiting progress from the CJC’s CEO.</p>	Ongoing	Do P&LM
CW 3.5 	 Qtrs. 1-2  Qtr. 3 - 4	<p>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 2023. Present summary report to Members</p> <p>This work is ongoing and timelines may need to be revised to reflect capacity.</p> <p>A State of the Park Microsite is being developed with a draft hoped to go to Authority before the Summer of 2024 and the work to be completed by the end of 2024.</p>	Dec. 2023	Ho Partnerships


 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023


 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023

This outcome will be achieved by:	CW 4 MODERNISING GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS
-----------------------------------	---









Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
CW 4.1 	 Qtrs. 1+2	Establish whether there is a demand from Authority members in a mentoring programme, and if so, to develop one Questionnaire sent to Members to gain their thoughts on member training and development requirements and asking whether there was a demand for a mentoring programme. 3 reponses were received. The number of responses suggests that the need for a mentoring programe is low among members. No further work required.	Dec. 2023	Director of Corporate Svcs. Mem. Dev. Champion
CW 4.2 	 Qtrs. 1-2 Qtr. 3 Qtr. 4	Support and develop Authority members through training and development Awaiting the details of a Welsh Government training package and contents of training modules for Members. It is anticipated that the training modules will cover various issues such as effective governance, tackling the nature and climate emergencies and equality, diversity and inclusion. Details are expected by the end of the year. Details of WG training sessions were confirmed as above and dates set for sessions to take place in January/February 2024. An audit of “Member support” is currently being undertaken by Gwynedd Council’s internal audit department. The outcome of the “Member support” audit confirmed that the level and network of support available and provided along with the systems in place were appropriate for members to achieve their objectives. WG training sessions were provided to members on : Governance training, Diversity and inclusion, The Climate and Nature Emergencies.	Ongoing	Director Corporate Svcs.


 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023


 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023







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
-----------------------------------	-------------	--


Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
CW 5.1 	 Qtrs. 1 - 4	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 Volunteers continue to be core to Yr Ysgwrn's business model and key to carry out several aspects of activity, e.g. group and scholl visits and there are a number who volunteer regularly. Attracting more regular volunteers remains a challenge.	Ongoing	Ho Cutral Heritage Visitor Experience Mgr. (when in post)
CW 5.2	 Qtrs. 1- 4	Implement 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. Metrics are continuously being monitored in the Communications Strategy – ongoing.	Ongoing Annual report by March 2024	Ho Comms.
CW 5.3 	 Qtrs. 1-3	Engage with and keep communities informed through meetings with Community Councils Fforwm Cymunedau has been set up to update and involve Town and Community Councils on the review process of the Local Development Plan during which other general issues are raised and discussed. A similar engagement format is being considered throughout the review of the LDP.	Autumn 2023 at least 1 meeting	Ho Admin. & Customer Care


 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**


 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023

 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023

Out-Come No.	Qtrly. Progress & Status   	Description of Project / Initiative including specific actions (Outcomes listed at end of Section 1.)	Time-table	Officer (s) Responsible
CW 5.4	 Qtrs. 1-3 Qtr. 4	Liaise with landowners and interested parties through meetings of the Snowdonia Local Access Forums (northern and southern) Continued liaison is maintained through the LAF meetings held in March, June, September and December. LAF Meetings have now been reduced to 3 times annually for north and south Forums.	On going March 2024	Access & Wellbeing Manager
CW 5.5	 Annual Meeting	Liaise with the farming community and farming unions and through meetings of the Agricultural Liaison Group Annual liaison meeting took place on 21st November, 2023.	Annual meeting 2023	Ho CWA
CW 5.6	 Qtrs. 1 - 3 Qtr. 4	Involve our local communities in all important aspects of the Authority's work e.g. delivery of Cynllun Eryri, formulation of Supplementary Planning Guidance, Engagement Strategies when developing new projects etc. Community Engagement Officer has been appointed on a two-year project officer basis, to deliver Cynllun Cymunedau Eryri and to draft a Community Engagement Strategy for the Authority. Mapping work has already begun across the relevant Services within the Authority. Fforwm Cymunedau has been set up to provide an update and involve Town and Community Councils during the Eryri Local Development Plan revision process. First meeting held on June 8 th 2023 which was well received by the Community Councils as an engagement method for the Eryri LDP process. HoPartnerships and Community Engagement Officer have been meeting all of the Clerks of Community council in Eryri during 2023/4. Concerns raised were noted and various programmes discussed such as Cronfa Cymunedau Eryri, Cynllun Eryri, Caru Eryri and other relevant work of the Authority.	On going March 2024	Ho Partnerships Ho PP

 Progressed and within timetable. **Work Achieved and/or Completed for 2023-24.**

 Delayed and/or to be progressed in next quarter for completion by March 2023

 Not progressed and/or will not be completed by March 2023

OUTCOMES:

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

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

CW2, 3: Cynllun Eryri is being implemented successfully.


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

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


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

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


WELSH GOVERNMENT REMIT LETTER: ENVIRONMENT

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


WELSH GOVERNMENT REMIT LETTER: PEOPLE AND PLACE

WG Priority objectives and actions for SNPA	SNPA Project/Initiative 
Contribute to the co-design and implementation of the Sustainable Farming Scheme	AC 4.1
Contribute, where appropriate, to the PfG commitment to establish a Community Food Strategy to encourage the production and supply of locally-sourced food	-
Work with Housing Authorities, Community Land Trusts and private developers, to develop innovative solutions to acute housing issues, and contribute to the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan	CC 1.4
Working with partners such as Local Authorities and Transport for Wales, implement solutions to the pressures of visitors on local infrastructure, including more sustainable transport systems, and communication campaigns to ensure responsible recreation. You must balance that with the importance of tourism to our economy, and the role you play at the heart of this in meeting the need of visitors. You should be guided in this by the recommendations and findings of the recent works by Audit Wales on sustainable tourism.	AC 1.2 1.4 1.5 1.6 1.9 CC 3.1 – 3.5 CW 5.3
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 3.9
Develop policies that ensure that the Welsh Language is able to thrive, delivering against <i>Cymraeg 2050: Our plan for 2021 to 2026</i>	CC 4.1 – CC 4.7
Increase engagement in opportunities for people in vulnerable or disadvantaged groups, and under-represented communities to benefit from the landscapes you manage	CC 1.2 1.3
Increase provision of skills training, apprenticeship and volunteering opportunities	CC 1.2 1.3 CC 2.1 2.2 CW 5.1

WELSH GOVERNMENT REMIT LETTER: EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING

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

WELSH GOVERNMENT REMIT LETTER: COLLABORATION

WG Priority Objectives and Actions for SNPA (and Designated Landscapes Wales (DLW))	SNPA Project Work 
Support Tirweddau Cymru (the National Designated Landscapes Partnership) to develop its ambition, embed collaborative working at all levels within NPAs and AONBs, help produce a strategic vision for action for 2022-24	CW 3.2 3.3
<p>Implement a transformational tripartite agreement between NPAs to host a team of WG-funded Strategic Landscape Co-ordinators to work across our Parks and AONBs, and ensure the objectives and outputs of these posts are included within wider NPA monitoring arrangements and those of DLW:</p> <p>i. A Nature Recovery and Carbon Sequestration Strategic Lead, with focus on all of the unimproved habitats and woodland and the biodiversity they contain inclusive of invasives, and opportunities for carbon reduction</p> <p>ii. A Nature Recovery and Nutrient Management Strategic Lead, with a focus on working soil management, riparian and marine matters from terrestrial activity, upland lake eutrophication, water/aquatic biosecurity to agricultural run-off issues, and support the development of Nutrient Management Boards</p> <p>Both posts would help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a strategic plan to respond to the nature and climate emergencies • Support the development of approaches to enable DLW to transition to the new Sustainable Farming Scheme • Identify how DLW can develop new partnerships and support wider Welsh Government priorities, and identify innovative funding streams <p>iii. An Inclusion, Diversity and Governance Excellence Strategic Lead, to work across all NPAs, hosted by one NPA. A key aspect of their work should also be to take bold steps to drive up diversity and equality – on Boards, staffing profile, and visitors and support NPAs to meet the requirements of the socio-economic duty and increase contributions towards tackling child and rural poverty.</p>	AC 2.5
Share experience and best practice as designation for a new National Park progresses	-

MEETING	Authority
DATE	12 June 2024
TITLE	ERYRI LOW CARBON STRATEGY 2024-2029
REPORT BY	Director of Planning & Land Management
PURPOSE	For Members to adopt the Eryri Low Carbon Strategy 2024-2025 and agree to subsequent annual reviews

1. Introduction

2. This cover report and the accompanying Low Carbon Strategy was discussed at the April Member Working Group. The only change to the Strategy following the Working Group is the additional reference to the contribution of Active Travel.
3. Whilst the Authority already undertakes several projects which significantly contribute to the goal of reducing carbon and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, it is considered that the accompanying Low Carbon Strategy will help provide a more coordinated approach. With ambitious net zero targets set by Government, it is important that the Authority is ready to take on this crucial challenge.
4. It is hoped that the Authority can adopt this document, and agree to its subsequent annual review.

5. Member Scrutiny Panel – Carbon

6. The Authority have established a ‘carbon scrutiny panel’, which is made up of the following 3 members: Mr Brian Angell (Chair), Cllr John Pughe Roberts and Mr Tim Jones. This scrutiny panel has played a significant role in arriving at this point, and I would like to personally thank the group for their contributions. In 2021 the panel scoped out the key areas that the Authority can contribute to reducing carbon and greenhouse gas emissions (and this is found in Appendix 1 of the Strategy). Earlier this year the scope and content of the Strategy was discussed, and this has led to the report presented to the Authority today.

7. Low Carbon Strategy – A Brief Overview

8. The strategy will focus primarily on the Authority's 'outward facing' role – this makes up the mainstay of the Authority's work and comprises project work, partnership work, the statutory planning function, alongside the Authority's general environmental advocacy role. There will be a separate strategy for the authority's internal corporate management – this will cover issues relating to the property's estate, heating, procurement and vehicle fleet.
9. The strategy will focus on the following key areas:
 - a. The Authority Corporate Plan and Well-being objectives, alongside other statutory partnerships comprising Public Service Boards (PSB) and Corporate Joint Committees (CJC).
 - b. Cynllun Eryri – the statutory Management Plan.
 - c. The Local Development Plan – the statutory land use plan; and
 - d. The Authority's advocacy role – where we discuss and promotes the environment of the area in day-to-day work.
10. The timing of the Strategy is useful in that it will be approved ahead of the reviews of both Cynllun Eryri and the LDP, which are scheduled to commence next year. It will have a 5 year window (2024-2025), but will be regularly reviewed within that period.
11. The Strategy will be iterative, and it is proposed to bring it back to Members annually for review, to assess whether any changes will be needed to reflect current policy or practice.

12. Resources

13. Much of the Low Carbon Strategy can be implemented within existing work streams using existing staff and resources. Additional capital and grant funding occasionally becomes available linked to carbon reduction projects and officers will monitor this and apply for any relevant opportunities.
14. Coordinating the carbon strategy and managing its implementation across the Authority is more of a challenge, and there is not currently a specific role assigned to this. To address this issue, officers will explore opportunities to fund a low carbon officer, which of course will be challenging in the current financial climate.

15. Conclusion

16. The Low Carbon Strategy brings together the key areas within which it is considered that the National Park Authority can make an impact on reducing carbon and other GHG emissions. Its approval will help influence the impending review of both of the Authority's statutory plans next year. Much work is already

been done to address the issues raised within it, and it can be implemented within existing resources. However, having a dedicated low carbon officer would help coordinate and push the issues within it much more effectively.

17. Recommendation:

- 1. For Members to adopt the Low Carbon Strategy; and**
- 2. Agree to a subsequent annual review of the document and any progress.**

ERYRI'S LOW CARBON STRATEGY 2024-2029

Eryri National Park Authority

April 2024

ERYRI'S LOW CARBON STRATEGY 2024-2029:

SECTION 1:

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

1. Introduction

2. The National Park Authority's impact on the area is significant. We create and support projects throughout Eryri, many of which involve significant financial investments. These projects will make a positive contribution to fulfilling our statutory purpose of protecting and enhancing the environment. The Authority also has a significant environmental advocacy role, and we have positive reputation as a trusted partner – working closely with a range of partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors. Whilst we have already been seeking to contribute to the carbon reduction agenda, it is hoped that this Strategy brings much of this together in a more structured and coherent way. We hope this will ensure that no stone is left unturned in the Authority's efforts to contribute to carbon and greenhouse gas reduction targets.
3. The timing of this Strategy is significant with the review of both of our statutory plans – Cynllun Eryri and the Local Development Plan – both commencing in 2025. It is hoped that this Strategy will have a significant impact on the content of these documents as well as in several other areas of our work.
4. The Member Scrutiny Panel has been instrumental in delivering this document. The initial scope of work undertaken by this group, highlighting existing and future commitments to carbon reduction, is included in Appendix 1.

5. Climate Change Context

6. Climate change is one of the world's defining challenges and it requires immediate action from everyone. A landmark report by the United Nations in August 2021 said that human activity is changing our climate in unprecedented ways and that drastic reductions in carbon emissions are necessary (IPCC 6th Assessment Report, 2021).
7. The latest climate projections for Wales show an increased chance of milder, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers, rising sea levels and an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events (Net Zero Strategic Plan, Welsh Government, 2022). The implications are clearly stark, and in many cases are already being felt.

8. The 2050 Target

9. A crucial way to mitigate the impacts of climate change is to reduce carbon emissions. In March 2021, following advice from the Climate Change Committee in December 2020, the Welsh Government set new targets for a 63% carbon reduction by 2030, an 89% reduction by 2040, and a 100% reduction by 2050. Speaking at the time, the Environment Minister Lesley Griffiths, said:
10. "We hope that the declaration by Welsh Government today can help trigger a wave of action at home and internationally. From our own communities, businesses and organisations to

parliaments and governments around the world.” (Public Sector Net Zero, Welsh Government, 2022)

11. The 2030 Public Sector Target

12. In addition, the Welsh Government set out a more challenging collective ambition for the Welsh public sector to achieve net zero carbon by 2030 (the 2030 collective ambition). This “2030 collective ambition” will focus on the Public Sector’s own footprint, though acknowledging there is an important wider influence and leadership role. Organisations own action plans are likely to include other priority areas but the Welsh Government’s four priority areas are regarded as the key ones to achieve the collective net carbon ambition – and are as follows:

- Buildings
- Mobility and transport
- Procurement
- Land use

13. The Role of Eryri National Park Authority – Existing Studies: Tyndall Centre, Small World Consulting Reports and Aquaterra Reports

14. The NPA have to date commissioned 3 reports to inform both the evidence base and policy making within the National Park. All 3 reports contribute significantly to the evidence base, but also have their limitations. They will be useful in informing rather than setting policy formation.

15. Tyndall Centre: Setting Carbon Budgets for Snowdonia

16. This report presents climate change targets for the National Park that are derived from the commitments enshrined in the Paris Agreement (well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C) – it has been produced for each of the UK’s National Parks to enable benchmarking and better collaboration on these issues. The report recognises the targets require commitment from other organisations, communities and visitors as well as the UK and Welsh Governments.

17. Based on this analysis, for the National Park to make its ‘fair’ contribution towards the Paris Agreement, it needs to:

1) Stay within a maximum cumulative carbon dioxide emissions budget of 1,201 thousand tonnes (ktCO₂), for the period of 2020 to 2100. At 2017 CO₂ emission levels, this entire budget would be spent within 6 years from 2020.

2) Initiate an immediate programme of CO₂ mitigation to deliver annual cuts in emissions averaging 14.2% to deliver a Paris Agreement aligned carbon budget. These annual reductions in emissions require national and local action, and could be part of a wider collaboration within the National Park.

3) Reach zero or near zero carbon no later than 2039. This report provides an indicative CO₂ reduction pathway that stays within the recommended maximum carbon budget of 1,201 ktCO₂. On this pathway in 2039, <5% of the budget remains. This represents very low levels of residual CO₂ emissions by this time, or a decision may be made to forgo these residual emissions and cut emissions to zero at this point. The target year is path dependent – slower

progress in reducing emissions will use up carbon budget more quickly, necessitating reaching zero emissions at an earlier date.

18. These targets reflect the need to focus on the rapid reduction of sources of carbon dioxide in setting net zero aligned climate policy.
19. Small World Consulting
20. As with the work of the Tyndal Centre the report produced by Small World Consulting was replicated across the UK's National Parks – to help benchmark data and enable better collaboration on these issues. This took a 'consumption based' approach, which it considered allowed a 'full footprint' assessment – including lifestyles, goods and services. It also included the impact of visitors – both to and out of the area.
21. It recognises that transition to a low-carbon future entails strong action in many areas: “construction, direct home energy; food production and diets; travel and transport; business energy use; the nature of tourism and the visitor experience; the circularisation of the material economy (including repair, maintenance, renting and reselling of consumer goods); and significant changes in land management.” Many of these issues are outside the control of the National Park Authority.
22. However, it suggests there are opportunities as a Local Planning Authority to push for zero carbon homes, low energy buildings, encourage low / zero carbon transport in new developments, and build upon the opportunities offered by biodiversity enhancement.
23. Although designed to meet the minimum Paris-aligned targets, the trajectories for each of the six components of the target are steep and challenging. In meeting the targets, some help can be expected to come from outside the National Park, from anticipated change in the UK and global economy. For example, the electricity grid is endeavouring to decarbonise and there will be less fossil fuel powering all forms of road transport. On top of this, the public may increasingly care about carbon and choose more sustainable options, for example through insulating their homes, installing renewable heating systems and solar panels, and opting for less carbon-intensive diets. Last but not least, businesses would also want to play an active role in the low-carbon transition by cutting their direct emissions, while simultaneously opting for suppliers with lower-embedded carbon in their products and services, thus accelerating the transition across the whole value chain.
24. Land management is central to this report's recommendations and include proposed targets for New Native Broadleaf/Mixed Woodland and New Productive Coniferous Woodland planting. These are very ambitious if the targets are to be reached. Establishing irreversible carbon sinks (with biodiversity co-benefits), however, is conditional on having suitable incentives being made available for land managers to implement land use changes such as woodland creation, peatland restoration and regenerative farming, in line with current recommendations by the UK Government.

25. The report states that Welsh National Parks may also be challenged with mediating a pragmatic solution with stakeholders and special interest groups to the competing land pressures for UK food production, UK timber production, peatland restoration, biodiversity net gain and the need to grow and support local 'living' communities.

26. Aquaterra

27. The Authority also commissioned a report on how the Authority (rather than the National Park area) can achieve net zero carbon targets – through corporate change in the way it procures, uses the fleet and heats its properties. This will be developed into a corporate strategy on the Authority's path to net zero – this will be a separate document to this one.

28. Earlier work by the Member Scrutiny Panel on Carbon

29. In addition to the above, the Authority's Member Carbon Scrutiny Panel in 2021 produced an assessment of areas that the Authority currently makes a contribution to the zero carbon agenda, along with areas that could be addressed in the future. This was set against the key sectors that impact carbon and greenhouse gas emissions as identified by the Welsh Government. This provides a useful context for the scope of work that the Authority gets involved in, and this is included in Appendix 1 of this document.

30. The Role of Eryri National Park Authority – Race to Zero

31. At the National Park Authority's November 2023 meeting, Members signed up to the "Race to Zero" initiative. Race to Zero is the United Nations-backed global climate leadership initiative rallying non-state actors (like cities, local authorities, businesses, universities) to take rigorous and immediate action to halve global emissions by 2030 and deliver a healthier, fairer net zero carbon world.

32. Race to Zero was formally launched two years ago to:

- Structure a role for non-state actors to help drive crucial decarbonisation
- Shift the global debate from long-term 2050 to near-term 2030 action
- Focus ambition on 1.5 not 2 degrees
- Introduce greater rigour and transparency
- Keep the global focus on building a fairer healthier future

33. Race to Zero is now driving much global action with the aim of reducing carbon emissions.

34. The Authority will focus its efforts on four key areas where it can make the biggest difference. These are:

- 1) Cynllun Eryri 2025- 20XX – and any subsidiary plans e.g. Woodland Strategy, Peatland Strategy
- 2) Eryri Local Development Plan Review (LDP) 2027-2042 – and any subsidiary plan e.g. Supplementary Planning Guidance
- 3) Leadership and Advocacy role – building on the principles of 'Race to Zero' and the Authority's strong partnership based approach

4) Asset Management and Procurement – building on the work undertaken by consultants Aquaterra

35 This document will focus on the first 3, with the Asset Management / Procurement document being produced separately.

SECTION 2: THE AUTHORITY'S CORPORATE PLAN AND WELL-BEING STATEMENT AND OTHER STRATEGIC WORK AREAS

36 Corporate Plan

- 37 It is essential that carbon is at the heart of all decision making taken by the Authority. This starts with the Authority's Corporate Plan and associated well-being objectives.
- 38 Whilst carbon does presently feature in the Authority's corporate plan, with many objectives and actions seeking the reduction of carbon and other greenhouse gases, this is likely to be in need of updating given how rapidly this area is evolving.
- 39 Therefore, the Authority must ensure that any future review of the Corporate Plan places a significant emphasis on ensuring that carbon reduction is at the heart of the Authority's actions. Members and stakeholders will be heavily consulted on the review of the Corporate Plan, and this issue will be raised at that time.

40 Public Service Boards

- 41 The National Park Authority also contribute to other strategic partnerships and public sector groups. It is represented on the North West Wales Public Service Board (PSB), a statutory strategic partnership which brings together public sector organisations to address collaborative issues and projects. The Authority's representative on the PSB is usually the Chief Executive.
- 42 It is critical that the Authority raise the importance of greenhouse gas and carbon reduction with this group, along with ensuring the delivery of such projects through representation on the PSB.
- 43 There should be an annual report back to Authority Members on the progress made at PSB – which will allow scrutiny of issues relating to carbon and GHG reduction.

44 Corporate Joint Committee (CJC)

- 45 The CJC is charged with the task of producing a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) a statutory land use planning document for North Wales – the CJC's planning function will cover the 7 Local Planning Authorities of North Wales. Whilst the staffing structure of the CJC has yet to be established with regards to its planning function, there will be representation on it from the National Park Authority. Again, as with the representation on the PSB, the Authority must commit to making carbon a strategic priority through its representation on the group.
- 46 As with the PSB, there should be an annual report back to Authority Members on the progress made at the CJC – which will allow scrutiny of issues relating to carbon and GHG reduction.

SECTION 3: CYNLLUN ERYRI

- 47 The need to reduce carbon emissions is recognised in Cynllun Eryri’s Vision, which states:
- 48 “..... Communities will have adopted innovative solutions in a changing World – a low carbon economy will have strengthened residents’ link with the environment, providing a better standard of living and ensuring Snowdonia’s reputation as an internationally renowned National Park and one of the nation’s breathing spaces.” (LDP 2016-31, p24)
- 49 This Vision is also shared with the Local Development Plan (more on this below) to ensure a consistency between both of the Authority’s statutory documents.
- 50 The existing statutory National Park Management Plan (Cynllun Eryri 2020) recognises the climate crisis and the need to reduce carbon emissions. The Plan states that *“We must all re-evaluate the way we live and work. Cynllun Eryri sets out our goals to help reduce carbon emissions and displacement attributed to the area, but to also plan mitigation measures for the impacts of climate change.”*
- 51 Outcome A3 of Cynllun Eryri recognised a key outcome as *“We are prepared for the impacts of climate change and are reducing our carbon footprint”*.

What we'll do to achieve this	Special Qualities	Overview of actions	Who?	How we'll measure success
A3.1. Reduce the carbon emissions of Snowdonia National Park	1, 6, 8 & 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Contribute proactively towards the WG emission reduction delivery plan > Install electric vehicle charging points at strategic locations within the National Park > Implement greener transport and travel measures to reduce carbon emissions. > Encourage community-based solutions. > Promote and support improving the energy efficiency in new and traditional buildings in line with planning policy > Partners to assess the sustainability of major buildings within the National Park > Continue to support appropriately scaled and located community owned green energy schemes - in line with the LDP > Establish baselines for future emission target setting 	SNPA Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council Community Energy Cyd Ynni National Trust Snowdonia Society Menter Mon Grwp Cynefin Adra Datblygiadau Egni Gwledig (DEG) Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) Aberystwyth University	Baselines for future carbon emission measurements will be established by 2023, based on target setting advice from Welsh Government. By the end of the Plan we will have successfully contributed to the Welsh Government emission reduction plan, have installed further electric charging points and monitored the number of homes upgrading to renewable alternatives through Planning applications. See also policy B4.1 for transport solutions

What we'll do to achieve this	Special Qualities	Overview of actions	Who?	How we'll measure success
A3.2. Safeguard and increase the amount of carbon stored in Snowdonia	8 & 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to utilise and enhance natural carbon sinks within the National Park Reduce, and where possible reverse, the erosion and degradation of peatlands, including by grip blocking in the uplands and restoration of lowland agricultural peats Ensure a long term commitment to well managed and diverse woodland Explore carbon offsetting and opportunities for financial support for carbon offsetting Encourage the maintenance of permanent grassland and avoid soil disturbance 	SNPA NRW National Trust Countryside Land Alliance (CLA) National Farmers Union (NFU) Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW)	By the end of 2022, we will have increased the number of Peatland Code and trees and woodland Carbon Code projects supported. Throughout the Plan, SNPA will monitor peatland restoration actions, ensure woodland planting in appropriate sites and the condition of existing woodland is monitored and hedgerow habitats enhanced, as well as working in Partnership to advise on appropriate grazing regimes.
A3.3. Implement climate change mitigation measures	ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the feasibility of implementing a Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) approach to natural and cultural heritage assets of the National Park Ensure that upland paths are maintained to a sufficient standard to withstand the increased frequency of storm events through Policy A1.2 	SNPA All relevant partners	By the end of 2021 we will work with other Designated Landscapes already using a CVI approach, to map assets and produce a feasibility study within the National Park. Our upland paths will be consistently monitored for new or upgraded specifications

52 Linked to the carbon reduction agenda is Outcome B4 which states that “sustainable options for parking and transport are achieved”.

What we'll do to achieve this	Special Qualities	Overview of actions	Who?	How we'll measure success
B4.2. Explore and implement opportunities to encourage greener transport	1 & 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the environmental impacts of visitors in relation to carbon emissions to encourage a move towards greener technologies for travel such as electric cars, buses and bikes Improve information and marketing in relation to how people get to the park and travel around, ensuring that the most sustainable options are promoted and highlighted Utilise smart technology to encourage behaviour change (e.g. Enterprise Scheme) As per Policy A3.1 install EV charging points at strategic travel and visitor points in the National Park 	SNPA NRW National Trust Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council Visit Wales Partneriaeth Ogwen	Work with all recommendations from the 2020 Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen parking and transport review to implement measures across the National Park. Review and adapt measures as necessary by 2025. A new way of measuring visitor contribution and impact on the area will be in place by 2021 and will assess environmental factors.

53 HOW SUCCESSFUL HAVE WE AND OUR PARTNERS BEEN WITH REGARD TO THE ABOVE CARBON RELATED ACTIONS?

54 As the above policies demonstrate, Cynllun Eryri includes carbon reduction policies and actions, which will contribute to carbon reduction. It has undoubtedly led to cooperation between partners to discuss the carbon agenda.

55 These include:

- Extensive discussions on transportation and parking issues, and how these can reduce carbon within Eryri – significantly this includes a contribution to the **Eryri Parking, Transport & Delivery Group** led by Transport for Wales (within which the Authority plays a key role);

- An emphasis on carbon goes to the heart of the Conservation, Woodland & Agriculture team – with many successful projects, along with new strategies that pave the way for future projects including the:
 - o Tree and Woodland Strategy
 - o Peatland Strategy
- The Tree and Woodland Strategy is in its infancy – so it is too early to assess its effectiveness;
- However, the Peatland Strategy has helped secure a £925,000 SMS project to restore 781 ha peatlands (451 ha in Eryri) and build capacity across Wales from 2018-2121. Given the extent of peat resources in Eryri, addressing its condition is critical in reducing carbon emissions, This was followed by several successful grant applications from the National Peatland Action Programme from 2021-present, totalling just over £1.04 million expenditure (thus far) to improve the quality and resilience of peatlands. To date, we have conducted restoration works over 6000 ha of the estimated 25,400 ha of peatlands in the Park, and surveyed a further 3000 ha of peatlands in the wider strategy area (Eryri Fringes).
- In relation to the above, the review of the Peatland Strategy will be designed to enable annual progress to be monitored.
- The creation of EV charging points on our own estate – which allow locals and visitors to charge their cars whilst driving in the National Park (we have installed XX);
- The pilot Plastic Free Yr Wyddfa project, which aims to harness the local community to raise awareness of plastic and litter pollution in and around Wales’ busiest mountain and visitor attraction;
- Co-creation of the Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Strategic Plan which looks towards a radically different future for the visitor economy and the way that it is measured across the region.
- The Cultural Heritage and Planning Policy team have operated a programme of educating residents in historic buildings in the Conservation Area how to make them more energy efficient whilst protecting their historic assets and character.
- The overall strategy of the LDP is successfully fulfilling its strategy of focusing development on existing settlements thereby preventing further and increased demands on the private car. However, the area is still overwhelmingly dependent on the private car.
- Issues relating to zero carbon homes can be addressed to a certain extent through planning policies – but are generally dealt with through Building Control Regulations.
- The LDP has also granted many small-scale renewable energy schemes within the NP, and provided in principle support or mitigation advice for larger schemes outside but close to the NP boundary;
- The Authority has started to address issues relating to climate change adaptation – including granting planning applications which contribute to climate change adaptation as well as implementing our own projects such as creating more robust and climate resilient footpaths in the National Park.

56 WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE WITH REGARD TO CARBON REDUCTION FOR THE REVIEW OF CYNLLUN ERYRI?

- 57 Cynllun Eryri has already developed many projects which have the aim of influencing behavioural change/reducing greenhouse gas / carbon emissions and contribute to climate

change adaptation – and this work, along with all of the associated projects, will obviously continue. However, there is clearly much more that we can aim to achieve as an Authority as the effects of global warming become more and more apparent. The review of Cynllun Eryri in 2025 will aim to put Carbon Reduction and Sustainability more firmly at the heart of an action plan for the future.

58 Some of the key areas that we could address through a Partnership approach are:

- Establishing a greenhouse gas / carbon baseline – to help understand the effects of our actions on these gases;
- Increase the ambition in delivering strategic transport projects which have the aim of reducing dependence on the private car – ensuring these are included in the LDP and Cynllun Eryri 2025 reviews
- Delivering the Tree & Woodland Strategy
- Delivering the Review of the Peatland Strategy
- Delivering the Nature Recovery Plan
- Ensure a low carbon focus on the implementation of the Sustainable Visitor Economy Strategy
- SFS actions
- More Active Travel projects in the National Park

Section 4: Eryri Local Development Plan

- 59 The need to reduce carbon emissions is recognised in the adopted Eryri LDP (2016-2031). It's referred to in the vision for Eryri (as explained above, this Vision is shared with Cynllun Eryri):
- 60 "..... Communities will have adopted innovative solutions in a changing World – a low carbon economy will have strengthened residents' link with the environment, providing a better standard of living and ensuring Snowdonia's reputation as an internationally renowned National Park and one of the nation's breathing spaces." (LDP 2016-31, p24)
- 61 Climate Change is also identified as a key issue, challenge and driver of change (LDP 2016-31, p19)
- 62 "Climate change can dramatically alter the National Park environment, communities and the economy. These changes could include the loss of some species and habitats, changes in crop production and livestock productivity, sea level rise and increasing frequency of extreme weather conditions, with consequences for flood risk and soil erosion. A side effect of climate change will be the potential for economic return from developing expertise in environmental goods and services.
- 63 The Local Development Plan should aim to reduce reliance on non-renewable fuels and to achieve sustainable power production and consumption by;
- Reducing the need to travel, through the sustainable location of communities, homes and employment opportunities and the promotion of sustainable tourism
 - The provision of improved sustainability of transport and better integration of public transport
 - Reducing carbon emissions and the potential for 'fuel poverty' through improved efficiency of new and existing buildings
 - The provision of appropriate householder and community renewable energy"
- 64 The LDP has a specific policy on climate change as follows:

Strategic Policy Dd: Climate Change (Dd)

The contribution that emissions of greenhouse gases from the National Park make to climate change will be reduced and the impacts of climate change on the National Park will be addressed in this Plan by:

- i. Ensuring that any coastal and flood protection works, including managed realignment, considered to be necessary have no adverse environmental impacts or that they can be satisfactorily mitigated.
- ii. Conserving and enhancing areas of woodland, upland soils and peatland areas to assist in carbon retention, water storage and flood prevention.
- iii. Facilitating species adaptation and migration through protecting habitat connectivity corridors and enhancing biodiversity.
- iv. Directing development to locations which reduces the need to travel, especially by private car.

Development Policy 3: Energy (3)

Where appropriate planning applications should be accompanied by an Energy Statement either separately or as part of the Design and Access Statement and should take into account the Supplementary Planning Guidance documents on Sustainable Design and Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Developments.

Wherever possible, developments should be sited and orientated to take advantage of solar gain and shelter and incorporate passive design strategies and a fabric-first approach to energy efficiency. Consideration should be given to the potential for maximising the renewable energy technologies.

Renewable Energy

Within the National Park renewable energy schemes will be supported provided they satisfactorily address the planning considerations for different technologies set out in the Supplementary Planning Guidance on Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Developments.

- Microgeneration (under 50kW) and smaller-scale renewable energy schemes will be considered favourably, provided they do not cause harm to landscape, amenity, nature conservation and heritage interests.
- Sub Local Authority scale schemes (up to 5MW) may also offer some potential in Snowdonia and will be permitted subject to the same considerations.

Larger Local Authority Scale (greater than 5MW) and Strategic renewable energy schemes are generally considered to be incompatible with National Park purposes and would need to satisfy Strategic Policy B; Major Development.

65 Carbon was also an underlying factor in the overall settlement strategy and employment strategy, where development opportunities are possible within many of Eryri's settlements thereby reducing the need to create housing, employment and community facilities at a distance from local communities. This is set out in Strategic Policy C which sets out the overall development strategy as follows:

Strategic Policy C: Spatial Development Strategy (C)

Spatial development within Snowdonia National Park will be based on the following hierarchy:

Local Service Centres – Dolgellau and Bala

- i. Open market housing and affordable housing for local needs.
- ii. To support existing or provide new employment opportunities to support the rural economy.
- iii. Improve existing and provide new facilities to serve local residents to strengthen its role as a local service centre and to support its role as a visitor destination.
- iv. Retail development located in close proximity to the main retail areas.

Service Settlements

- v. Small scale open market and affordable housing for local needs.
- vi. Small scale employment development to support existing or provide new employment opportunities to support the rural economy in accordance with Development Policy 19.
- vii. Improve existing and provide new community facilities to serve local residents.
- viii. Strengthen its role as a service settlement serving the settlement and the immediate community.
- ix. Support its role as a visitor destination.
- x. Retail development within the retail areas of Harlech, Aberdyfi, Betws y Coed.

Secondary Settlements

- xi. Small scale open market and affordable housing for local needs.
- xii. Small scale employment development to support existing or provide new employment opportunities to support the rural economy in accordance with Development Policy 19.
- xiii. Improve existing and provide new community facilities to serve local residents and strengthen its role in providing services to the rural hinterland.

Smaller Settlements

- xiv. Single units of affordable housing for local needs.
- xv. Improve existing and provide new community facilities to serve local residents where there are no suitable locations in settlements listed in the settlement hierarchy.
- xvi. Conversion of buildings to support economic uses.
- xvii. In exceptional circumstances new small scale employment and training development in accordance with Development Policy 19.

Open countryside

- xviii. Conversion of rural buildings to support economic uses.
- xix. Conversions of rural buildings for affordable housing for local needs.
- xx. Replacement dwellings.
- xxi. Housing relating to an essential need to live in the countryside in line with national planning policy.
- xxii. Other essential community facilities to serve local residents where there are no suitable locations in settlements listed in the settlement hierarchy.
- xxiii. Agricultural developments which are sympathetically accommodated in the landscape.
- xxiv. In exceptional circumstances new small scale employment and training development in accordance with Development Policy 19.
- xxv. Economic development as part of the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone allocation in accordance with Development Policy 27.

66 Transportation and Parking

67 Strategic Policy L has an overall aim of reducing car use

Strategic Policy L: Accessibility and Transport (L)

The National Park Authority is committed to improving access to local facilities and reduce the need to travel especially by private car. Within the National Park walking and cycling, improved access to public transport and provision of facilities will be encouraged.

Development will be supported where:

- i. The provision of services are located so as to minimise the need to travel.
- ii. There is convenient access via footpaths, cycle paths and public transport, thereby encouraging the use of these modes of travel for local journeys, reducing the need to travel by private car and improving the accessibility of services to those with poor availability of transport.
- iii. There is an improvement in accessibility for all, in particular disabled people.
- iv. Changes to the road network do not damage or cause detrimental effects to ProW, listed buildings or historic monuments or cause adverse effects to environmental designations. The highest priority will be given to the conservation and enhancement of the characteristic biodiversity of Snowdonia, particularly habitats and species designated under national and European legislation. Where possible, these improvements to the road network will feature provision for segregated pedestrian and cycling uses.
- v. It will reduce or remove vehicle traffic from within town centres and where possible from rural areas.
- vi. The natural environment of the park is not adversely affected.
- vii. Secure cycle parking facilities are provided where appropriate.

The National Park Authority will continue to support appropriate sustainable transport and community transport initiatives.

The recreational routes identified on the proposals map will be safeguarded from development which would prevent their use as recreational routes.

The track bed of the Corris Railway within the National Park will be safeguarded from other forms of development so that it may be reinstated as a railway.

That part of the disused railway which runs from Trawsfynydd to Blaenau Ffestiniog which is within the National Park will be safeguarded from inappropriate development which would prevent the future use of the railway line as a transport corridor.

68. HOW SUCCESSFUL HAS THE LDP BEEN IN REDUCING CARBON / GHG?

69. Overall Development Strategy

70. Firstly, as with Cynllun Eryri, there is no baseline figure for the level of carbon / GHG emissions in Eryri – therefore establishing a quantitative assessment of the relative success of the LDP is difficult.

71. There are strategic policies which have attempted to reduce the need to travel by focusing development on progressively larger communities i.e. focusing most development in the larger settlements of Dolgellau and Bala, and then progressively less as settlements get smaller. This theoretically reduces the need to travel to shops, work, and for socialising. Isolated car dependent homes in open countryside areas are exceptions, and development is centred on existing settlements.

72. However, whilst the above strategy has been a success – in that the overall development strategy has been adhered to – its success in reducing car trips is dependent on other factors beyond the control of the LPA e.g. frequency and reliability of local bus services, people's workplace and shopping habits etc

73. WHAT NEED TO BE DONE WITH REGARD TO CARBON TARGETS FOR THE REVIEW OF THE LDP?

- Energy Efficiency of Buildings – building regs rather than planning ?
- Transport Modal Split – do targets need to be set in a separate strategy?
- Renewable Energy Developments – installed capacity and do we need to do more (probably not) ?
- Assess exemplars from other Authorities e.g.
- There will be numerous options in how the LDP can improve and strengthen its climate change strategy, and guidance and inspiration can also be taken from the work of other authorities who have tried to address the issue. Some examples include:
 - Cornwall Council – ‘Climate Emergency Development Plan’ (2023). The council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and have prepared this document, and the policies within it, in order to achieve a Carbon Neutral Cornwall, and to address the climate and ecological emergencies.
 - Dartmoor National Park Authority – ‘Reducing Carbon Emissions In New Development’ (2019). A briefing note which looks at evidence for approaches to reducing CO₂ emissions in new buildings.
 - West Oxfordshire District Council – ‘Area Action Plan for Delivery of Salt Cross Garden Village’. This is an example of how planning, policy and authorities can work to create new net zero developments and settlements which are more sustainable in terms of housing, transport, green spaces and enhancing the natural environment. This is one of a potential 14 garden villages that the UK Government announced support for in January 2017. The seven core themes for the Area Action Plan are Climate Action; Healthy Place Shaping; Protecting and Enhancing Environmental Assets; Movement and Connectivity; Enterprise, Innovation and Productivity; Meeting Current and Future Housing Needs; and Building a Strong, Vibrant and Sustainable Community.
 - Bannau Brycheiniog National Park – ‘Preferred Strategy Revisited’ (2020) – This document sets out the Authority’s rationale for a shift in policy focus, and their strategic planning priorities for the Local Development plan - particularly necessary following the Coronavirus pandemic.
 - Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-2025 – The framework is the city’s high level strategy for tackling climate change. The objective is to stay within carbon budgets recommended by the Tyndall Centre; climate adaptation and resilience; health and wellbeing; and inclusive, zero carbon and climate resilient economy. The framework also contains and defines seven areas for action which include; Buildings (existing and new); renewable energy; transport and flying; food; the things we buy and throw away; green infrastructure and nature-based solutions; and supporting and enabling residents and organisations to act.

74. Specific Areas of Consideration

75. Below are some examples of key areas where adaptation, amendments and consideration could be made to policies and strategies during the review process.

76. Sustainable Design (buildings and historic buildings)

- Sustainable design – update to incorporate principles (Salt Cross policies 1,2,3)
- Consider updating in line with latest policies controlling zero carbon building and place making (see Salt Cross requirements, or Manchester climate committee recommended policies) especially the ‘environmental sustainability’
- Worth setting out how historic buildings can be retrofitted E.g. bespoke internal glazing, roof insulation, location of solar thermal/PV, by elevating some of the guidance into this policy level
- Potential further guidance on adapting historic buildings.

77. Transport

- Car parking – EV points, cycling storage, walking and car sharing. Potential differences based on location/settlement hierarchy.
- Active Travel – term used to describe walking and cycling for purposeful journeys to a destination, or in combination with public transport.

78. Transport will also be a key issue with regards to the review and in improving the Park’s carbon baseline. Work has previously been undertaken by partners and colleagues within the Authority in this regard, such as the Martin Higgitt Report.

79. Biodiversity

- Strengthen biodiversity and net gain – both helping nature and also regulating and helping adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Urban greening and biodiversity net gain
- In terms of facilitating species adaptation and migration through protecting habitat connectivity corridors and enhancing biodiversity – there is a need to identify where this needs to happen and how it is realised in the plan (for example identify areas in or near settlements which are considered to be areas for biodiversity improvement or corridors).

80. In terms of a Green Infrastructure Assessment (GIA), Planning Policy Wales (edition 11) describes a GIA as ‘an integrated map-based evidence resource which uses existing datasets and the best available information to map existing green infrastructure and ecological assets’. The GIA will be used to develop a robust approach to enhancing biodiversity, increasing ecological resilience and improving well-being outcomes. The benefits of Green Infrastructure in environmental and climate change terms include;

- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity by safeguarding existing habitats and creating new ones
- Improve biodiversity and ecosystem resilience by linking existing natural habitats to create broader green corridors which enable species movement in a changing climate.
- Reducing CO2 emissions by providing non-vehicular travel routes and encouraging walking and cycling
- Providing carbon storage and sequestration in vegetation

- Mitigating against extreme weather conditions by providing shelter and protection from strong winds and extreme heat
- Managing flood risk through absorption of heavy rainfall
- Reducing the need to use energy to heat and cool buildings.

81. Work on the National Park's GIA will commence during 2024.

82. Adaptations

- Strengthen adaptation (particularly the role of the land in providing ways to adapt, increasing tree cover, not building on flood plains, peat restoration, riverbanks/flood alleviation, improving condition of habitat, improving soil health, improving grassland resilience to drought attaining habitat status where possible, improving resilience to wildfire spread especially at the urban/rural interface and on/near habitat land, SUDS)
- Potentially needs to be more proactive and that coastal and flood protection works have environmental benefits, potentially a sub set policy for rivers and coasts separately. Assess the scope to manage estuaries, salt marshes, sea grasses and mud flats – all of which are important for carbon sequestration and storage. This would need to be a collaborative project with other partners e.e. potentially valuable Sabellaria spinulosa (Ross worm) reefs off Shell Island too, which is good for biodiversity and coastal protection.

83. Energy and Waste

- Possibility of using models used in other examples to provide more comprehensive detail on energy statement requirements.
- The current policy notes, “wherever possible all new buildings, including extensions, should consider the potential for maximising renewable energy technologies” – policy amendment could be that net zero is a starting point with exceptions for site specific reasons.
- The current policy also notes “Microgeneration and small-scale community renewable energy plant will be supported especially where they make a contribution to improving the quality of life in smaller communities” – Potentially a need to consider anaerobic digestion and community-level projects as well as retrofitting a low/zero carbon energy system on to existing buildings (for example in Bala and Dolgellau – district heating schemes). Potential need for a specific policy about decisions on applications to retrofit energy systems in these areas and site allocations. A need also to think about mapping uses, heat users and heat producers and co-locating these as far as possible e.g. leisure centres and small scale industry.
- Installing schemes for schools & leisure centres that provide hubs to retrofit district heating to surrounding community. Need to provide space for this so development can come forward in the future.
- Potential inclusion of anaerobic digestion (which include secondary benefits of circular and localised economy, nutrient efficiencies, and revenue source (primary being energy generation))
- Energy Statements – Although currently included within Development Policy 3: Energy as a requirement where appropriate, it is uncertain how often this has been required as part of a planning application – This would be amended in the review. An Energy Statement is a detailed document which sets out the most suitable and cost-effective

solutions to reduce carbon emissions and integrate Low or Zero Carbon (LZC) renewable energy technologies.

84. Conclusion

85. The assessment of policies and subsequent additional comments undertaken during the review report; inspiration from other authorities and organisations; as well as potential studies that can be undertaken, will help steer the National Park's response and LDP review in order to improve and strengthen its carbon and climate change strategy and policies.
86. It will be key to establish and maintain dialogue between the National Park Authority and the Welsh Government Ministers as well as undertaking consultations with the public. Specific workshops on the carbon and climate change aspect of the NPMP and LDP could also be undertaken as part of the review process.

Section 5: Leadership and Advocacy

87. This final section, focuses on the Authority's leadership and advocacy role. Sections 2 and 3 have referred to direct action and the enabling role in reducing carbon through the Authority's policies and projects in Cynllun Eryri and the LDP. This Section will focus on the Authority's role as a 'trusted partner' embedded in the local community, which will undoubtedly be important in realising the aim of reducing the area's carbon footprint.
88. The United Nations, UK Government, the Welsh Government and most Local Authorities in Wales have declared a climate emergency. This Authority through its Term of Government letter and statutory purposes has a significant role in responding to both climate change and the decline in nature. National Parks have an increasing role of raising awareness of the need to act on such matters. We consider Eryri National Park Authority, as a trusted partner embedded in the local community to be particularly well placed in this awareness raising role.
- 89. Race to Zero**
90. Eryri have now joined the United Nations backed Race to Zero climate leadership initiative – along with most of the other UK National Park Authorities. Race to Zero highlights the need to take rigorous and immediate action to halve global emissions by 2030 and deliver a healthier, fairer net zero carbon world.
91. Race to Zero was formally launched two years ago to:
- Structure a role for non-state actors to help drive crucial decarbonisation
 - Shift the global debate from long-term 2050 to near-term 2030 action
 - Focus ambition on 1.5 not 2 degrees
 - Introduce greater rigour and transparency
 - Keep the global focus on building a fairer healthier future
92. National Parks globally have a crucial role to play in responding to this crisis – both through leading nature-based carbon sequestration at a landscape scale, and by being part of the vanguard of decarbonisation in a rural setting. This is a strategic role that no other entities can lead. UK National Parks will be the first National Parks in the world to join the UN Race to Zero.
93. By joining Race to Zero, the Authority is committed to the following five criteria:
- **Pledge:** to maximise effort toward or beyond a fair share of the 50% global GHG reduction needed by 2030, and to reach net zero by 2050 at the latest.
 - **Plan:** within 12 months develop an evidence-based emissions reduction plan in line with the pledge.
 - **Proceed:** take immediate action towards meeting the pledge.
 - **Publish:** commit to report data and actions in relation to meeting the pledge, publicly and at least annually - feeding into the UNFCCC Global Climate Action Portal.
 - **Persuade:** align lobbying and advocacy activities with net zero by proactively supporting climate policies consistent with the Race to Zero criteria.

94. Committing to take action to meet a decarbonisation goal means a leadership role for the Authority in working with landowners and managers, residents, partner organisations, stakeholders and the public – rather than an expectation that the National Park Authority will have the powers and resources to deliver the target itself. This leadership role is one that National Park authorities are experienced in. The same approach is taken by city and local authority members of Race to Zero and is not unique to National Parks.
95. To an extent, we have already started on this journey – with carbon reduction policies and projects that have already been referred to in our Management Plan and LDP. As already referenced elsewhere we have also commissioned studies to help us on our path to net zero – both through Small World Consulting’s report and the study by the Tyndall centre that preceded this. Finally, there is also this Low Carbon Strategy which tries to bring the information together.
96. It is important now for the Authority to build on this leadership and advocacy role – both through promoting the principles set out in this Strategy, ensuring that the LDP and Cynllun Eryri are ambitious in securing a pathway to net zero, and bringing our many key partners and local communities along with us on this journey.

Appendix 1

Phase 1 work produced by Member Carbon Scrutiny Panel* (2021) – Scope of Authority’s carbon reduction work – existing and potential

*Membership of Group: Mr Brian Angell (Chair of Group), Cllr John P Roberts, Mr Tim Jones

POWER	
Current Contribution:	What more can be done? Issues for Authority's Carbon Strategy
<p>Install electric vehicle charging points at strategic locations within the National Park (See also policy B4.2)</p> <p>Continue to support appropriately scaled and located community owned green energy schemes - in line with the LDP</p> <p>LDP policies encourage appropriately scales renewable and sustainable energy</p> <p>LDP policies that encourage good sustainable design / low carbon homes?</p>	<p>Measuring carbon from power installations – what difference do EV charging points and low carbon homes actually make?</p> <p>Should planning policies go further in terms of encouraging low or even zero carbon homes?</p>
BUILDINGS	
Current Contribution:	What more can be done? Issues for Authority's Carbon Strategy
<p>Encouragement of sustainable buildings in LDP policies</p> <p>General LDP Strategy of focusing new buildings / development into existing settlements in order to reduce car trips. However, rural nature of the area will still mean reliance on private car. This may particularly be the case when sites such as Snowdonia Enterprise Zone (Llanbedr and Trawsfynydd) are developed.</p> <p>Management Plan encourages energy efficiency in buildings</p> <p>Corporate Work Programme recognises that funding has been secured to assess Conservation Areas, which will include an element which assesses the scope of making them more energy efficient</p>	<p>Can / should LDP and Cynllun Eryri policies go further and include a much stronger commitment to low and zero carbon buildings? Is zero carbon an economically realistic policy aspiration in Eryri?</p> <p>In the shorter term, is there a potential for a design guide to improve carbon reduction standards in new buildings?</p> <p>Can LDP Spatial Strategy and Cynllun Eryri go further to prevent reliance on private car? Martin Higgitt Transport Study could inform this?</p> <p>Linked to the above it was raised whether the current Sustainable Assessment framework which is a statutory requirement of LDP and Cynllun Eryri production was fit for purpose and SMART – and whether this could be amended</p>

<p>Corporate Work Programme project to continue with Decarbonisation projects in main SNPA buildings to reduce heat losses and energy wastage</p>	<p>to better reflect current Welsh Government priorities;</p> <p>Opportunities for upskilling / training builders in sustainable building materials? (this is partly linked to the proposed project on Conservation Areas)?</p> <p>Can the Authority do any demonstration projects? This could be linked to training on upskilling / building</p> <p>Work with key partners e.g. Gwynedd Council Energy Conservation Officer</p>
TRANSPORT	
<p>Current Contribution / Commitments:</p>	<p>What more can be done? Issues for Authority's Carbon Strategy</p>
<p>LDP aim to focus new development in existing settlements, which should normally be closer to existing public transport facilities (this is backed up by proximity of new developments to bus stops).</p> <p>New car parking in open countryside is strictly controlled by existing policies.</p> <p>New large scale developments generally must be accessible by different modes of transport;</p> <p>Public transport and parking strategy in the Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen areas to provide and implement recommendations.</p> <p>Establish and agree terms of reference for a transport and parking working group for Snowdonia.</p> <p>Improve information on sustainable transport options for visitors.</p> <p>Install electric vehicle charging points at strategic locations within the National Park Implement greener transport and travel measures to reduce carbon emissions.</p> <p>Encourage community-based solutions.</p> <p>Authority developing a fleet of electric vehicles</p> <p>Ensure that public transport routes are clearly linked with promoted trails and routes.</p>	<p>Further develop the principles established by martin Higgitt, and potentially apply these to other parts of the NP;</p> <p>Is it possible to quantify carbon impacts of transportation use in the NP. This would enable better informed planning decisions to be made – currently car dependent development are still getting approved</p> <p>Need for strategy to manage transport use from the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone</p> <p>Develop cycle network that services local communities, education and employment – and not just tourism / recreation</p> <p>Authority's contribution through continuing to develop fleet of EV, but also working from home etc</p>

<p>Improve information and marketing in relation to how people get to the park and travel around, ensuring that the most sustainable options are promoted and highlighted.</p>	
INDUSTRY SECTOR	
Current Contribution / Commitments:	What more can be done? Issues for Authority's Carbon Strategy
<p>Cynllun Eryri seeks to support and promote training, employment and business opportunities relating or complementing the National Park's second purpose and Special Qualities, and the health and well-being theme.</p> <p>The LDP seeks to promote reasonably sized employment opportunities, including an Enterprise Zone, in the NP.</p>	<p>There are certainly opportunities for the Authority to promote the Green and Circular economy within the NP – this will help encourage and develop low carbon industry.</p>
LAND USE / AGRICULTURE	
Current Contribution / Commitments:	What more can be done? Issues for Authority's Carbon Strategy
<p>LDP policies seek to protect the natural resources, biodiversity, geodiversity, cultural heritage and special qualities of the National Park. Woodlands are also protected in this regard and developments are pushed towards existing settlements. However, there is no specific target regarding this policy with regard to carbon emission or carbon sequestration.</p> <p>Co-ordinate the production of a Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) for Eryri to include the most recent data and specific biodiversity targets.</p> <p>Reconnect fragmented areas of woodland. Expand native tree cover on National Park owned land. Encourage optimal management of existing woodland to safeguard its ecological condition. E.g. LIFE Celtic Rainforest</p> <p>Continue to utilise and enhance natural carbon sinks within the National Park. Reduce, and where possible reverse, the erosion and degradation of peatlands, including by grip blocking in the uplands and restoration of lowland agricultural peats.</p> <p>Explore carbon offsetting and opportunities for financial support for carbon offsetting.</p>	<p>Build upon these existing projects – pulling these together into a coherent carbon strategy will make the pathway to low carbon land use much easier to understand.</p> <p>The Authority's role as a partner with Welsh Government in any future land management scheme must be developed further, with an emphasis on sustainable grazing schemes.</p> <p>Further develop Peatland Code / Carbon Code projects, along with other actions in the Authority's Peatland Strategy.</p> <p>Explore the potential for carbon credits and trading scheme</p> <p>Nature Recovery will be an important objective for Welsh Government – and Authority will need to include this in any impending low carbon strategy. This is closely linked to NRW's SoNaR report.</p> <p>There are 2 large unexplored topics that the Authority must further develop – the National Forest and its associated woodland planting targets and the new support scheme for Agriculture in Wales. Further work is therefore needed on these.</p>

<p>Encourage the maintenance of permanent grassland and avoid soil disturbance.</p> <p>Research land-use and patterns of change in order to better improve decision making</p> <p>Create and refine a public goods scheme</p>	<p>Research on planting of trees v natural regeneration (rhododendron and bracken considered problematic) requires better understanding with positives and negatives exposed</p> <p>Carbon Broker: Work progressing with WG officers to formulate a grant bid and Palladium company regarding the joint Wales National Parks Net Zero with Nature portfolio exercise</p>
WASTE MANAGEMENT	
Current Contribution / Commitments:	What more can be done? Issues for Authority's Carbon Strategy
<p>Cynllun Eryri has many actions in relation to waste management including – although not all of these will necessarily impact upon the National Park's carbon account;</p> <p>Research a move towards use of more sustainable packaging in our retail outlets</p> <p>Research a move to 'plastic free zones' in Snowdonia and identify feasible alternatives</p> <p>Explore the possibility of developing the first free water-refill village/ region in the National Park</p> <p>Work with existing litter reduction campaigns and implement messages on a local scale</p> <p>Work with relevant partners to ensure a co-ordinated approach for sustainable management of organised events</p> <p>Work within national partnerships to share good practice</p> <p>Maintain and implement a Recreation Strategy to sustainably manage any potential conflict between users</p> <p>With regard to the LDP, larger waste management facilities will generally be located outside the National Park.</p>	<p>Many of these are positive schemes that should be further developed – although possibly many linked to wider behaviour change strategies rather than directly to reducing carbon impacts.</p>

ITEM NO. 17

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	12 June 2024
TITLE	MEMBERS ATTENDANCE
REPORT BY	Director of Corporate Services
PURPOSE	For information

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Authority has previously requested that an annual report be prepared detailing Members' attendance at Authority and Committee meetings. There is set out below details of such attendance for the period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 for consideration by the Authority. The details have been broken down to attendance of individual members at Authority, Planning and Access, Performance and Resources and the Standards Committee. Where a member has been unable to attend because he or she has been away on Authority business this is noted in the record of attendance.

2.0 MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE 01.04.23 – 31.03.24

Committee	Authority	Planning & Access	Performance & Resources
Number of meetings	7	8	3
Members	Attended		
Cllr. Elwyn Edwards	7	8	3
Cllr. Annwen Hughes	6	7	2
Cllr. Edgar W. Owen	7	8	3
Cllr. Elfed P. Roberts	6	6	3
Cllr. Louise Hughes	7	5	2

Cllr. June Jones	6	8	2
Cllr. Kim Jones (resigned from the Authority on 06.12.23)	3 (from a possible 4)	2 (from a possible 5)	0 (from a possible 2)
Cllr. Einir Wyn Williams (appointed on 01.02.24)	2 (from a possible 2)	1 (from a possible 1)	1 (from a possible 1)
Cllr. Meryl Roberts	7	8	3
Cllr. Jo Nuttall	7	8	3
Cllr. Dilwyn Owain Roberts	5	8	2
Cllr. John Pughe Roberts	7	7	2
Cllr. Ifor Glyn Lloyd	5	6	2
Mr. Brian Angell	7	8	3
Ms. Tracey Evans	7	7	3
Mr. Tim Jones	6	5	3
Mrs. Sarah Hattle	3	6	2
Ms. Naomi Luhde- Thompson	3	5	1
Ms. Delyth Lloyd	7	8	3

Committee	Standards	Standards	Total
Date	28.04.23	01.09.23	2
Cyng. Elfed P. Roberts	✓	✓	2
Cyng. Dilwyn Roberts	✓	✓	2
Mrs. Sarah Hattle	X	✓ (asked not to attend to ensure a Quorum)	1

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

**MAIN MEETINGS ARRANGED/ ADMINISTERED
01.04.23 – 31.03.24**

MEETING	HELD	PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE
AUTHORITY	7	86%
PLANNING AND ACCESS	8	86%
PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES	3	80%
STANDARDS COMMITTEE	2	83%
TOTAL	20	85%

MEETING	HELD	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
AUTHORITY	7	86%	81%	85%	88%
PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES	8	80%	85%	86%	87%
PLANNING AND ACCESS	3	86%	81%	79%	87%
STANDARDS COMMITTEE	2	83%	67%	100%	100%
TOTAL	20	85%	81%	82%	88%

3.2 As can be seen the overall percentage attendance shows a consistent range from 80% for the Performance and Resources Committee to 86% for both the Authority and Planning and Access Committee with an overall average of 85%. The figures show a consistency in attendance when compared with previous years.

4.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 This report is submitted for information purposes only.

MEETING	Snowdonia National Park Authority
DATE	12 June 2024
TITLE	WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS
REPORT BY	Head of Administration and Customer Care
PURPOSE	Monitoring Report on the Authority's Welsh Language Standards

1. BACKGROUND

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

2. RECOMMENDATION

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

3. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 3.1. Welsh Language Standards: 2023/24 Monitoring Report.



Snowdonia National Park Authority's Welsh Language Standards: 2023/24 Monitoring Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 On the 30th of September 2015, the Welsh Language Commissioner issued the Authority with a Compliance Notice in accordance with section 44 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, which confirmed the Welsh Language Standards that the Authority is subject to.
- 1.2 As is required on an annual basis, this Monitoring Report looks back over the financial year 2023-24, and reports on how the Authority has complied with, and performed against each of the 162 Standards given to it.
- 1.3 This Annual Report is presented for approval to the Annual General Meeting of the Authority in June each year, before being published on the Authority's website. Publicity is given to the Annual Report via the Authority's social media channels.
- 1.4 The Head of Administration and Customer Care has the day-to-day responsibility over implementing the standards, and contact should be made by sending an e-mail to Bethan.Hughes@eryri.llyw.cymru or by telephoning 01766 772530 to discuss any matter relating to this report.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The 2023-24 financial year has seen continued staff turnover, with 33 new or vacant posts being advertised during the year. On the 31st of March 2024, the Authority had 149 staff, of which 142 were able to undertake the duties of their post bilingually, which is 95.3%.
- 2.2 It has been noted in the annual reports over the last few years that staff recruitment and retention is a major issue for the Authority, and although it is acknowledged that this is a national problem, with all kinds of sectors experiencing difficulties in recruiting positions at all levels, it nonetheless remains a risk for the Authority.

- 2.3 The Authority recognises that certain specialist work areas are particularly vulnerable to recruitment difficulties nationally, and with the added language requirements that we have, the recruitment pool is limited. Due to this, the Authority has this year invested in creating a Graduate Trainee Planning Officer post specialising in the Historical Environment.
- 2.4 The recruitment process was extremely encouraging with a high number of good quality applicants applying for the position. This has shown us that there is a pool of talented Welsh speaking young people out there who are eager to work for the Authority.
- 2.5 Over the coming year, it is hoped that at least one other Graduate Trainee position can be created in the planning service, which will go some way to improving future resilience within the team. Official confirmation of this will be subject to a positive financial assessment.
- 2.6 Staying on the topic of staff recruitment; although the test case that was due to be held in the previous financial year which challenged the Welsh language skills level requirements of certain posts as being discriminatory, was settled out of court; we continue to be mindful of the need for our assessments to remain robust.
- 2.7 Following further guidance from the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office which included a seminar with a Solicitor from Darwin Gray, the Authority reviewed its use of its Welsh Language Skills Framework. Although the framework was robust and that assessments were consistent, it became apparent that language requirements were set too high for some posts, which could not be justified.
- 2.8 As a result, the Head of Administration and Customer Care produced a detailed guidance document for Heads of Service and other key staff who are responsible for assessing language needs for posts. This new guidance document now enables staff to look in greater depth at the requirements of each post through a series of questions. This enables staff to more accurately identify the skill level required for each of the 4 elements – listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- 2.9 The Head of Administration and Customer Care continues to moderate each assessment to ensure consistency. The revised process now gives us greater confidence on the robustness of our assessments, should we ever receive a legal challenge.
- 2.10 Another assessment that was reviewed this year was the process for assessing the impact on the Welsh language of our policy decisions. The Authority had been conducting these assessments as part of an integrated impact assessment which included equality and socio-economic considerations.

- 2.11 Following attendance at 2 seminars with Gwion Lewis, KC of Landmark Chambers, which was again organised by the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office, it became clear that the Authority's assessment process was not adequate.
- 2.12 The Authority's process involved going out to public consultation prior to conducting a full impact assessment so that responses could be incorporated. However, the advice was clear that this approach is no longer sufficient. A full impact assessment should be made prior to the consultation so that the public can see what effects there may be on a policy decision. This assessment can then be revised further after the consultation process if further impacts and mitigation measures are identified.
- 2.13 Although not a necessity, the Welsh language impact assessment has now been separated from the integrated assessment, and will be a standalone document with more in depth assessment and analysis for each policy decision.
- 2.14 And finally, it is a pleasure to note that the first full year of different work streams and projects outlined in the Authority's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy for 2022 – 27 have been completed. The Authority continues to integrate the promotion of the language into all aspects of its work, which we hope will contribute to strengthening the Welsh language in Eryri over the coming years.

3. Service Delivery Standards

- 3.1 Correspondence (Standards 1-7): The Authority sends out correspondence in the language of choice of the recipient, or in cases when this is not known a bilingual version of the correspondence is sent.
- 3.2 When bilingual correspondence is sent out, the Welsh and English language is treated equally by appearing side by side (where this is possible), with the same font and size used in both languages. On rare occasions when separate Welsh and English correspondence is produced, both versions are identical in terms of font and size, including contact details, signatures etc.
- 3.3 Telephone Calls (Standards 8-22): All staff who work at the Authority's main receptions and Information Centres are fully bilingual and accordingly are able to deal with all enquiries through the medium of Welsh at the first point of contact.
- 3.4 The Authority has an automated menu on the main contact number, which gives a choice to proceed in Welsh or English. Menu choices are then given in the language chosen. The pre-recorded message for out of hours is bilingual with the message in Welsh being transmitted first.

- 3.5 When contact is made through a direct line telephone number, staff are instructed to greet the caller with a bilingual greeting (with the Welsh first) or with a neutral greeting, ensuring that the Welsh language is not treated less favourably than the English language.
- 3.6 When contact is made through a direct line telephone number, staff are instructed to set a bilingual message on their voice mail, with the Welsh message playing first. For those who have not set a voicemail message, a standard Welsh greeting, recorded by one of the reception staff, asking the caller to leave a message is played instead.
- 3.7 As the majority of the Authority staff are bilingual, any calls from Welsh speakers are dealt with at the first point of contact. For the staff that are not fully able to carry out a full conversation in Welsh confidently, they will transfer the call to a colleague without any delay.
- 3.8 Meetings (Standards 23-38): All meetings arranged with an individual have and will continue to be conducted in the language of choice of the individual. For meetings that have been arranged for a group of individuals, they will be conducted in Welsh with simultaneous translation being arranged for any non-Welsh speakers in attendance (unless none of the invited individuals are able to communicate in Welsh, in which case the meeting will be conducted in English).
- 3.9 All public meetings of the Authority have and will continue to be conducted in Welsh with simultaneous translation available for those who cannot communicate through the Welsh language.
- 3.10 The Authority's committees are all hybrid, giving Members and staff the choice of whether to attend in person or online. For members of the public, they also now have the choice of observing these committees in person or through the live webcast for the Authority and Planning and Access Committee or later through the YouTube channel.
- 3.11 All publicity, written materials and any documentation produced by the Authority and handed out at public events or meetings are fully bilingual, with the Welsh and English languages treated equally.
- 3.12 Public Documentation (Standards 40-51): All the Authority's public documents, including forms are either bilingual with the Welsh appearing first or on the left hand side of the document or are two separate Welsh and English documents. The Welsh and English languages are treated equally, with the same font and size of text used for both languages. The Welsh and English language versions are usually in a separate document when they are published on the website, and a sentence is included on the English version, stating that a Welsh version is available.

- 3.13 Website, Apps and Social Media (Standards 52-59): The Authority's website and apps are fully bilingual with the user being able to choose their preferred language on the home page. Every single page of the new website has a toggle button which can be used to access the other language. All pages correspond fully between both languages.
- 3.14 The Authority has corresponding Welsh and English or bilingual versions of its social media accounts. All messages from the Authority are replicated identically on the Welsh and English versions of the various social media sites, or bilingually in some instances. Any messages received in Welsh through social media are always answered in Welsh.
- 3.15 Self-service Machines (Standard 60): All the Authority's pay and display machines in the car parks are able to provide the service in Welsh and English. On older machines, the initial screen displays a language choice before proceeding whilst newer machines change language every 3 seconds.
- 3.16 Signs (Standards 61-63): All signs erected by the Authority are fully bilingual, with the Welsh appearing first or on the left hand side. The Welsh and English languages are treated equally, with the same font and size of text used for both languages.
- 3.17 Reception Services (Standards 64-68): As previously stated all staff who work at the main reception areas or at Information Centres are fully bilingual. Each reception has the 'Iaith Gwaith' logo on display to indicate that a Welsh service is available and all reception staff have been given 'Iaith Gwaith' badges.
- 3.18 Official Notices (Standards 69-70): When the Authority publishes or displays an Official Notice they are always fully bilingual, with the Welsh appearing first or on the left hand side. The Welsh and English languages are treated equally, with the same font and size of text used for both languages.
- 3.19 Grant Schemes (Standards 71-75): The Authority has several grant schemes, namely
- Cronfa Partneriaeth Eryri Partnership Fund;
 - Building grants in Dolgellau through the Dolgellau Townscape Heritage Initiative;
 - Cronfa Cymunedol y Carneddau which is funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund; and
 - Celtic Rainforest Fund which is funded by the EU LIFE.
- 3.20 For each of the grant schemes, all documentation including application forms and guidance notes are fully bilingual, and correspondence is carried out in the language of choice of the applicant or bilingually.

- 3.21 In addition, for those grants which are for community based projects, events and activities; conditions are set upon the grant to ensure that all activities and documentation funded by the grants are fully bilingual. The Authority has a formal Policy in place on Awarding Grants in relation to the Welsh language implications.
- 3.22 Contract Tenders (Safonau 76-80): All Public Notices for Invitations to Tender or to Express an Interest are produced bilingually and usually published on the Authority's website. They are also published on the Sell2Wales website bilingually.
- 3.23 All submissions received in Welsh have been processed and treated in the same way as submission in English, and correspondence is carried out in the language of choice of the applicant or bilingually.
- 3.24 Corporate Identity and Promoting Services (Standards 81-83): The Authority's corporate identity has been fully bilingual since its inception, with the Welsh and English language being treated on the basis of equality. Any future changes or rebranding of the corporate identity will either adhere to this founding principle or will use Welsh only in relation to the name Eryri (Snowdonia).
- 3.25 The Authority does not provide the same services separately in Welsh and English, but rather offers a bilingual service with one point of contact. The promotion of any services is therefore done bilingually, unless using some social media channels, in line with the Authority's corporate identity, ensuring that the Welsh and English language is treated on the basis of equality.
- 3.26 Education Courses (Standards 84-86): The Authority no longer runs its own public education courses at Plas Tan y Bwlch. This standard is therefore no longer applicable to the Authority.
- 3.27 Public Address System (Standard 87): The Authority currently does not have any public address systems in place across its buildings.
- 3.28 Complaints relating to Complying with the Service Delivery Standards
During the year no complaints were received relating to the way in which the Authority complied with the Service Delivery Standards.

4. Policy Making Standards

- 4.1 Policy Formulation and Associated Consultation (Standards 88-93): With every new policy* that is developed (or if a present policy is revised and updated) an Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment screening process is undertaken as part of the process. This integrated assessment process has been extended to include the socio-economic duty.
**Policy is defined in its wider context to include plans and strategies*
- 4.2 However, during the year this process has been reviewed and adapted following further information received by the Welsh Language Commissioner. Following 2 online events in which both legal and practical advice was received from a Barrister, officers have now got a much better understanding of how best to conduct meaningful and comprehensive Welsh language impact assessments when developing new policies. As a result, the Welsh language impact assessment is no longer integrated with the equality and socio-economic impact assessment, but is rather a stand alone impact assessment.
- 4.3 The biggest change to the process is that the impact assessment is conducted in full prior to any public consultation. It is then further revised if consultation responses highlight further impacts and their effects. As has always been the case, Members of the Authority will also have an opportunity to scrutinise the proposed policy at various points through this process. If any negative impacts are identified, further work is done to identify mitigating measures. Members would have full involvement on the decision of whether the mitigation measures are likely to be sufficient and to decide whether to proceed with the policy.
- 4.4 A Guidance Document for staff is in place outlining the requirement to ask specific questions regarding the impact (either positive or negative) of any proposal on the Welsh language, opportunities to use the Welsh language and opportunities to promote the language, which goes out with a copy of the impact assessment. The document also includes examples of appropriate wording to use in different consultation documents, which has been circulated to all services within the Authority.
- 4.5 Awarding Grants and Commissioning Research and Projects (Standards 94-97): The requirement to take into consideration the effect (both positive or negative) on the Welsh language has been fully integrated into Cronfa Eryri, the commissioning fund. Additional conditions on the use and the promotion of Welsh, and to ensure equality for the Welsh language will continue to be part of the fund's requirements.

- 4.6 Complaints relating to Complying with the Policy Making Standards
During the year no complaints were received relating to the way in which the Authority complied with the Policy Making Standards

5. Operational Standards

- 5.1 On the 31st of March 2024, the Authority employed 149 staff of which 142 are bilingual, representing 95.3%.
- 5.2 Using Welsh internally (Standard 98): Since its inception, the Authority has established through custom and practice that the main language of internal communications is Welsh, with English being used as required. A policy is now in place on the use of Welsh internally. This formalises the custom and practice and to assist new staff of operational expectations.
- 5.3 Staff Documentation (Standards 99-104): The Authority has a fully bilingual policy in place for all human resources matters. In practice, this means that all documentation relating to the employment of an individual is produced in Welsh as standard and given to all staff members. Staff can request an English version of any document if they wish. Any correspondence that is sent out periodically from the human resources service to individual staff members is also usually produced in Welsh only and occasionally bilingually.
- 5.4 Human Resources Policies (Standards 105-111): All human resources policies are produced bilingually as standard.
- 5.5 Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures (Standards 112-119): Staff are welcome to correspond in the language of their choice. Both Welsh and English are treated equally and there would be no delay in responding to correspondence received in either language. Disciplinary or appeal hearings are all conducted in the language of choice of the staff member, as well as all related documentation and correspondence.
- 5.6 Computer Software (Standard 120): Every staff computer and laptop has Cysgliad installed for checking spelling and grammar in Welsh, as standard.
- 5.7 Staff Intranet (Standards 121-126): All policies and documents uploaded to the Authority's intranet are bilingual or have separate Welsh and English versions.
- 5.8 Skills Assessment (Standard 127): Data from the staff skills assessment is set out in Appendix 1.
- 5.9 Training (Standards 128-133): General training courses are always provided in Welsh where possible. During 2023-24, 25 members of staff attended a course entirely through Welsh.

- 5.10 Employees who cannot fully communicate in Welsh or who need to improve their skills in order to meet the post requirements are given assistance to attend Welsh language courses and training, which can be undertaken in work time. Two members of staff attended Welsh / Improving Welsh courses during the year and other one employee undertook online training.
- 5.11 E-mail Signatures and Contact Details (Standards 134-135): The Authority uses the 'Iaith Gwaith' badge for Welsh language speakers and learners to place within their e-mail signature. All contact details provided as part of an e-mail signature are fully bilingual, as required in the Authority's 'Clear Communications' booklet, the guide for staff on customer service standards and house style.
- 5.12 Vacant Posts and Recruitment (Standards 136-140): During 2023-24, 33 vacant posts were advertised. Of these, all were classed as Welsh essential.
- 5.13 A Welsh language skills framework was developed at the start of 2020, which classifies the required skill level for each post from 0 to 5+ in for categories, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each Head of Service now scores each new or vacant post, with the scoring being moderated by the Head of Administration and Customer Care, before receiving final approval from the Management Team. Applicants are now aware before applying, the exact skill level required for the position.
- 5.14 During the year a new more comprehensive template for assessing skill levels of each post was produced along with a detailed guidance document. The aim of this is to give Heads of Service more information about the various aspects to consider when assessing an appropriate skill level, and to have more detailed justification for each score which gives a clear audit trail.
- 5.15 All recruitment advertisements are promoted on different social media channels. Depending on the channel, the posts are either bilingual or are produced in Welsh and English separately but are always posted together without exception. The Authority uses Webrecruits to accept and process applications, which allows applicants to submit their applications online. All documentation is available bilingually e.g. application form, job description, person specification and equality monitoring form. Job interviews are conducted in Welsh.
- 5.16 The Webrecruits system sends out an e-mail to job applicants if they have been unsuccessful in their application and have not been selected for interview. This e-mail is in Welsh and English. Letters or e-mails sent to job applicants informing them of the outcome of their interview are sent out in Welsh only or bilingually.

- 5.17 Internal Signage and Announcements (Standards 141-144): All signs erected by the Authority are fully bilingual, with the Welsh appearing first or on the left hand side. The Welsh and English languages are treated equally, with the same font and size of text used for both languages. The Authority doesn't currently have an internal address system.
- 5.18 Complaints relating to Complying with the Operational Standards
During the year no complaints were received relating to the way in which the Authority complied with the Operational Standards.

6. Promotion Standards

- 6.1 Promoting the Welsh Language (Standards 145-146): On the 22nd of March 2023 the Authority's Performance and Resources Committee adopted a new Strategy for Promoting the Welsh Language for the next five year period.
- 6.2 The strategy includes a target to "at least maintain the current number of Welsh speakers in Eryri, and to work with our public sector partners on increasing the numbers over the next 5 years".
- 6.3 As our previous Strategy demonstrated, although we cannot link the effect of our Welsh language promotion activities directly on the number of Welsh speakers in Eryri, there is still plenty of positive work we can undertake to influence the overall number. With this in mind, we have also set a second target of increasing the number of opportunities to use the Welsh language in Eryri. This target is both meaningful and measurable and within the control of the Authority.

7. Record Keeping and Supplementary Standards

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

APPENDIX 1

1. Staff Skill Levels - Overview

The number and % of staff within the Authority's services which are able to speak Welsh according to directorate			
	No. of Staff	No. of Welsh Speakers	%
Corporate	76	74	97%
Planning and Land Management	73	68	93%

The number and % of staff within the Authority's services which are able to speak Welsh according to post grade			
	No. of Staff	No. of Welsh Speakers	%
Management Team	3	3	100%
Heads of Service	12	12	100%
Grade 7+	77	72	93%
Up to Grade 6	57	55	96%

The number and % of staff within the Authority's services which are able to speak Welsh according to workplace			
	No. of Staff	No. of Welsh Speakers	%
Head Office	98	92	94%
Information Centres	11	11	100%
External Staff	30	30	100%
Plas Tan y Bwlch	10	9	90%

2. Staff Skill Levels by Service

Corporate Directorate

The number and % of staff within the service which are able to speak Welsh			
Section	No. of Staff	No. of Welsh Speakers	%
Management Team	3	3	100%
Finance	4	4	100%
Human Resources	4	4	100%
Administration & Customer Care	9	9	100%
Information Systems	5	4	80%
Property	7	7	100%
Legal	1	1	100%
Cyfathrebu	6	6	100%
Plas Tan y Bwlch	10	9	90%
Wardens	27	27	100%

Number and % of staff within the service, by post grades, which are able to speak Welsh			
Section	No. of Staff	No. of Welsh Speakers	%
Chief Executive	1	1	100%
Director	1	1	100%
Heads of Service	7	7	100%
Grade 7+	32	31	97%
Up to Grade 6	35	34	97%

Planning and Land Management

The number and % of staff within the service which are able to speak Welsh			
Section	No. of Staff	No. of Welsh Speakers	%
Director	1	1	100%
Development Management & Compliance	13	10	77%
Planning Policy	4	4	100%
Cultural Heritage	14	14	100%
Conservation, Trees and Agriculture	22	20	90%
Information Centres	11	11	100%
Partnerships	8	8	100%

Number and % of staff within the service, by post grades, which are able to speak Welsh			
Section	No. of Staff	No. of Welsh Speakers	%
Director	1	1	100%
Heads of Service	5	5	100%
Grade 7+	45	41	91%
Up to Grade 6	22	21	95%

3. Staff Skill Levels – Reception

The number and % of posts in the main reception areas that have been designated 'Welsh essential' and that were filled by bilingual staff.			
Section	No. of Staff	No. of Welsh Speakers	%
Head Office	6	6	100%
Plas Tan y Bwlch	1	1	100%
Information Centres	8	8	100%

MEETING	Annual General Meeting
DATE	12 th June 2024
TITLE	CYNLLUN ERYRI ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2023
REPORT BY	Head of Partnerships
PURPOSE	To report on the third year of implementation of the National Park Management Plan

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The National Park Authority is required by law to prepare a plan to provide effective management involving all those concerned with the future of Eryri. The plan sets out how we will all work together to look after Eryri National Park.
- 1.2 In order to engage key partners in the development and delivery of the Plan, Fforwm Eryri meets on a quarterly basis and is an opportunity for all those involved in shaping Eryri's future to galvanise their approach to joint working in the region and beyond. Through this purpose, the Forum provides a new way of working with relevant partners in delivery of Section 62 duties of the Environment Act of 1995.
- 1.3 In October 2020 members adopted Cynllun Eryri as the new National Park (Partnership) Management Plan for the period 2020-25.
- 1.4 Since then, Partners have been implementing the Action Plan and reporting back to the Head of Partnerships and at quarterly meetings of Fforwm Eryri.
- 1.5 The Action Plan has been divided into themes and is in three sections - relating to the two statutory purposes and duty of the National Park Authority.
- 1.6 The enclosed Annual Monitoring Report (Annex 1) is the third of its kind and covers the period from **January – December 2023**.
- 1.7 2025 marks the end of the current version of Cynllun Eryri and a new Action Plan for 2025-30 will be produced during 2025 for adoption by Partners and Members.

2. PROGRESS REPORT

- 2.1 The Report enclosed begins with an Introduction and Executive Summary.
- 2.2 A full report follows where each Outcome is assessed in relation to the Measurements of Success as agreed by all Partners in the original Action Plan of Cynllun Eryri.
- 2.3 Each Outcome begins with an overall assessment, which is coloured according to a traffic light system. Consideration is given as to whether the original timeline is still relevant, and what (if anything) could prevent the Action from being achieved by 2025.
- 2.4 A detailed reminder of the Action Plan relating to this Outcome and an update on progress by all relevant partners follows.
- 2.5 In its third year of implementation, a significant degree of progress has been made on the Action Plan of Cynllun Eryri.
- 2.6 Next year's report will need to include any Actions to be carried into the new version of Cynllun Eryri for 2025-30.

3. KEY POINTS TO NOTE

- 3.1 It is fair to conclude that following three years of delivery – in challenging circumstances – progress has been achieved in all Outcomes on the Action Plan of Cynllun Eryri.
- 3.2 Nevertheless, changing circumstances have needed to be reflected in some of the detail of the Action Plan, which has also meant that timelines have been reassessed.
- 3.3 *Outcome 2.1 Work together to maintain, restore and expand habitats and species* is the only Outcome not yet to have been progressed fully, due to the ongoing discussions between Welsh Government and the Agricultural sector on a new Sustainable Farming Scheme. That said, the wording has been amended and approved with Partners in May 2023 and detailed discussions were held in December 2023 on possible avenues ahead. This is an example of an Outcome which will need to be carried into the new management plan, due to changing priorities globally, nationally and politically.
- 3.4 *Outcome 1.5 Reduce any negative impacts of recreational activities, and the Action to: Work with relevant partners to ensure a coordinated approach for sustainable management of organised events* – requires leadership to drive the process forward. An initial partnership has been formed and tentative discussions are taking place, but this Action will also need to be revised and carried forward into the new version of the Management Plan.

- 3.5 *Outcome B1: The National Park is having a positive impact on Well-Being* is an example where Partners are delivering over and above the adopted Actions and Measurements of success.
- 3.6 *Outcome C1: The language, culture and heritage of Eryri is being celebrated, supported and strengthened* is a further example of where Partners are delivering above and beyond the adopted Measurements of Success. That is not to say that there isn't still important work to do on both of the previous points.
- 3.7 The 2024 Annual Progress Report will continue to consider any risks posed which could influence the delivery of the full Action Plan by 2025 and note those Outcomes and Actions which will need to be taken into the revised Cynllun Eryri of 2025-30.
- 3.8 It is worth noting here that 2025 will see a series of workshops and discussion sessions to agree on a revised Action Plan and Members will be regularly able to feed into this process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For members to:

1. Note the progress made to date regarding the delivery of Cynllun Eryri; and
2. Provide any further recommendations regarding the format of the Annual Monitoring Report for 2024

CYNLLUN

ERYRI

THE ERYRI NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP PLAN

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2023

CYNLLUN ERYRI – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2023

Cynllun Eryri was adopted by the National Park Authority as its statutory (Partnership) Management Plan in October 2020 and officially launched in November 2020. This is the third report of annual progress capturing input from all Partners from January – December 2023. Previous annual reports can be viewed on the Eryri National Park website [here](#):

Whilst 2023 continued to be challenging for all Partners, in gathering information for this report it is clear that outstanding examples of Cynllun Eryri's goals being progressed continue to develop at apace across the region. To see a snapshot of these, please visit Cynllun Eryri's microsite here: [Cynllun Eryri](#)

Partnerships

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

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

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

Cwm Idwal Partnership, lead partner NT: SNPA & NRW

EU LIFE Celtic Rainforest Project 2020-2027 lead partner SNPA: Welsh Government, RSPB, Woodland Trust.

The first Annual Report reflected the difficulties of progressing on-the-ground work due to the restrictions initiated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Several timelines were reassessed accordingly and the traffic light measurements below were adopted to reflect this. This system is still relevant to reflect whether each objective is on track to be delivered within the timeline of the overall plan i.e. by 2025.

Status:  Progressed, within original timelines  Progressing with reassessed timelines  Not progressed and/or at risk

Acronyms used for delivery partners:

The British Mountaineering Council: BMC	National Farming Union Wales: NFU Cymru
Cadw	National Trust: NT
Coleg Glynllifon: CoG	Natural Resources Wales: NRW
Conwy County Borough Council: CCBC	North Wales Wildlife Trusts: NWWT
Country Land and Business Association: CLA	Outdoor Partnership: OP
Cymdeithas Eryri / Snowdonia Society: CESS	Public Health Wales: PHW
Cyngor Gwynedd: CG	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: RSPB
Farmers Union of Wales: FUW	Snowdonia Active: SA
Federation of Small Businesses: FSB	Snowdonia National Park Authority: SNPA
Grŵp Cynefin: Cynefin	Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau: PLAS
John Muir Trust: JMT	Woodland Trust: WT

Executive summary

In its third year of implementation, significant progress has been made on the Action Plan of Cynllun Eryri. The report details progress by all delivery partners, however in short, from January – December 2023 the following can be concluded:

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

- Outcome A1: Sustainable Tourism principles are achieved - 4 actions are progressed and are within the original timelines set and 1 is progressing with reassessed timelines.
- Outcome A2: Biodiversity is being maintained and enhanced, whilst the resilience of ecosystems is increased - 3 actions are progressed and are within the original timelines set and 2 are progressing with reassessed timelines.
- Outcome A3: We are prepared for the impacts of climate change and are reducing our carbon footprint - both actions are progressed and are within the original timelines set.
- Outcome A4: Eryri is at the forefront internationally in successfully tackling invasive species, pests and diseases that impact on native species - all 3 actions are progressed and are within the original timelines set.
- Outcome A5: Communities, businesses and visitors play an active role in caring for the National Park's landscapes, habitats, wildlife and cultural heritage - both actions are progressed and are within the original timelines set.
- Outcome A6: Eryri is a leading example in Wales of how to care for and champion cultural heritage and the historic environment - all 3 actions are progressed and are within the original timelines set.
- Outcome A7: Our Special Qualities are well protected - 5 actions are progressed and are within the original timelines set and one is progressing with reassessed timelines. .

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

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




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

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

There are currently no Outcomes which have been assessed as Not progressed and/or at risk. It is therefore fair to conclude that progress has been achieved in all areas of the Action Plan of Cynllun Eryri in the year 2023.

A detailed report of progress from all Partners follows with an overview and assessment at the beginning of each Outcome.

Status:

-  **Progressed, within original timelines**
-  **Progressing with reassessed timelines**
-  **Not progressed and/or at risk**

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

OUTCOME A1

Sustainable Tourism principles are achieved.

Are we within our timeline? Yes



Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

- Strategic Plan for a Sustainable Visitor Economy Gwynedd and Eryri adopted in 2023 – Partnership and Action Plan to be established: significant capacity and resource commitments needed.
- Ongoing investment from WG/TfW and partnership agreements will be needed to maintain the Parking and Transport Strategy roll out – annual assessment of this situation.
- Plastic Free Yr Wyddfa project only funded until 2024.
- A co-ordinated approach for sustainable management of organised events requires leadership and a new Partnership approach.

Conclusion:

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

Detailed 2023 progress report

Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
A1.1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop guiding principles and thresholds in relation to visitor impacts on the environment and landscape. The principles will define where further action in the form of area-based management plan is required: Develop a heat map Look at best practice examples from other areas Define thresholds and principles Select trial areas to pilot the approach Where there is environmental capacity and community led desire for an increase in visitors, explore options of redistribution of visitors from areas suffering from overcapacity 	<p>By the end of 2021 a heat map will be produced, thresholds and principles will be defined.</p> <p>A rationale, methodology and results will be presented in a findings report. Strategies will be established based on agreed guiding principles.</p>	<p>SNPA</p> <p>NRW</p> <p>Fforwm Eryri</p> <p>Gwynedd Council</p> <p>Conwy CBC</p>
<p>Progress report: SNPA: Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan for Gwynedd and Eryri 2035 launched in September 2023. Holistic measurements for the impacts of tourism are being developed in partnership between SNPA and CG. Guiding principles for the sustainable visitor economy have been developed through best practise examples and extensive consultation – these have been adopted officially by CG and SNPA. A Partnership is being developed to create an annual Action Plan aiming to achieve the overall principles. CCBC are working to take this through their democratic processes.</p> <p>CCBC: The revised Destination Management Plan was launched late 2023. The revised strategy places more emphasis on balancing the needs of the resident with the needs of the visitor which will help us promote sustainable tourism. We are now in the process of developing an Action Plan to accompany the strategy. SNPA are a member of the group working on this and have been included in all meetings to date.</p> <p>NRW have also been working with Natural England on new publications and film assets regarding the Countryside Code.</p> <p>BMC will share and publicise the Green Guide to the Uplands and continue to develop the ‘respect the wild’ series.</p>				
A1.2		<p>Ensure that uplands paths are well maintained to manage the impacts of erosion and prioritise work based on the number of footpath users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a multi-organisation working group to coordinate management Maintain funding and explore new sources (e.g. donations) Increase the use of volunteers for maintenance work Build a local contractor base for more skilled work 	<p>Annual assessments of progress will occur, baselines will be established, and sources of funding will be quantified.</p>	<p>SNPA; National Trust; NRW; Snowdonia Society; Conwy County Borough Council; Gwynedd Council; Volunteer Groups; Ramblers Cymru</p>


Progress report: SNPA: The Warden Service assesses and inspects routes using the route management system. Any path work, maintenance, improvements or projects are prioritised by an internal group which meets with external partners. Partnership working with the NT to offer a pitching training course for local contractors in 2024.

CESS: 28km of footpaths maintained (surface clearance and repairs, ditches and drains cleared), including Yr Wyddfa with SNPA. Organised 7 different events and 226 hours of volunteer time was put in.

NRW: Cwm Idwal NNR discussions around bridge over the river into Idwal to maintain access at a lower level. At Planning and design phase.

CCBC - Countryside have struggled to fund upland path maintenance outside of existing ENP SLA. Has had a negative impact on Conwy Mountain. A managed lowland heath reserve and common that straddles ENP boundary. More support needed going forward if we are to maintain such paths into the Carneddau from popular Conwy town.

BMC: Has launched Mend our Mountains 3 aimed at improving upland paths. This includes a number of "Get Stuck In" days for volunteers to help path maintenance works.


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

Progress report: SNPA: Plastic Free Yr Wyddfa Project have been active and successful in reaching several new audiences. The following projects are underway by the end term of the project in October 2024: Plastic free businesses accreditation and monitoring scheme; research work and intervention testing alongside Centre for Behavioural Change in Bangor University; Banancam; behavioural change campaigns; a water refill scheme; COPA1 youth environment summit in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy; standardising data collection in partnership with Trash Free Trails.

CESS: 517 bags of litter collected, weighing 1,282kg. This was sorted and recyclable items sent for recycling. Organised 63 work days to do this and 1,476 hours of volunteer work was put in. During 2023 CESS secured £249,940 from the Shared Prosperity Fund to support our Caru Eryri work during 2023/24.

NRW: Trash Free Trails litter picking event at Coed y Brenin. Summer Patrols at visitor hot spots to promote responsible access.

CG: The Street Watch Service continues to work with a wide range of community organisations and groups to ensure clean and tidy communities. The service is responsible for cleaning streets and waste bin and recycling services. The service has already worked with the National Park to introduce specialist bins that allow volunteers to store litter picking equipment in Llanberis. We will continue to strengthen our relationships into the future.

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

Progress report: SNPA: Delivery group established between SNPA, CG, CCBC and Transport for Wales (TfW). Delivery Plan is in the process of being developed. Incremental implementation of Yr Wyddfa Partnership's comprehensive Review of Parking and Transport continue in the Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen areas. Much greater focus on information regarding sustainable transport options for visitors.


CESS: Made a lengthy submission to the North Wales Transport Commission on the opportunities to reduce the impacts of parking and transport on the environment and landscape. We were disappointed with how little of this was included in the final report in Dec 2023, but we will continue to work with partners to seek solutions.

CCBC – Fflecsi Dyffryn Conwy a Demand responsive public transport service remains and service now extended to Dolwyddelan are of Conwy.

CCBC - We have installed e-bike chargers and bike maintenance stands on the seafronts at Llanfairfechan and Penmaenmawr – just outside the Park boundaries but encouraging more sustainable methods of travel to/within the Park

CCBC - Môr i'r Mynydd / Coast to Valley is a UK Government Levelling Up Funding (LUF) project and the vision is to create a long distance, safe, direct and attractive walking and cycling route from Llandudno Junction via the Conwy Valley to Betws y Coed, alongside improvements to local connectivity and flood resilience. LUF funding three projects, providing the opportunity to kickstart a programme of investment on a Coast to Valley Active Travel Route and improvements to general connectivity and resilience throughout the Conwy Valley: Glan Conwy to Llandudno Junction; Betws y Coed to Llanrwst; Trefriw B5106 Flood Resilience. Construction to be complete by March 2026.

CG: See update for B4.1

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

Progress report: SNPA: Position statement on Recreation in the Eryri National Park is due for adoption by the Authority in 2024 following consultation with partners. An update of the 'Guidance for Organised, Competitive, Recreational and Charitable events in the Eryri National Park' will be drafted in 2024. Shared events database for the Yr Wyddfa area has been launched and is being developed with input from users.

CESS: Organised 63 litter picking days through Caru Eryri as above.

NRW: reviewing its recreation strategy. Also looking into the development of flag system for events on NRW owned land and designated sites to help reduce the impact of organised events on the environment and make the process more joined up with other partners. Summer Patrols at Visitor hot spots to enforce Forestry and National Nature Reserve Bylaws especially concerning overnight camping. Communication Campaign to promote responsible access and the Countryside Code. No event permission granted during summer holidays.

NRW working with the Llifo Group in Conwy catchment – access and rec included in this

NRW continue to work with Nant Gwynant and Afon Cwm Llan waterfalls, water monitoring of Afon Cwm Llan completed for 2023 agreed to be repeated for 2024.

NRW, NT and SNPA continue to work in partnership at Idwal to promote responsible recreation. New interpretation, sensors weather equipment etc.

NRW working with ENP and NT on combined camping code pulled together by ENP.

NRW - the development of a permissions policy for NRW to provide better guidance on types of activities we can permit and the parameters we will apply when assessing events (reference zoning model) – supports strategy aim 1 (Facilitate health, well-being and learning opportunities) and 4 (Balance people and nature). Draft policy expected to be available end June 2024.

CCBC - Partnership working group informally discussed ways to address negative impacts (safety and environmental) of mountain bike downhill riders at Alltwen SSSI and Conwy Mountain. Members include LA staff, SNP staff, NRW staff member and NW police.

BMC continues to use the Regional Access Database (RAD) to update and monitor climbing areas for rock fall, land misuse and nesting bird restrictions. The Winter monitoring program has also been installed to help winter climbers make better decisions about when to go winter climbing.

OUTCOME A2

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

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


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

- Action A2.1 has been re-worded in 2023 to reflect guidance in the draft Sustainable Farming Scheme produced by Welsh Government
- Major progress has been made in the implementation of projects and new timelines following the impacts of Covid-19 on practical work across the Outcome.

Conclusion:

There has been progress against all measurements of success within Cynllun Eryri's Action Plan for Outcome A2, yet A2.1 remains in the hands of Welsh Government to confirm.


Detailed 2023 progress report

Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
A2.1		<p>A2.1. Work together to maintain, restore and expand habitats and species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring stakeholders together to build a consensus and define the public goods of Eryri • Produce an ambition statement • Use existing and new land mapping processes for the current picture of all habitats within the National Park • Research land-use and patterns of change in order to better improve decision making • Assess what has and hasn't worked in previous land management schemes • Define the role of partners in implementing the scheme • Up-skill the local workforce in order to successfully deliver the scheme (see also C2.2) 	<p>By 2025 we aim to create a forum and shared ambition statement.</p> <p>We will have produced an asset register of public goods, with land mapping.</p> <p>We will consider current and previous land management practices, assessing their strengths to create and refine a public goods scheme that the Partnership are confident delivering.</p>	<p>Welsh Government and all Partners</p> <p><i>Dependent upon outcomes of Sustainable Farming and Our Land consultation and Brexit negotiations</i></p>

Progress report: It was agreed by Fforwm Eryri in December 2022 that this action needed to be rewritten to reflect the reality of the situation in 2022/3. Welsh Government proposals for a Sustainable Farming Scheme have been discussed and the new wording relates to that. See: <https://www.gov.wales/sustainable-farming-scheme-outline-proposals-2025>

SNPA: The Authority has led on several substantial projects that deliver on this issue directly or as indirect consequences and has been granted stakeholder status the Designated Landscapes group to be part of the development of the Sustainable Farming Scheme. The stakeholder group was developed late in the day and has been limited in input and design. Key focus groups for Common land have been formed, but progress/activity has been minimal/slow. The Designated Landscapes group and SNPA responded to the SFS consultation offering positive amendments to the proposals to be more effective/attractive for uptake and adoption in Eryri.

FUW, NFU and CLA Cymru have been lobbying and responding to the consultations that have taken place so far.

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

Progress report: SNPA: further staff changes have delayed progress. To overcome issues regarding the Biodiversity Officer post, the Conservation team has re-structured the role and have appointed two part-time officers. A draft NRAP is hoped to be ready by spring 2024.

Re-establishment of the LNP in Eryri is also underway. The Conservation section has been leading on the development of a Trees and Woodland Strategy for Eryri which should be released in late spring 2024.

NRW continue to actively manage NNR's

NRW - working with Carneddau scheme (CLPS) especially National Trust on plans for heathland management (structural diversity, fire risk control) and bracken control for cough feeding area (not done on the ground yet but expected in 2024)

NRW - Work with CLPS for twite conservation in Nant Ffrancon – meadow management with National Trust and providing feed and feeders for supplementary feeding the birds.

NRW - Support for Natur am Byth – e.g. consenting collection of material for propagation ex-situ, and one trial reintroduction of plant.

Education resource pack in development to encourage the enhancement of biodiversity within school/settings grounds.

CCBC - Local Places for Nature Scheme supported heathland management works at Conwy Mountain within the vicinity of Wales Coast Path Upland Route and North Wales Path.

CCBC - Countryside Team have submitted a 5yr programme of works proposal to NRW for consideration on creating a s16 agreement for Conwy Mountain.


CCBC - As part of the Area Statement work led by NRW we are part of the development of a multi-thematic approach to project development looking at the Conwy Valley and Anglesey as initial pilot areas. This approach is titled Llifo (with a focus on the commonality between the PSB Well Being Objectives, the Opportunity Catchment priorities and North West Area statement. Relevant CCBC attend stakeholder meetings regarding future sustainable management of the Conwy Catchment.

CESS: We organised 50 separate events through our Helping Hands programme, all aimed at improving and protecting biodiversity, from removing invasive conifers, hedgerow planting, looking after the wildlife garden at Ty Hyll to a beach cleans. Overall 1,990 hours of volunteer time were put in.

NT: Ongoing partnership work to deliver landscape scale restoration projects – Carneddau Landscape Partnership, Uwch Conwy Catchment Project, Cwm Idwal Partnership. Tree and hedgerow planting on farms in Cwm Penmachno & Ogwen. Meadow restoration and management by rangers, farm managers and farm tenants. Invasive species control by rangers, volunteers, contractors and partners.

RSPB: Celtic Rainforests LIFE project currently has four woodlands in the Mawddach being grazed by two graziers. One grazier has between 2-3 highland cattle on a rotational grazing scheme between three of the sites all year round (Coed Garth Gell, Coed y Parc, and Abergwynant y Waen) while the other grazier has 5 Dexters on Abergwynant y Gribin between April and October.

Coed Cadw: Engagement and activity to protect, restore and increase appropriate tree and woodland cover within ENP in collaboration with ENPA, including on private sites and supporting the development of a Tree and Woodland Strategy for ENP using codesign to work with communities and different sectors to develop the content which will continue to endorse these messages. Successful delivery of the Nature Networks fund for essential work in Meirionnydd, improving the condition of woodlands on our own estate. Activity has included: Thinning of planted conifer within the ancient woodland at Coed Oerddwr within the Meirionnydd Oakwoods area. Assessment and management of grazing and browsing by wild and domestic herbivores at a number of woodlands. Starting the process of restoration or ffridd and expanding native tree cover at Coed Felenrhyd & Llennyrch. The WT continues to be an active partner in the Celtic Rainforest Project.


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

Progress report: SNPA: are undertaking proactive projects including three Natural Flood Management projects on two distinct catchments in the Park (Dyfrdwy and Mynach) along with a capital works project on part of the Eden. The Authority retains the School Hatchery Project rearing fish in local primary schools and releasing the fry into local water courses with the children, the current focus is on supporting the Dee LIFE project and schools in that catchment.

NRW: Review and addition of water quality actions for the Afon Gwyrfai and Llyn Cwellyn SAC/SSSI on NRW owned actions management system for sites (Safle). Work to develop an Ocean Literacy Strategy called Y Môr a Ni – lots of partners involved but led by NRW. Supporting the Porthmadog FRMS development education angle.

CCBC - Môr ir Mynydd Coast to Valley is a UK Government Levelling Up Funding(LUF) project and the vision is to create a long distance, safe, direct and attractive walking and cycling route from Llandudno Junction via the Conwy Valley to Betws y Coed, alongside improvements to local connectivity and flood resilience. Construction to be complete by March 2026.

Trefriw Flood Resilience: Trefriw is currently cut off during flood events. This project will provide improve flood resilience of the B5106 north to Dolgarrog and south to Llanrwst/ Betws y Coed. 19 different flood locations; Design and build as separate schemes; New culverts; Road raised in some Sections; Pumping station; Highway drainage; Construction to start in 2024; Road closures required


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

Progress report: SNPA: LIFE Celtic Rainforest project is confirmed extension to 2027 and delivering to schedule. Several projects delivering on fragmentation issue. All Forest Design Plans being responded to. Additional funding has been secured for AWS survey and supporting capital works on the sites to improve the condition of woodlands. The effect of ash die back continues to cause concern in terms of extent and effect on tree cover and connectivity within the Park. The ENP has embarked on developing a Trees and Woodland strategy, scheduled for completion in early 2024. The tree nursery is developing well, and the Woodland Trust has supported the development role of one of the team members to take greater lead on nursery and tree survey works.

CESS: Volunteers spent 381 hours at 11 events planting trees, collecting seeds or controlling Rhododendrens within woodland. Our volunteers planted 3,215 trees.

NRW: working with WG on the potential introduction of National Forest and host the local officers. Education resources available on the website. Supporting the Gwydir Forest Resource Plan consultation to ensure education and health included.

Coed Cadw: promoting local provenance trees for resilient woodlands and wider landscapes. Providing Welsh provenance native tree species for our own sites and for others. Encourage more recording and protection of ancient and veteran trees through the ATI and our living legends campaign. Working with Llais y Goedwig to raise awareness of the importance of local provenance tree species, provide training and advice for tree seed collecting and growing on. Continue to be an active partner on the Celtic Rainforest LIFE project and carrying out engagement activity and ancient woodland restoration surveys on private site.

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

OUTCOME A3

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

Are we within our timeline? Yes – we are now back within our original timelines


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

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

Conclusion:

Progress has been made against the measurements of success outlined in Cynllun Eryri, and increased progress is expected in 2024 to ensure that this Outcome is achieved by 2025.

Detailed 2023 progress report

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

Progress report: ENPA: Carbon Strategy preparation work continues - with the intention of adoption in 2024 including a set of baselines. This will set out objectives for the revised Cynllun Eryri and the Local Development Plan. See A1.4 for sustainable transport update.

Cronfa Cymunedol Eryri has supported several community-based projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions.

CESS: Made a lengthy submission to the North Wales Transport Commission on the opportunities to reduce the impacts of parking and transport on the environment and landscape.

NRW - Traws Eryri off road cycling route – promoting emission free access across the Park.

CCBC - Môr ir Mynydd / Coast to Valley is a UK Government Levelling Up Funding (LUF) project and the vision is to create a long distance, safe, direct and attractive walking and cycling route from Llandudno Junction via the Conwy Valley to Betws y Coed, alongside improvements to local connectivity and flood resilience. LUF funding three projects, providing the opportunity to kickstart a programme of investment on a Coast To Valley Active Travel Route and improvements to general connectivity and resilience throughout the Conwy Valley.

CG – Gwynedd Council's Nature and Climate Emergency Plan lists the projects it operates relevant to the geographical area of APCE. An Annual Report on the performance of these projects was published in December 2023.

A3.2	●	<p>Safeguard and increase the amount of carbon stored in Eryri</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to utilise and enhance natural carbon sinks within the National Park • Reduce, and where possible reverse, the erosion and degradation of peatlands, including by grip blocking in the uplands and restoration of lowland agricultural peats • Ensure a long-term commitment to well managed and diverse woodland • Explore carbon offsetting and opportunities for financial support for carbon offsetting • Encourage the maintenance of permanent grassland and avoid soil disturbance 	<p>By the end of 2022, we will have increased the number of Peatland Code and trees and woodland Carbon Code projects supported.</p> <p>Throughout the Plan, SNPA will monitor peatland restoration actions, ensure woodland planting in appropriate sites and the condition of existing woodland is monitored and hedgerow habitats enhanced, as well as working in Partnership to advise on appropriate grazing regimes.</p>	<p>SNPA NRW National Trust Countryside Land Alliance (CLA) National Farmers Union (NFU) Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW)</p>
------	---	---	--	---

Progress report: SNPA: Peatland restoration continues at pace within the Park Boundary and on its fringes with two National Peatland Projects turning annually. Staff capacity and skills have been uplifted with better prognosis and financial planning able to be done from longer funding cycles with 4 posts now actively delivering on peatland restoration and further core staff providing additional resource.

CESS: Organised two volunteer days working on the restoration of peat bogs involving 128 hours of volunteer work. Our volunteers restored 200m of peat hag.

CLA Cymru: nationally continues with our carbon policies.

NFU Cymru: Promoting long-term objectives of 2040 for an agricultural industry that will deliver on Net Zero. A proportion of members taking advantage of renewable energy advice through the union as well as securing specialist equipment.

NWWT: Peatland management at Cors Bodgynydd and expansion of woodland cover at Coed Crafnant is continuing.

OUTCOME A4

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

Are we within our timeline? Yes – a great deal of work has been achieved on this Outcome


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

A review to critically analyse Partnership actions to control and reduce the extent of invasive species is due to take place by end of 2025

Conclusion:

There has been clear progress against all measurements of success within Cynllun Eryri's Action Plan for Outcome A4. The objective remains on track to be achieved by 2025.

Detailed 2023 progress report


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

Progress report: SNPA: This is being led by the LIFE Celtic Rainforest Team and the Carneddau HLF project support with other officers and projects. Active steps have been taken to develop an INNS co-ordinator role in the region, however funding availability is limiting.

Coed Cadw: Core staff are working as part of the Celtic Rainforest team to raise awareness. We also have our own focus to raise awareness of INNS and the effect on native woodland ecosystems. Engagement and activity to understand the threats to woodlands from INNS within ENP in collaboration with ENPA, including supporting the development of a Tree and Woodland Strategy for ENP using codesign to work with communities and different sectors to develop the content.

CESS: Through the Carneddau project we organised 11 events to control Himalayan balsam. Overall 386 hours of work were put in. Two of these days were accredited training days for volunteers. We believe these are important not just for the practical work they carry out, but also for their awareness raising impact.

NRW: Free Cycle wash at Coed y Brenin. Information campaign to visitors.

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

Progress report: SNPA: This is being led by the LIFE Celtic Rainforest Team and the Carneddau HLF project support with other officers and projects. Active steps have been taken to develop an INNS co-ordinator role in the region, however funding availability is limiting.

NRW - Outside the Park but one aim to reduce seed spread to the Eryri SAC/SSSI is continued work to control Rhododendron in Llanberis – currently in and around Coed Dinorwig SSSI. Ongoing work supporting Gwynedd Council at Padarn to manage the risk of aquatic weed spread from there to other locations including lakes in the Park.

CCBC - Local Places for Nature Scheme supported heathland management works at Conwy Mountain within the vicinity of Wales Coast Path Upland Route and North Wales Path.

CCBC - Countryside Team have submitted a 5yr programme of works proposal to NRW for consideration on creating a s16 agreement for Conwy Mountain.

CCBC - Local Places for Nature Scheme supported removal of aquatic invasive non-native species at Conwy managed reserve (Nant y Coed), within SNP.

CCBC - Limited involvement with Garden Escapers Project (Coventry University and NWWT) and WaREN project where deliverables affect Open Spaces within Conwy


CLA Cymru: is fully supportive of this policy where members are affected by Ponticum and other invasive weed species on their land and wish to control them, working with SNPA and its partner organisations.

NFU Cymru: Members join disposal schemes which are carried out through PCE.

Coed Cadw: working with ENPA and key stakeholders to incorporate thinking into a tree and woodland strategy. Ongoing work through contractors and woodland owners about INNS awareness.

NT: Ongoing invasives work by rangers, contractors & volunteers across NT estate.

CESS: As A4.1

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

Progress report: SNPA: SNPA continues to fund the PLAS officer along with supporting and delivering key projects that delivers against this objective.

NFU Cymru: There has been collaboration between Gwynedd Council officers in the area and Union officers, as well as a briefing session for members to recognise the signs of Ash Dieback and the legal implications when disposing of it. Farmers have been carrying out their own management work on this in affected areas.

PLAS SAC: A Biosecurity Plan for PLAS is well underway. We have also continued to raise awareness about marine INNS through a variety of methods – see progress under A4.1. Woodland Trust: continue to use Observatree and citizen science applications to record and monitor woodland pests and diseases, as well as ongoing managing the impact of ash die back and Phytophthora ramorum on our sites and advising private woodland owners.

CESS: As A4.1

OUTCOME A5

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

Are we within our timeline? Yes


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

- Funding for volunteer programmes is reliant on Welsh Government / external grants.

Conclusion:

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

Detailed 2023 progress report

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

Progress report: SNPA: As last year and evolving further. See Volunteering Strategy Officer report for detailed feedback.

Guidelines for 'Good lighting: Business and community guidance' are published and available as part of Prosiect Nos alongside significant progress with businesses and communities in the area on the importance of the Dark Skies Reserve.

CESS: We organised at least five practical volunteering events with local schools and colleges, involving beach cleaning, control of Himalayan balsam, sabre planting of trees and seed collection. We organised a successful litter pick with the Pobl i Bobl group which works with refugees from all over the world.

NRW: Selection of all education resources are available on website, including an educator training programme where schools from Eryri will have joined both face to face and webinar sessions. Support for Cwm Idwal resource which encourages self-led visits.

National Trust Uwch Conwy Project - partnership with NRW.

OP: Within the Community Development programme there are more clubs that provide regular opportunities to participate in outdoor activities in the Park area and have enrolled with YBAA. In North West Wales there are 25 clubs which benefit from support from development officers and financial support to volunteers to attend courses for upskilling.

The Education Framework for YBAA Adventure is now completed and is available to all schools in Wales to fit in with the new curriculum. There are 6 schools within the Park's catchment area who have received training from the project co-ordinator, and are preparing to deliver education in the outdoors. The OP continues to support the SNPA Young Peoples Officer with the Young Ranger program and holds practical sessions with the group.

Young Trainees: The plan has continue in 2023, a with number of trainees working towards qualifications within the outdoor industry. They receive advice and mentoring sessions with our officer to prepare them for courses and work. There are over 50 young people between 18-30 now part of the programme.


CCBC - shared the Welsh Language Toolkit work under Creu Conwy with you for last year's update.

Running into this financial year we had the Llais y Carneddau project at the Culture Centre which was a collaborative effort between Partneriaeth Tirwedd y Carneddau Landscape Partnership, art practitioner Rachel Evans, pupils from Ysgol Aberconwy, and Conwy Archives. The archive from the oral history project work done will be deposited with Conwy Archives at the end of the project making it accessible to a wide audience.

CCBC - This financial year we have also delivered sessions to 400 pupils in schools within the park area including Storytelling from the Archives, WW11 and Explore your Archive, which has resulted In 60 Arts Awards being completed.

CCBC - Amdani Conwy Cultural Volunteering project is live with 50 volunteers across the county. The team are actively seeking rural opportunities for volunteers but not aware of any yet within the park area.

CCBC- Cae Llan Park, Bewts y Coed (partly owned by ENP) we worked together with ENP Local Nature Partnership Coordinator through the Local Places for Nature fund to create an agreed design plan (CCBC currently commissioning landscape architect for the task) for a more biodiverse, and interactive green space. ENP wish to create growing/outdoor classroom space in the park as part of this. CCBC on our leasehold likely looking at tree planting, orchard, veteran tree protection, meadow, stumperies etc

A5.2		<p>Support, promote and deliver volunteering opportunities that help protect and enhance the environment and cultural heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop and expand the Young Rangers scheme • Investigate links with schools locally to offer Welsh Baccalaureate opportunities for Key Stages 4 & 5 and volunteering elements of DoE Award Scheme • Investigate links with return to work schemes to further increase opportunities for residents' contact with the Park 	<p>SNPA's Wardens and Volunteer Co-ordinator will lead on these elements reporting back to our Authority on an annual basis to measure progress.</p> <p>A rise in volunteer numbers will be recorded.</p>	<p>SNPA</p> <p>The Outdoor Partnership</p> <p>National Trust</p> <p>NRW</p> <p>Snowdonia Society</p>
------	---	--	---	--

Progress report: SNPA: As last year and evolving further. See Volunteering Strategy Officer report for detailed feedback.

Volunteer Wardens. The great work continues with a large crew in the Yr Wyddfa area and a regular crew in the South. The southern areas have expanded to include the Fawddach, Cynwch and Panorama paths.

Young Ranger Scheme: Another successful season with a number of events held together with an opportunity in July for a group to attend a EuroParc Camp in Denmark.

CESS: Through the Carneddau project we have organised 14 volunteer gorse clearance days around ancient monuments. In all our volunteers spent 541 hours doing this.

PAA: Continue to co-host the Caru Eryri programme which focuses on protecting the environment through high quality volunteering opportunities.

In 2023 experienced volunteers were trained further to be leaders. They were offered high level safety and first aid training.

As a recognition for work of the volunteers and the scheme Welsh Government nominated them for a St Davids Day Award.

Caru Eryri has now reached the short list in the category Environmental Champions with the awards night is being held in Cardiff in April

2024. This raises the profile and increases awareness about the plan nationally.

CCBC - Amdani Conwy Cultural Volunteering project is live with 50 volunteers across the county. The team are actively seeking rural opportunities for volunteers but not aware of any yet within the park area.

The BMC will be running the "Get Stuck in" days in Eryri and a clear up of the Upper Glaslyn Bowl. We are also hoping to work with Bangor Uni

Mountaineering club to engage more with local projects. The BMC along with Mountain training Cymru are looking to set up CPD courses for Mountain leader providers to better understand Upland Farming Practices.

OUTCOME A6

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

Are we within our timeline? Yes


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

- Some objectives of the Carneddau project have been stalled by various funding mechanisms – at present - all are due to be completed by 2025


Conclusion:

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


Detailed 2023 progress report

Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
A6.1		<p>Support the repair and restoration of listed buildings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research available sources of funding that support repair and restoration, historical character & local history Use Cadw's 5-yearly condition survey of listed buildings to provide targeted funding for buildings at risk Work with partners to support and develop traditional skills locally, which in turn will help improve the condition of historic buildings The Carneddau Partnership will deliver on its nine main project themes encompassing the natural and cultural heritage of the region Explore the feasibility of implementing a Climate Vulnerability Index methodology to natural and cultural heritage assets of the National Park as per policy A3.2 	<p>We will ensure that there is a reduction in the number of listed buildings at risk based on Cadw's condition survey, whilst working with our Partners to develop a strategy for traditional skills workshops.</p> <p>Specific projects will consider the sympathetic reuse and interpretation of designated sections of our historic environment.</p>	<p>SNPA Cadw National Trust National Slate Museum Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council Local history and archaeological groups North West Wales Slate Landscape World Heritage Nomination Partnership Steering Group and related partners</p>

Progress report: SNPA: Work is ongoing at the Wilkins building in Dolgellau and in the Harlech conservation area. Both Dolgellau and Harlech Schemes will be completed in 2024. The Rohan building in Betws y Coed has received grant support for exterior improvements aimed at improving the efficiency of the traditional building. As a designated landscape, we continue to contribute to the work program of Cadw's Historic Environment Group (HEG) Climate Change working group. Cadw: Continued support for listed building condition surveys. Delivery of Cadw's Historic Building Capital Grant Programme 2022-2023 for 50% funding of projects up to £250k.

A6.2		<p>Support owners of Scheduled Monuments to better safeguard them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to ensure suitable sources of funding are available • Using Cadw's database on the state of scheduled monuments, work with partners to establish prioritised work programmes to improve condition (and where appropriate) access and interpretation of scheduled monuments. 	<p>Throughout the Plan we will ensure that the existing database has been utilised to prioritise funding and dedicated work programmes</p>	<p>SNPA Cadw National Trust Gwynedd Council Local history and archaeological groups</p>
------	---	---	--	---

Progress report: SNPA: SNPA: The Carneddau Landscape Partnership Scheme improves the management of monuments in the uplands through conservation and vegetation management projects. We continue to collaborate with partners and landowners on the conservation of the North West Wales Slate Landscape World Heritage Site. Management and are working on access, conservation and interpretation improvements on Scheduled Monuments in Cwmystradllyn and Cwm Pennant. Cadw: Delivery of Ancient Monument Grants for eligible conservation works to Scheduled Monuments. Specific support for SNPA / Cyngor Gwynedd in progressing conservation projects within the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site. NT: Various projects delivered via Carneddau Landscape Partnership – condition recording, vegetation clearance.

A6.3		<p>Develop and implement landscape scale projects which benefit the historic environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop projects that improve access to the historic environment, sense of place and designated conservation areas within the National Park • Continue to develop projects that enhance urban character within the National Park • Collaborate on key priorities and joint projects relating to Harlech in the 'Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd' World Heritage site Management Plan • Collaborate on key priorities relating to the National Park in the nomination of the 'Slate Industry of North Wales Cultural Landscape' to the World Heritage List 	<p>By 2021 we will have established a Cultural Heritage Strategy Monitoring Framework, and completed the second phase of the Dolgellau Townscape Heritage Initiative.</p> <p>We will also ensure that we are collaborating on key priorities relating to World Heritage within the National Park and on its borders.</p> <p>Carneddau Partnership will deliver on its nine main project themes encompassing the natural and cultural heritage of the region.</p>	<p>SNPA National Trust Cadw Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council Local history and archaeological groups</p>
------	---	--	--	--

Progress report: SNPA: Interpretation at Ynyspandy Slate Mill has been delayed and is due for completion during 2024. Conservation, access and detailed management plans are ongoing with partners and skilled contractors. The Dolgellau Townscape Heritage Scheme will be completed by May 2024.

The Carneddau Landscape Partnership Scheme is over halfway to completion and is due to be delivered by March 2025.

Cadw: Support for SNPA / Cyngor Gwynedd in progressing conservation projects within the Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales World Heritage Site.

Continued support of Carneddau Landscape Partnership Scheme through Cadw funded grant aided collaboration with Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

CCBC: Art exhibition co-created by the Carneddau Landscape Partnership and a local school facilitated by Conwy Archive Service and currently exhibited at Conwy Culture Centre. Further art sessions at the centre with schools to follow. Casglu a Creu Conwy led project invited people (through social media and in person sessions) to co-produce a culture map of the county. 120 points have been added - 12 of which fall within the National Park - examples include: Bryn Gwyn, Ysbyty Ifan's link with Abraham Lincoln and the Taliesin monument.

CESS: As our contribution to Carneddau Landscape Partnership, vegetation management sessions with volunteers were delivered at scheduled monuments and other historic sites in the Carneddau.

NT: Delivery of projects within Carneddau Landscape Project.

OUTCOME A7

Our Special Qualities are well protected.

Are we within our timeline? It is no longer feasible for the Appointment of Landscape Architect into the SNPA Planning Service (see 2022 Annual Report for detail) yet this does not prevent the Outcome from being achieved.


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

No


Conclusion:

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


Detailed 2023 progress report

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

Progress report: SNPA: Landscape and layout of developments is an ongoing consideration when considering all planning applications. The LANDMAP tool and the Authority's Supplementary Planning Guidelines Landscape Capacity and Sensitivity Assessment and Eryri's Landscapes and Seascapes Guide are used to assess planning applications.

A7.2		<p>Through the Local Development Plan, ensure that major new developments safeguard views into and out of the National Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that any major development proposals are subject to rigorous examination and include an assessment of the impact on National Park purposes • Consider the landscape and visual impact of proposals close to the National Park boundary and how these may impact on National Park purposes, including views into, and out of, the National Park 	Guidelines will be in the LDP and SNPA will be working in partnership with neighbouring authorities to ensure these are being implemented	SNPA
------	---	--	---	------

Progress report: SNPA: The Eryri LDP Policies take into account major developments and views into and out of the National Park. The Authority also receives consultations and gives attention to large applications that are outside the boundary of the National Park

A7.3		<p>The Local Development Plan contains clear guidance for inappropriate major infrastructure development such as above ground power cables within the boundary, and where possible encourages the undergrounding of inappropriately located existing lines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LDP includes a policy which resists inappropriate major development within the National Park • Encourage the undergrounding of overhead lines • Continue to work in partnership with the National Grid to reduce the visual impact of overhead lines within the National Park • The Authority will permit telecommunications developments provided that they do not significantly harm the visual amenity and landscape character of the area • Encourage telecommunications operators to mitigate and/or reduce impacts of existing transmission lines - use landscape sensitive communication infrastructure • The Authority encourages: the use of environmentally acceptable sites, sharing an existing site, mast, tower or other structures and • sharing an existing or planned underground channel with another utility • The mast, antennae and any ancillary structures are expected to be well designed and represent the best practicable environmental option 	Guidelines will be in the LDP for landscape improvement of existing and new developments	SNPA
------	---	--	--	------

Progress report: SNPA: the Planning Service continues to work together with SPEN and the National Grid.

A7.4	●	<p>Through the Local Development Plan, ensure that lighting in new developments takes account of the International Dark Sky Reserve status and Protect and enhance Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphic Sites (RIGS) and general geodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the LDP and Supplementary Planning Guidance on obtrusive lighting, ensure that proposals do not adversely affect the Dark Sky Reserve • Implement LDP policies that ensure development proposals do not adversely affect RIGS 	Guidelines are within the LDP.	SNPA
------	---	--	--------------------------------	------

Progress report: SNPA: there is a Policy in the LDP which refers to the importance of the 'Eryri Dark Sky Reserve, especially the Core areas'. In addition, Supplementary Planning Guidance and the intrusive lighting guide are available for consideration of relevant planning applications. There is an intention to update the Guide with more current information..

A7.5	●	<p>Foster greater understanding of the Special Quality of tranquillity and solitude</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and apply a new methodology of measuring tranquillity within the National Park • Define tranquillity as applied to Snowdonia National Park by including in visitor and residents survey to ascertain the experience of tranquillity in Eryri. • Continue to liaise with the MOD to encourage reductions in the number of low flying activities taking place over Snowdonia 	<p>New methodologies will have been considered and included in the mapping and protection of this Special Quality.</p> <p>A definition of tranquillity and an understanding of users experience of this Special Quality will be achieved through a user survey.</p> <p>Liaison meetings with the MOD will have occurred regularly</p>	SNPA
------	---	---	---	------

Progress report: SNPA: University of Winchester Tranquillity mapping project is complete and results have been added to QGIS. Perception studies have shown that Tranquillity is an important Special Quality of Eryri for residents and visitors. Results have been added to the Eryri Ambassador programme and have been shared with Dark Skies Officer.

SNPA is working in partnership with NRW in their production of a Tranquillity map for Wales

A7.6	●	<p>Establish a risk register for the tangible and intangible assets of the National Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a risk register exercise cross-referencing with Policy A3.3, ensuring preparedness and mitigation measures are anticipated. • With input from key partners consider learnings from the COVID 19 pandemic. 	<p>By 2022 a risk register for tangible and intangible heritage assets of the National Park will have been produced.</p>	SNPA
------	---	---	--	------

Progress report: SSNPA Property Service is producing an Asset Register for tangible assets, which is being incorporated into the Carbon Strategy for the Authority. Gathering of data for State of the Park Report (2024) has begun which will consider threats and opportunities to all of Eryri's Special Qualities.

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

OUTCOME B1

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

Are we within our timeline? Yes


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

- Social Prescribing schemes are being nationally audited and could change focus depending on the results, which would affect the action to design formal schemes. Nevertheless the principle and remainder of the Outcome is being delivered by many Partners across the region.

Conclusion:

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

Detailed 2023 progress report

Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
B1.1		<p>Expand work with partners, health services and Public Service Boards through social prescribing schemes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify target audiences • Gather data on the barriers these audiences face and opportunities to address these barriers in a lasting way • Identify and promote existing schemes within the National Park • Establish new social prescribing schemes (along with a referral system) within and around the National Park for the target audiences, based on best practice and research results 	<p>By the end of 2020 we will have completed the necessary research and identified schemes to promote widely across the Park. By the end of the Plan we intend to have established social prescribing schemes on a trial basis, with the National Park as a partner to at least one major scheme working towards a formal well being strategy</p>	<p>SNPA Let's Get Moving North Wales Public Health Wales Outdoor Partnership National Trust NRW Sports Wales Ramblers Cymru Bangor University CESS</p>

Progress report: *Bwrdd Iechyd Cyhoeddus Betsi Cadwalader – Nature and Wellbeing Community of Interest been established. A review has been commissioned of the Framework for Wales for Social Prescribing Schemes expecting publication in March 2024. SNPA officer attends the above group and works closely to promote wellbeing events and volunteering days with all local communities of interest.*

SNPA have expanded the range and number of Wellbeing events offered throughout the year and attendance has increased at each of these events.

CESS: continue to invest in our volunteer network, organising not just practical action days but also social events to thank volunteers. We constantly try to widen the scope of our volunteer pool by working with different groups.

NRW: Significant contributions to health improvement work, communications campaigns such as Wales Outdoor Learning Week. NRW sit on the WG Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales Strategy Board and WG Health implementation Board which oversees the implementation of the Social Prescribing Framework and Hapus (a campaign to help improve the nations mental health and well-being launching in June this year). NRW originally sat on the WG Social Prescribing Task and Finish Group and nature-based interventions are recognised throughout the Framework.

Use of NRW land by others delivering nature-based interventions.


NRW are also involved in training of GPs and development of e-learning resource for GPs.

PAA: The Amser programme has been run in the north Wales, which offers free breaks to young carers. The breaks are designed to improve resilience and the well-being of carers and support sustainability in the caring relationship. This is a chance for young carers to get a taste of outdoor activities

in a safe and free environment. The plan has been co-ordinated with local authorities and regional health teams.

CCBC: Over the past 12 months, a number of partnerships have developed including working closely with the National Trust (Tir Afon) and Referral scheme internally, the leisure development team, Social Services, Coleg Llandrillo and the Outdoor Partnership. Further partners include ALN groups in order to provide a diverse range of activities for many different populations. There are now weekly sessions being accessed in partnership. The scheme continues to thrive and grow during 23/24.

CG: SNPA is a member of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board attending quarterly meetings. They have agreed to the wellbeing objectives of the Board's Wellbeing Plan 2023-28 and will contribute to annual delivery plan projects.

<p>B1.2</p>		<p>Promote and enable a diverse range of activities that improve people's well-being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an online resource relating to activities and routes within the National Park targeted and tailored to the audiences identified under Policy B1.1 • Ensure adequate provision for access to inland waters for water based activities, particularly in light of future legislative changes • Continue to expand volunteer opportunities within the National Park that include both physical and cultural activities (see also policy A5.2) • Develop volunteering opportunities for disabled people • Facilitate activities within the National Park that enhance understanding of the Special Qualities for disabled people and disadvantaged groups • Encourage opportunities for socialising in the natural environment 	<p>By the end of 2021, resources will be available through the National Park website.</p> <p>By 2025 SNPA's Volunteer Co-ordinator will report on the increased provision of volunteer opportunities and evidence of relevant schemes and projects will exist.</p>	<p>SNPA NRW National Trust Outdoor Partnership WCVA Public Health Wales Outdoor Partnership Gwynedd Council Art Council Wales Menter Iaith National Slate Museum Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Sports Wales CESS John Muir Trust</p>
--------------------	---	---	--	--

Progress report: SNPA: Volunteer and Wellbeing sessions have been significantly expanded again – see 2023 Report for a variety of statistics and activities throughout the year.

CESS: Through the Carneddau project we organised 11 events to control Himalayan balsam. Overall, 386 hours of work were put in. Two of these days were accredited training days for volunteers.

NRW: Diversifying types of activities at 30 recreation sites within the Park, including Tramper trails and adapted vehicles. Way marked running, walking animal puzzle and audio trails of cultural and environmental interest. Increased provision of perch seats on walking trails. Free parking for locals at Coed y Brenin.

OP: Success in SPF grant application to organise activities improving the well-being of people in Gwynedd through the outdoors. The Voluntary

Ambassadors programme will run the activities and events during 2024. Continue to apply for grants to maintain health and wellness programs and social prescribing projects in North Wales.

CCBC: We been able to work with partners to develop a number of both indoor and outdoor activities that include:

General Fitness sessions in centres

Community Hubs – doorstep fitness and sport

Outdoor activities (indoor climbing, Water based activities, RNLI Swim Safe, E-biking, Mountain biking, paddle boarding, bush craft and Orienteering afterschool sports activities.

Over 2000 people benefit on a regular basis attending up to 3 sessions per week in rural Conwy with over 50 sessions per week. Training opportunities for young people – Coach Education courses have been offered and undertaken by over 100 local people. Around 10% have gone on to find permanent employment within the industry.

CCBC: Over 60s leisure offer. Specific sessions for older people are delivered on a weekly basis. The scheme is aimed at improving people over the age of 60's wellbeing. Sessions are not just centre based but also include walking, water skills and e-biking.

CCBC- Cae Llan Park, Bewts y Coed (partly owned by ENP) we worked together with ENP Local Nature Partnership Coordinator through the Local Places for Nature fund to create an agreed design plan (CCBC currently commissioning landscape architect for the task) for a more biodiverse, and interactive green space. ENP wish to create growing/outdoor classroom space in the park as part of this. CCBC on our leasehold likely looking at tree planting, orchard, veteran tree protection, meadow, stumperies etc.

CCBC - Capel Curig Playground has had a complete new installation.

Age Friendly Gwynedd:

Gwynedd Council works to be an age friendly local authority and this means working closely with a variety of groups to achieve this goal. Getting there will contribute towards the well-being of the Park's individuals but also organising events with a range of partners across the Park to promote wellbeing and give older people opportunities to contribute.

Dementia Active Gwynedd:

Dementia Active has 14 weekly classes across Gwynedd some within the boundaries of the Park, such as Dolgellau. We also run Dementia Friends sessions to increase awareness and reduce stigma.

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

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

Progress report: This action has been achieved by the Eryri 70 celebrations which established several community projects celebrating and exploring what it meant to live and work in Eryri. The website www.eryri70.cymru showcases how Eryri has inspired various artists for centuries by posing questions, discovering and reminiscing about the past, present and future of the park, displaying the work of a huge variety of local artists and young people who are inspired by Eryri in their creative work. The work of the Carneddau Landscape Partnership's Oral History Project continues apace as well as the ongoing Arduwy project recording stories related to various buildings and remains of buildings throughout the area. The focus on wellbeing of Eryri's communities will continue for the remainder of the Plan and beyond.

OUTCOME B2

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

Are we within our timeline? Timelines have been revised.


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

- Ongoing negotiations with Partners to agree on an SLA.

Conclusion:

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

Detailed 2023 progress report

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

Progress report: SNPA Recreation Strategy to be officially adopted during 2024. This includes recognition of the spread and variation of activities that occur in the NP, and to identify where there are gaps in those provisions such as bridleways.

Work on promoted, strategic routes continues along with other important routes per Warden areas. Collaboration work continues develop ways to connect areas/villages creating long distance routes.


Work to promote specific routes continues on the Authority's website. Walk of the month to continue with variety of themes according to the Warden leading.

CESS: We continue our work organising practical volunteering days to maintain footpaths, some of these offering accredited training to volunteers. 16 individuals received this during 2023.

NRW: Traws Eryri Cycling route being developed with Cycling UK. Delivery of WCP and National Trails programme with Las.

Working with partners to deliver Active Travel routes throughout and linking into ENP, e.g. Conwy valley active travel route.


CCBC: Developing the Coast to Valley active travel route which will incorporate three projects to kickstart a programme of investment on a Coast to Valley Active Travel Route and improvements to general connectivity and resilience throughout the Conwy Valley.

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

Progress report: APCE: MOU continues to be under discussion with GC to delineate responsibilities. New rights of way management system which will enable better management of enquiries, the network, and more effective integration with Gwynedd Council's management system.

Work continues in the highlands such as on the landslide of the Miners' path, Yr Wyddfa and on Myddyn Moel Cadair Idris where there is significant 'pitching' work taking place.

NRW: Routes on NNR's, collaborate closely with Las Working with LAs to improve rights of way on NRW forest estate - ongoing.

B2.3		<p>Improve access opportunities for disabled people and socially excluded groups - See also policy B2.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather research on the barriers faced by the public, including disabled people, those of lower socio-economic backgrounds and other excluded groups in accessing the National Park • Develop actions under Policy B2.1 to improve access opportunities for disabled people and excluded groups • Work with target groups and relevant charities in the early design phase of major access projects 	<p>By the end of 2025, the research will have been completed.</p> <p>We will ensure measurable increases in available provisions by the term end of the Plan.</p>	<p>SNPA NRW National Trust Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council Sport Wales</p>
------	---	--	---	---

Progress report: SNPA: Promotional videos for all access for all routes/tramper friendly routes completed and are to be available on the SNPA website. Tramper hire increased by 20% in 2023. A new 4-wheeler bike is also available for hire at no cost.

The Recreation Strategy is focused on least restrictive options and Mile without Stiles philosophy.

NRW 'By All Reasonable Means' - this is in the process of being updated to align with the UK wide Outdoor Accessibility Guidance which was launched in April 2023.

NRW: WCP pilot project with Experience Community. This has led to a further pilot study on Phototrails and Google Streetview information for accessible sections identified in the WCP pilot project. User testing is underway.

The pilot project also resulted in physical improvements on the ground. NRW is carrying out a survey of barriers on accessible land on NRW estate.

BMC have set up the outdoors for all campaign to attempt to level the playing field for everyone to have access to the outdoors.

OUTCOME B3

Our Special Qualities are widely recognised.

Are we within our timeline? Adjusted post Covid but now on track, with a focus on sustainability and community benefit


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

Priorities of various organisations have been affected – a full review of this Objective will take place in 2025 to reflect the changed priorities of the Tourism sector and the various consultations and strategies which have emerged as a result.

Conclusion

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


Detailed 2023 progress report

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

Progress update: SNPA: Eryri's Special Qualities are the main theme for the third series of the Eryri Podcast with 18 episodes being published in 2023/24. Digital campaign on the visitor season during Summer 2023 which highlights the special qualities was backed by 40 Digital Eryri Ambassadors to further promote messaging. The draft cultural heritage strategy will be presented to members for implementation during 2024. Cyngor Gwynedd and the Park Authority have continued to develop collaborative structures during 2023 including through a communications and marketing task group as part of the Gwynedd and Eryri 2035 Partnership.

A joint brief has been produced to commission work with both partners during 2024 on brand and communication messages based on the principles of the Gwynedd and Eryri 2035 Plan.

CCBC: New Destination Management Plan was launched in 2023 with a focus on sustainability and community benefit.


<p>B3.2</p>		<p>Encourage visitors to come at different times of year and to different areas in order to ease pressure during the peak season and help businesses with seasonality issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote winter season and 'autumn colours' season. Use seasonal images on websites • Work with partners to develop opportunities in relation to the "Wales Way" • Use existing examples to consider a thematic itinerary approach to promote the Special Qualities of Snowdonia 	<p>These innovative ideas will be in place by the end of 2021</p>	<p>SNPA Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council Visit Wales NRW National Trust Visit Wales Plas y Brenin Snowdonia Active</p>
--------------------	---	--	---	--

Progress report: SNPA: Encouraging audiences to visit during the shoulder seasons and dark sky tourism was implemented as part of the 2023 SNPA visitor season campaign. Online campaign specifically aimed during winter 2023 (and on to early 2024). 'Eryri more than a mountain' targeting themes such as 'things to do in the rain' and 'accessible winter walks' to encourage audiences to visit lesser know areas of Eryri and at different times of the year.

NRW - Tenants at Coed y Brenin obliged to hold events during the shoulder season. NRW visitor team hold events in the Winter.

CG: A joint brief has been produced to commission work with both partners during 2024 on brand and communication messages based on the principles of the Gwynedd and Eryri 2035 Plan. One of the commission's priorities will be to expand the visitor season and encourage people to visit during quieter times. It will also communicate messages in support of local businesses and to respect the qualities and distinctive features of the area.

CCBC: New Destination Management Plan was launched in 2023 with a focus on sustainability and community benefit.

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

Progress report: SNPA: The sustainable Visitor Economy Gwynedd and Eryri 2025 strategic plan was launched in September 2023 and both Authorities will work together on communications in 2024. Eryri Ambassador Scheme now has over 1000 participants.

NRW – Promotes Seasonal Walks.

PAA: Continue to work on and grow a social media audience for Caru Eryri and supporting SNPAs messaging. Targeting the opportunity to volunteer Caru Eryri amongst visitors to the area and have worked with Visit Wales to produce a promotional video for the scheme.

CCBC: We are hosting briefing sessions with businesses and communities in the Conwy area of Eryri National Park to ascertain appetite to formally sign up to the Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Strategy 2035. These sessions will focus on providing stakeholders with information on the strategy, how partners can get involved and information on behaviour change.

CG: See B3.2

SA: Ongoing promotion of AdventureSmart strategy in Eryri to encourage safe enjoyment (especially relevant with the push towards off peak tourism (B5.2). Working with ENPA and LLMRT to provide an evidence base to inform interventions to improve safety on Yr Wyddfa.

Working with North Wales Police and other stakeholders to establish the North Wales Outdoor Safety Partnership.

OUTCOME B4

Sustainable options for parking and transport are achieved.

Are we within our timeline? Yes


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

- Lack of funding / investment
- Lack of commitment from Partners to the Parking and Transport Strategy
- Wider developments overtaking the original vision and strategy

Conclusion:

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

Detailed 2023 progress report

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

Progress report: In partnership with TfW, CG and CCBC, SNPA have furthered several elements of the Yr Wyddfa and Ogwen Parking and Transport


Strategy such as: improvements to the Sherpa network; WelTag Stage 1&2 of Active Travel Routes; installing sensors and conveying live information to visitors; progressed pre booking system for Pen y Pass; created a Partnership for Ogwen and Nant Gwynant pinch point areas.

CCBC - have installed e-bike chargers and bike maintenance stands on the seafronts at Llanfairfechan and Penmaenmawr – just outside the Park boundaries but encouraging more sustainable methods of travel to/within the Park.

CCBC - Môr ir Mynydd / Coast to Valley is a UK Government Levelling Up Funding (LUF) project and the vision is to create a long distance, safe, direct and attractive walking and cycling route from Llandudno Junction via the Conwy Valley to Betws y Coed, alongside improvements to local connectivity and flood resilience. LUF funding three projects, providing the opportunity to kick-start a programme of investment on a Coast to Valley Active Travel Route and improvements to general connectivity and resilience throughout the Conwy Valley: Glan Conwy to Llandudno Junction; Betws y Coed to Llanrwst; Trefriw B5106 Flood Resilience. Construction to be complete by March 2026.

CG: Buses

Following the completion of a bus network review, with input from Transport for Wales, there is particular attention to introducing timetables with bus-train connections that create wider travel possibilities tailoring timetables to operate more sustainably in an effort to increase travel possibilities for rural areas. Have introduced new timetables in the Nantlle Valley and Caernarfon in 2023. Meirionnydd area services tendering is ongoing (effective from 12 February 2024). Some new services in operation since November 2023 such as the new G23 Barmouth – Porthmadog service which offers a higher frequency of travel opportunities with the aim of making the bus a more attractive option. A new look for TransWales T2/T28 and T3/T3C services ensuring better service coordination. Working with Transport for Wales, preparatory work for 2 new Flexi services in south Meirionnydd which will provide an important transport link in some of the rural areas of the county. Sherpa'r Wyddfa services show significant increase in use and have won national acclaim and recognition.

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

Progress Report: SNPA as above and through the creation of a Carbon Strategy for the Authority. Working in Partnership with Cyngor Gwynedd the Authority is implementing new ways of measuring the impact of tourism in Eryri under the Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan.

NRW: Promotes opportunities for visitors to use Public transport options during their trips.

CCBC: Active travel route – Coast to Valley. This is predominantly a cycling and walking trail.

CCBC: E-BIKE taster scheme. The project has been running throughout rural Conwy areas and Conwy/Bodlondeb to offer guided e-bike rides free of charge, as a way to encourage more people to try an alternative greener transport. Participants are educated regarding road safety and cycling etiquette and the benefits of cycling in general.

BMC has been running a lift share site for climbers and walkers. The new green guide advocates for trying adventures with public transport.

CG: Active Travel

- Active travel schemes implemented in line with the Welsh Government funded programme.
- Bids submitted to the Welsh Government for funding to complete the further stages of some schemes and start new ones.
- SPF funding Lon Las Ogwen's improvements between Bangor and Llyn Ogwen.

Public Charging Points

- A programme of work to provide charging machines in car parks and other public venues is underway.

Electric Buses

- Work has been undertaken to establish a charging depot and infrastructure that will support and facilitate the provision of the new TrawsCymru T22 bus service between Caernarfon – Porthmadog – Blaenau Ffestiniog.
- A purchasing process undertaken to identify a provider.
- Standard and attractive timetable and ticketing will be introduced with a view to developing markets and use that will ensure the sustainability of the service from a financial and environmental perspective, as well as support business cases to improve and develop the provision.

OUTCOME B5

Our visitor facilities are high quality and landscape sensitive.

Are we within our timeline?

Timelines have been adjusted to reflect impact of Covid-19 and now on track.


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

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

Conclusion:

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

Detailed 2023 progress report


Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
B5.1		<p>Visitor facilities are sufficiently funded and invested in to achieve and exceed the expectations of visitors Review public transport systems in popular areas to ensure it meets the demands and needs of residents and visitors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the visitor facilities (centres, toilets etc) within the National Park and identify priorities for improvement Through a visitor survey, monitor opinions on facilities and act on any recommendations Assess the possibility and sustainability of expanding Information and Visitor Centres to be community/well-being hubs 	<p>By the end of 2023, the results of the facilities assessment will have been produced, and a feasibility study into expanding the role of visitor centres will be complete.</p> <p>Results of the visitor survey will influence future priorities.</p>	<p>SNPA NRW National Trust Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council Visit Wales North Wales Economic Ambition Board Snowdonia Society</p>

Progress report: SNPA: New interactive exhibits at Betws y Coed opened to the public and were well received. Piloted opening of Beddgelert Visitor Centre on weekends through the winter. Feedback from both visitors and local community incredibly positive. Feasibility for this to continue in the future to be conducted in spring 2024.

NRW - All 300 km of waymarked trails inspected and maintained in accordance with the Visitor Safety Guide.

CG, SNPA and CCBC have worked together to adopt the Gwynedd and Eryri 2035 Plan during 2023 and it was launched in September 2023 at Plas Tan y Bwlch. Operating structures for the establishment of the Gwynedd and Eryri Partnership 2035 have now been agreed and immediate implementation of the new structure is planned. One of the main aims of the partnership will be to agree a new action plan that will prioritise improvements.


CG: Slate Partnership Wales has secured significant funding during 2023 to undertake improvements across all 6 Components of the World Heritage site. This includes £18.8m of UK Government Shared Prosperity Funding and over £500,000 of the UK Government's Common Prosperity budget

B5.2		<p>Support activities that complement the Special Qualities of Snowdonia - in particular tranquillity - and that encourage visitors to switch to visiting during the autumn and winter in order to address seasonality and pressures in high season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and promote activities and initiatives relating to the Dark Skies Reserve status • Support and promote initiatives relating to winter tourism • Improve and promote opportunities for access to the historic environment and wider cultural heritage 	<p>Our Dark Skies Officer works to promote understanding of this important element of Snowdonia, reporting on an annual basis.</p> <p>By the end of 2023, our Cultural Heritage and Interpretation Strategy will include promotion of the historic environment linked to seasonality (see also policy B3.1)</p>	<p>SNPA Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council National Trust Visit Wales NRW Cadw John Muir Trust</p>
------	---	--	---	--

Progress report: SNPA, CG and CCBC have developed their successful Ambassador Programmes which aim to address seasonality issues.

SNPA and CG have produced a Sustainable Visitor Economy Strategic Plan for the area and are working in Partnership with CCBC to deliver it.

NRW – Llifo Conwy Partnership is somewhere to work together on solutions for climate, nature, people, and culture in the Conwy river catchment.

B5.3		<p>High quality, landscape appropriate accommodation, meets the expectations and demand of visitors and is helping increase spend per head</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out research into the demand and gaps in relation to high quality visitor accommodation including that of affordable accommodation • Work in partnership with Gwynedd Council to develop the Council's Destination Management Plan • Via the Local Development Plan, support the development and promotion of high quality, landscape appropriate, visitor accommodation to meet the demands of the market 	<p>By the end of 2020 research will have been carried out and the LDP will contain this guidance</p>	<p>SNPA Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council</p>
------	---	---	--	--

Progress report: CG: *The Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan 2035 will be a means of prioritising improvements to facilities across the area through the Sustainable Visitor Economy Partnership.*

SNPA: *Chapter 6 of the ELDP ('Supporting a Sustainable Rural Economy') highlights the policies designed to ensure that economic development is encouraged but in a manner which protects the environment and in line with the National Park purposes. New policies were included in the revised ELDP 2016-2031 which were;*

Development Policy 27: Snowdonia Enterprise Zone

Development Policy 28: New build serviced accommodation

Development Policy 29: Alternative holiday accommodation

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

In order to protect the National Park, policy 22 and 23 note that no new static caravan, chalet sites, touring sites or camping sites will be permitted. This is under review for the revision of the LDP in 2024-5.

See also B5.1

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

OUTCOME C1

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


Are we within our timeline? Yes

Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

Nothing which is currently affecting delivery of objectives.

Conclusion:

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

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

SNPA: Online series on how to pronounce Welsh geographical names in the National Park. Significant increase in requests for information and understanding from external media on using Yr Wyddfa and Eryri only in communications internationally. The National Park Authority attended the 2023 National Eisteddfod to promote our work and understanding of the National Park and its special qualities.

Cultural Heritage projects and initiatives, including Yr Ysgwrn, Dolgellau Townscape Heritage Scheme and Harlech and Ardudwy Cultural Heritage Project provide opportunities for participants and volunteers to engage with heritage through the medium of Welsh and provide support for Welsh learners / new Welsh speakers. Yr Ysgwrn has delivered an additional Geiriau Diflanedig resource in collaboration with Conwy CBC and which fulfils the requirements of the Curriculum for Wales. The names of Eryri lakes are now standardised and will be adopted by the Ordnance Survey in their future mapping.

NRW - All promotion and interpretation in accordance with the Welsh language act. All our offers are bi-lingual – signage, interpretation events etc

Supporting the Gwreiddiau Gwyllt project - Protecting and promoting the use of environmental Welsh terms. Project officer for Conwy - supporting with advice.

PAA: Established a Welsh working group. We are currently working with the Welsh Language Commissioner to underline our intention to work through the medium of Welsh and bilingually when applicable. In 2023 10 members of Clwb Mynydd Cymru have completed Mountain Leader training through the medium of Welsh. The course was arranged and funded from YBAA to enrich and strengthen the club for the future. Individuals can also go on to work in the field and lead groups professionally following successful assessment.


CCBC - Running into this financial year we had the Llais y Carneddau project at the Culture Centre which was a collaborative effort between Partneriaeth Tirwedd y Carneddau Landscape Partnership, art practitioner Rachel Evans, pupils from Ysgol Aberconwy, and Conwy Archives. The archive from the oral history project work done will be deposited with Conwy Archives at the end of the project making it accessible to a wide audience.

CCBC - This financial year we have also delivered sessions to 400 pupils in schools within the park area including Storytelling from the Archives, WW11 and Explore your Archive, which has resulted in 60 Arts Awards being completed.

BMC Cymru has an agreed Welsh Language policy for all documents in Wales being produced bilingually.

CG: Wide-ranging activities have been undertaken by various services of the Council including the Department for Education, Department for Economy and Community and the Department for Support in order to promote and protect the Welsh language and Welsh culture.

Woodland Trust: committed to using our Welsh language name more in our general working. Ensure that our documentation produced within Wales is bilingual and our work has a particular focus on Welsh language and culture across our work but particularly for our communication and engagement activity. Respecting the local names and places when working on private sites and encouraging a link back to old Welsh place names and references. Ensuring appropriate tree planting and the right tree in the right place, avoiding monoculture woodland plantations and protecting our native woodlands and important trees which are cultural and heritage assets of the area.

C1.2		<p>Provide opportunities for Welsh learners in the area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and support initiatives to encourage people moving to the area to learn Welsh • Create opportunities for Welsh learners and speakers to socialise and use the language, particularly through volunteer opportunities as in Policies A5.2 and B1.2 • As part of Policy B3.1 and B3.3 provide training for businesses in the Welsh language and culture 	<p>By the end of 2020 a pilot Ambassador scheme will have been established for the Snowdon Partnership Plan. We aim to develop this to encompass the entire National Park area by 2021.</p> <p>We will monitor the uptake of Welsh learners in volunteer activities offered by all Partners to measure progress.</p>	<p>SNPA Gwynedd Council Conwy County Borough Council NRW Public Health Wales Outdoor Partnership Sports Wales</p>
------	---	---	--	---


Progress report: SNPA: Yr Wyddfa and Cader Idris volunteers are paired according to language ability to ensure learners can practice their language skills. The Eryri Ambassador scheme has over 1000 members by November 2023.

CESS: Has ensured that all of our public-facing staff are bilingual, so there is the opportunity to make use of Welsh on all our volunteer events.

PAA: Plans to organise specific sessions on for learners within Caru Eryri programme. Possibility of collaboration with the Centre of Language Schools in Gwynedd and Nant Gwrtheyrn in the future.

CG: Menter Iaith has collaborated with community groups and Welsh language learning course providers to ensure there are opportunities for Welsh learners in the area.

Woodland Trust: Ensure that all our activities are promoted bilingually and able to accommodate Welsh learners. We have been recruiting with Welsh language provision in mind and all our staff are encouraged to learn or improve their Welsh with an aim of increasing our own staff Welsh language abilities to support our external engagement and internal awareness and ability in the Welsh language.

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

Progress report: SNPA - The Carneddau Landscape Partnership Plan and the Harlech and Arduwy Cultural Heritage Plan continue to collect place names to contribute to the List of Historic Welsh Names. The names are interpreted and promoted through creative projects. The names of Eryri's lakes are now standardised and will be adopted by Ordnance Survey in their mapping services.

NRW: Idwal Partnership – Carneddau Partnership educational n-line module on Welsh Place Names.

BMC launched several videos on Welsh pronunciation, following the official changes from Snowdon to Yr Wyddfa, and Snowdonia to Eryri. We will be looking to expand this in the future to more areas.

CG: The Place Names Project continues to be addressed with a focus on issues within Gwynedd Council's control and assists us in protecting Welsh names.

OUTCOME C2

Jobs and opportunities encourage people to remain in the area.

Are we within our timeline? Yes

Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?


Any lack of investment in digital infrastructure in the region.

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

Conclusion:

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

Detailed 2023 progress report

Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
C2.1		<p>Communication infrastructure in the area is being improved for businesses and communities in a way that does not compromise the landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support partners to deliver innovative and landscape sensitive initiatives to improve broadband, mobile data and internet infrastructure in rural areas • Support initiatives within the regional growth strategies that improve digital connectivity whilst protecting the landscape • Work with Gwynedd Council to develop further proposals for creating high value jobs across a range of areas. 	<p>Digital connectivity across Eryri is significantly improved.</p> <p>Free Wi Fi offerings linked to community centres and hubs will be available</p>	<p>SNPA</p> <p>Local Action Groups Conwy and Gwynedd</p> <p>Gwynedd Council</p> <p>Conwy County Borough Council</p> <p>North Wales Economic Ambition Board</p> <p>Creative North Wales</p> <p>Mantell Gwynedd</p> <p>Conwy and Denbighshire PSB</p>
<p>Progress report: CCBC – supported Betws y Coed Community Council to seek funding and install free Wi-Fi in the centre of BYC. CG: a) Working with North Wales Ambition to develop and realise Digital Programme plans b) Install Smart Towns equipment in the main centres of the county. Encouraging and facilitating the commercial investments of Openreach company in the county.</p>				

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


NRW - Tenancy agreement for Bike retail and hire at Coed y Brenin. NRW operated Café and facilities at Coed y Brenin run throughout the year in support of hospitality business. NRW placement scheme supports this.

CG:

a) Support for local businesses to diversify and develop into the future

b) Support for residents to return to work and have the skills to increase their earning potential.

c) Selected, with the help of local partners, 39 projects from across Gwynedd to receive funding from the UK's Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF).

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

Progress report: SNPA: Volunteering is a route to employment and accredited modules are available through the Caru Eryri volunteering Programme.

Through the policy of partnering those who speak Welsh with those who are learning, volunteers also have the opportunity to practise and normalise the use of the Welsh language.

Carried out a new joint scheme with NT and NRW to provide specialist training for local contractors on developing 'pitching' skills. A successful course that increases the availability of consultants for the partnership, providing training for local businesses, and opportunities for local businesses. An important part of the course was the element of raising awareness of working within a National Park and protected areas in general.

CG: See C2.2

OUTCOME C3

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

Are we within our timeline? Yes


Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

See C3.2 Progress Report for likely change needed in actions set – will trigger a review of the Eryri LDP which will set new and appropriate targets.

Conclusion:

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

Detailed 2023 progress report

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

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

SNPA is discussions with several partners on funding a new Community Housing Officer post. SNPA attended meetings with other partners and community representatives to discuss concerns of housing availability.

APCE: The Authority has decided to introduce an Article 4 Instruction - it will prevent the ability to change use from a residential house to a / holiday home - unless planning permission is received. Preparation and consultation work will begin on this in 2024.


NRW sit on the 2025- adequate and quality homes first online discussion.

Grŵp Cynefn: RHE Board held over zoom and a representative from PCE present. RHE has been working in Llanuwchllyn together with Grwp Cynefn and PCE to discuss with the community regarding the development of the Maes y Pandy site. Work continues.

Tai Teg has continued with discussions with WG and lenders and now has a list of potential lenders on its site www.taiteg.org.uk.


SNPA attending Tai Teg strategic and operational meetings. SNPA uses Tai Teg data as necessary when considering planning/self-build applications etc.

CCBC: The RHE team in partnership with CCBC have assisted Penmachno community to consider a housing led approach to bringing empty properties back into use as affordable housing to meet local need. CCBC launched a first-time buyer scheme in January 2020, as a result of which, 5 long term empty properties were brought back into use. The properties concerned were located in Betws y Coed (2), Trefriw (1), Rowen (1) and Dolwyddelan (1). This initiative used Eryri s106 funding – which is no longer available.

C3.2		<p>Through the LDP create policies that encourage affordable housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To meet the affordable housing target of 375 (average 25 affordable housing units per annum) over the LDP period of 2016-2031 	<p>The LDP annual monitoring report will measure progress throughout the term of the Plan.</p> <p>The LDP undergoes annual monitoring and policies and targets are reviewed every four years</p>	<p>SNPA Welsh Government Conwy County Borough Council Gwynedd Council Grwp Cynefin Adra Local Rural Housing Enabler services</p>
------	---	--	--	--

Progress report: SNPA The first three years of monitoring the EDLP 2016-2031 have not met the target of 25 affordable units permitted per year (2 in first year, 14 in 2nd. 1 in the 3rd year). High dependency on RSL delivery of affordable housing. Private development delivery is low.

The 3rd Annual Monitoring Report of the ELDP found the number of affordable housing units granted planning permission per annum below the trigger point of 21 units for 3 consecutive years. It concludes that a policy review is required as affordable housing is not being delivered and allocations are not coming forward. Given the situation facing the communities of Eryri, it is considered that triggering a formal review of the LDP is appropriate.

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

Progress report: SNPA: ELDP policies are being implemented to ensure sustainable development

OUTCOME C4

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

Are we within our timeline?

Revised timelines due to capacity issues which are now resolved.



Is there anything preventing the outcome being achieved by 2025?

New SNPA officer has been recruited and in post..

Conclusion:

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

Detailed 2023 progress report

Outcome no.	Progress status	Overview of Outcome and Actions	Measurements of success	Organisation/s responsible
C4.1		<p>Increase opportunities for dialogue between the National Park and community-based organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a charter that sets out the arrangements between the SNPA and Community and Town Councils, in relation to how we work together to develop activities of mutual benefit Explore the idea of appointing National Park Ambassadors in each community council, beginning with the area covered by the pilot Ambassador Scheme in Policy B3.3 	<p>By the end of 2021, a Charter will be established and the lessons from the pilot Ambassador scheme will be implemented.</p> <p>We will review these actions by 2025.</p>	<p>SNPA</p> <p>Community and Town Councils</p> <p>Un Llais Cymru</p>
<p>Progress report: APCE have created a Community Engagement Officer role to deliver the Cronfa Cymunedol Eryri and to ensure consistent engagement across the Authority when contacting and engaging in projects with Eryri's communities. The Officer is meeting with all Clerks of Community Councils in the NP to ensure that they have a point of contact and as an opportunity to share information about the work of the Authority.</p> <p>Several Partners have engaged with GwyrddNi groups and the work of Cymunedoli.</p>				
C4.2		<p>Work with communities to further enhance understanding of the Special Qualities of the National Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the main communities affected by the National Park designation but that fall outside the boundary, and work closely with these communities to achieve National Park objectives Support the upskilling of communities wishing to develop projects which protect and enhance Snowdonia's special qualities as per Outcome B3 Work with community-based organisations to develop Warden Area Plans, based on local needs and priorities Work with Conwy and Gwynedd councils to identify further opportunities for joint working 	<p>Throughout the Plan we will ensure that schemes are supported through the Community and Volunteer Fund.</p> <p>Warden Area Plans are co-produced with community input.</p> <p>We will review these actions by 2025.</p>	<p>SNPA</p> <p>Gwynedd and Conwy LAG groups</p> <p>Community and Town Councils on periphery of the National Park</p> <p>Mantell Gwynedd</p> <p>Un Llais Cymru</p>
<p>Progress report: SNPA: The community Engagement Officer has been sharing copies of Cynllun Eryri and the wider work of the Authority with all Community Councils throughout 2023 and into 2024.</p> <p>Cronfa Cymunedol Eryri is a way of supporting community projects which contribute to the protection of the Special Qualities of the area. The Young Ranger scheme teaches the Rangers the special qualities of the Park through a variety of engaging sessions. NRW also do this through the Llifo Conwy group.</p>				

REPORT OF THE MEMBERS' WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 17th APRIL 2024

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

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

Members appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillors Jo Nuttall; Dilwyn Owain Roberts;

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

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

Officers

Emyr Williams, G. Iwan Jones, Jonathan Cawley, Dewi Aeron Morgan, 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, Ifor Glyn Lloyd, John Pughe Roberts, Einir Wyn Williams.

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 March 2024 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record.

4. Overview of the Authority's Financial Challenges for the next two financial years (2025 - 2027)

Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive to present an overview of the Authority's financial position for the next two years, to discuss opportunities to address future challenges and deliver a balanced budget by the end of 2026/27 financial year.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented his report in detail and provided Members with the background, analysis of the financial challenge, and the options to consider in adjusting the Authority's cost base. In addition:-

- Members noted the Authority's financial journey from 2013/14 and that the Authority's budget at that time was £5.9m and then during austerity the budget was reduced to £4.4m. The budget currently stands at £4.9m which represents a £1 million reduction over the 10 years, plus inflation.
- the Property Manager has invited four companies to market the disposal of Plas Tan y Bwlch, both the sale and partnership options, and a report will be presented to Members in due course.
- the Authority's Medium Term Financial Plan was currently being revised and updated and would be presented to the next meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee in July 2024. The report will present the trends over the next 4-5 years.

- the Chief Executive thanked the Minister, Julie James MS, for the one-off additional funding, in particular the amount awarded in phase C, which will be utilised as stipulated in the priority areas.
- the Chief Executive advised that officers will be working on all the areas outlined in paragraph 4.7 which includes reviewing car park income, increasing planning fees, and reviewing back-office costs at the Information Centres and Yr Ysgwrn.
- paragraph 4.10 (2) The Chief Executive confirmed that the Management Team had identified 4 posts where the Authority could secure and extend some key roles currently on short-term funded contracts.

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

- Members thanked the Chief Executive for his detailed report.
- in response to a question, the Chief Executive stated that if Plas Tan y Bwlch remains in the Authority's ownership for longer than anticipated, the cost to the Authority of mothballing the building would be approx. £76k per annum.
- a Member noted that a number of National Park Authorities had outsourced their Information Centres which could be a future option in Eryri.
- the Member also suggested that commercial funding could be used to contribute towards the Minister's priority areas. In response, the Chief Executive advised that a recent White Paper on environmental governance recommends that each public body should be provided with a target for restoring biodiversity, officers have responded by proposing the target should remain with the Minister and then cascade down with the necessary resources to achieve these targets.
- in response to a question on outsourcing to areas other than groundworks, the Chief Executive referred to the Edwards report and its vision for the National Parks to become enabling Authorities and not take on the work themselves, which is how some footpaths, woodlands, and the LIFE model are currently managed in Eryri.
- a Member noted a concern that some commercial sponsorship could become "greenwashing," and that the National Parks should consider setting up memberships to generate income for defined environmental conservation projects, although the Chief Executive was of the opinion that this was an extremely competitive space.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the report.**
- 2. to note that the Welsh Government award is to be utilised partly to reduce the operating deficit for 2024/25.**
- 3. to request that officers undertake further work on income generation, capital and revenue spend including staff retention and recruitment in key areas as outlined in section 4 of the report and report back to members.**
- 4. to further consider the financial position of the Authority before the end of this financial year and to consider potential actions to be implemented during 2025/26 and 2026/27.**

6. Eryri Low Carbon Strategy 2024-2029

Submitted – A report by the Director of Planning and Land Management for Members to discuss and agree the content of the Eryri Low Carbon Strategy 2024-25.

Reported – The Director of Planning and Land Management presented the report and strategy which will assist the Authority to achieve the Government's ambitious net zero targets. The Director of Planning and Land Management took the opportunity to thank

Councillor John Pughe Roberts, Mr. Brian Angell and Mr. Tim Jones for their work on the Carbon Account Scrutiny Panel and also thanked Naomi Luhde-Thompson for meeting with the Planning Policy team to discuss ambitious and innovative ideas which hopefully can be incorporated into the revised Local Development Plan in future.

Members welcomed the strategy and discussed the following:-

- a Member noted it was a very fast-moving area with a need to keep a close eye on developments. The Chief Executive advised that the Management Team had identified the potential of a temporary role within the Authority that could be made permanent and be developed to be the Authority's low carbon officer. The post-holder would work on the carbon strategy and manage its implementation and also address race to zero targets. He confirmed liaising and sharing good practice with the two other National Parks in Wales would continue.
- a Member welcomed the excellent and wide-ranging report and noted:-
 - the reliance on building regulations' notional house was problematic as it does not measure the energy performance of a building once built, which has caused problems on a national level, and has required planning authorities to step in. There is no requirement within building regulations to deliver a passive house, which gets its energy from body heat, appliances and sunlight from the windows with no external forms of heat.
 - the carrying capacity of the National Park in terms of activity and growth e.g. how many visitors / developments can the National Park absorb was not included, and in terms of transport, the change in Government in Wales had reopened discussions on road developments and the CJC's will be especially important to the National Parks in terms of transport.
- a Member felt that more could be done over the longer term to develop cycle networks by using old railway tracks etc., and the strategy document provides an opportunity to change the culture of the organisation.
- in response to a concern raised by a Member with regard to the Welsh Government's White Paper requiring that farmers plant more trees, the Chief Executive gave reassurance that Strategic Policies in the Eryri Local Development Plan seek to "conserve and enhance areas of woodland, upland soils and peatland areas to assist in carbon retention, water storage and flood prevention" and also, the Authority's tree strategy will aim to protect the special qualities of the area and demonstrate how difficult it will be to increase the average number of trees in Eryri without disrupting its special qualities.

RESOLVED to welcome the Low Carbon Strategy and await its submission for adoption to the Authority's Annual General Meeting on the 12th June 2024.

The meeting ended at 12.30

**PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 20th MARCH 2024**

Councillor Elfed Powell Roberts (Gwynedd) (Chairman)

PRESENT:

Members appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillors Elwyn Edwards, June Jones, Einir Wyn Williams, Edgar Wyn Owen, 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, Tim Jones, Delyth Lloyd;

Officers

Emyr Williams, G. Iwan Jones, Dewi Aeron Morgan, Sian Owen, Bethan Hughes, Nia Murray, Anwen Gaffey;

Apologies

Councillors Annwen Hughes, Louise Hughes, John Pughe Roberts;
Sarah Hattle, Naomi Luhde-Thompson;
Jonathan Cawley, Director of Planning and Land Management.

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

- 1) The Chair, on behalf of Members, expressed appreciation and thanks to the officers involved in arranging the Member Development Day which had been very interesting and informative.
- 2) The Chair also noted that Tracey Evans was attending her final meeting as a Welsh Government Member, and on behalf of Members he thanked her for her work and conveyed best wishes for the future.

2. Declaration of Interest

Mr. G. Iwan Jones declared an interest in item 14 on the Agenda and left the meeting while the matter was being discussed.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Performance and Resources Committee held on 29th November 2023 were accepted and the Chairman 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.

Performance and Resources Committee 12.07.23

- Action Item 11 – Corporate Work Programme 2022/23 – Update on the Wellbeing Objectives

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the Action was complete and could now be removed from the Action Log.

- Action Item 7 – Income Report – Audit Wales

In response to a question, the Chief Executive advised that he had completed the pro-forma as far as he could, but as he was still waiting for strategic direction from the Welsh Government on the acceptable level of risk, the pro-forma remains incomplete. Both Bannau Brycheiniog National Park and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park were also waiting for the guidance, which was not expected for a further two to three months. The Chief Executive stated that he would update the pro-forma prior to leaving the Authority's employ.

RESOLVED to note the Action Log and remove the action as outlined.

5. **Budget Update 2023/24**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Finance to inform members of significant variations within the current financial year's budget and provide Members with updates on progress against the revenue and capital budgets.

Reported – The Head of Finance presented the report, which summarised the revised revenue and capital budgets for the first eleven months of 2023/24 and provided a projection of the Authority's position at the financial year-end. Members noted that paragraph 1.7 of the report confirms the additional grant of £1.2 million recently allocated by the Welsh Government to address budgetary pressures. This additional funding will now allow the Authority to carry over car park income etc., to address possible budgetary deficits in 2024/25.

Arising thereon, the Chief Executive confirmed that he would be presenting a report on the Authority's funding for the next three years to the next meeting of the Members' Working Group.

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

6. **The Authority's Risk Profile**

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services to update Members on the Authority's Risk Profile.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and risk profile and advised there had been no changes to the register since it was last presented to Members. He asked Members to consider adding an additional risk 'Resilience of the Management Team' to the Risk Register as this had already been identified as a risk in the Authority's Action Log. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed the risk would include the recruitment of a new Chief Executive and the possible turnover of personnel in the Senior Management Team.

Risk Ref. 2 Income Generating Target (Plas Tan y Bwlch), and Risk Ref. 16 Securing the long-term future of Plas Tan y Bwlch

Arising thereon, the Director of Corporate Services agreed to combine the two Risks for Plas Tan y Bwlch to reflect current decisions and include more detail such as the

risk to the Authority's good name, the financial risks, risks to the building itself, staffing implications etc.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the report and Risk Register.**
- 2. to combine Risk Ref. 2 and Risk Ref. 16 as outlined.**
- 3. to include the 'Resilience of the Management Team' as an additional risk on the Risk Register.**

7. External Grant Funding Update Report

Submitted – A report by the Chief Executive to provide an update on the projects supported by the Authority and confirm priorities for future external grant support.

Reported – The Chief Executive presented the report and background in detail and Members noted that the report was getting shorter as projects were coming to an end. The Chief Executive advised that the Authority was entering the third year of the SLSP capital funding programme, and following recent discussions with the Minister, he had received assurance there would be a three-year extension to the scheme. Following discussions with Welsh Government Officers on the financial pressures on the Welsh National Park Authorities, they have agreed in principle to provide approx. £280k capital funding, with the remainder to be used specifically for Decarbonisation and Nature Restoration. Arising thereon, the Chief Executive noted that some of the larger projects will be completed in the next few years and there was a need to invest officer time to develop new projects. Members noted that the Authority's Celtic Rainforest Wales Life Project was the largest in Europe.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the capital funded projects 2022 – 2025.**
- 2. to note the variations in the Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places funded projects (para. 2.4)**
- 3. to note the update on Sustainable Management Systems funded projects (para. 3.3)**
- 4. to note progress on live projects (Appendix 1).**
- 5. to confirm the priority areas for future bids (Appendix 2).**
- 6. to note the Member Approval Flow Chart (Appendix 3).**

8. Corporate Work Programme 2023-24

Submitted – A progress report by the Director of Corporate Services for the third quarter of the financial year (October – December 2023) and quarter four (January – March 2024) where the information is available.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and Corporate Work Programme and provided further details on the format of the report.

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

Resilient Environments

Improving Recreation Management and any Negative Effects of Recreation

- in response to a question, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that a formal evaluation to assess the implications of visitor sustainability issues, including the Plastic-free Yr Wyddfa project, will be carried out.
- the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that officers were aware of the delay in producing an engagement strategy for footpath works and guidelines for undertaking access route works in Eryri. The Member Development Day

had provided useful feedback and officers were aiming to complete this work in the final quarter.

Resilient Communities

Promoting and Actively Supporting the Welsh Language

- in response to a question, the Chief Executive reported that following the Authority's decision to use the Welsh names for Yr Wyddfa and Eryri, it had been agreed to allow a period of 2 years for this to embed. The Chief Executive advised that when the Senedd reviews National Park purposes, officers have put forward a request to formally accept use of the Welsh name only, and that the logo and branding etc., would be reviewed at that time. The Director of Corporate Services advised that the Authority would continue to encourage the use of both the Welsh and English name, as a way to reduce the use of English names only. This had been a successful campaign, taken up by the media and other organisations, who had followed the Authority's lead. The Member asked officers to consider a further push and to provide guidelines for use by both staff and members.

RESOLVED to note the report.

9. **Freedom of Information**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care on information requests received by the Authority under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report, for information.

RESOLVED to note the content of the report, for information.

10. **Strategic Equality Plan 2024-28**

Submitted – A report by the Head of Administration and Customer Care to present the Strategic Equality Plan for 2024/28.

Reported – The Head of Administration and Customer Care presented the report and background and advised that some minor changes had been made to the Equality Objectives following the consultation.

RESOLVED to approve and formally adopt the Strategic Equality Plan for 2024-28.

11. **'360 Wellbeing' App**

Received – An oral report by the Head of Human Resources.

Reported – The Head of Human Resources provided Members with details of the '360 Wellbeing' App, which the Authority had secured to provide all its employees with access to an 'Enhanced Employee Assistance Programme', free of charge, as a direct result of their employment with the Authority. This had been available to staff since Summer 2023 and was now being extended to include Authority Members and their families who were members of their household. The Head of Human Resources will contact Members with further details on how to gain access to the '360 Wellbeing' 'app' and provide them with a personal code.

The '360 Wellbeing' 'app' Services include:-

- GP Services Online - 24 hours, 365 days via 'Health Hero' – unlimited access to connect to G.P. doctor services via video or over the phone. The trained GPs provide the same service as you would receive from your regular GP which includes writing prescriptions that you can pick up as usual at your local pharmacy (which are free in Wales).
- Discounts in High Street Shopping - a family could save over £1,000 a year.
- Mental Health Services - with a mental health helpline - 24 hours, 365 days – Unlimited counselling sessions in English or Welsh.
- 'MyMindPal' – Used to help keep your mind healthy and tackle life's challenges and trials. Use the 'app' to create a 5 minute a day exercise routine to increase positivity, reduce stress levels and help to bounce back from tough times.
- Sport and Fitness – Online exercises with 'Les Mills' and other famous names providing fitness sessions and information as well as meditation and Yoga. (which connects to your health devices like Apple Watch and Fitbit)
- Perimenopausal and Menopause Information and Support – 'Online Menopause Centre OMC' – Online Menopause Centre offering information on symptoms and support with perimenopausal and menopause.
- Support for Carers - Care and Special Needs Support Service, via 'Grace Consulting' - To provide guidance when you need to find care for elderly family members or support for a child facing challenges through special needs.
- Legal Advice through one of the UK's largest law firms, 'Irwin Mitchell' - Legal aid and support helpline - 24 hours, 365 days.
- Financial Advice through 'Auriga' and 'Ask Bill'- Provides specialist welfare and debt advice, saving, arranging bills, changing tariffs etc.
- Total Motor Assist – FREE for 12-months protecting you if you are in an accident that was not your fault.
- Self-Help Workbooks – Free access to a wide range of self-help workbooks offering advice and guidance on a variety of topics.
- Home Eye Health Screening Tests by Ocushield – Test your eyes in less than 7 minutes with a new era of screening tests (via mobile phone, tablet or laptop). Ocushield's online eye screening tests your overall eye health to quickly find out if you need to book an appointment with an optician.
 - Check for vision changes or possible prescriptions
 - Test for stigmatisation, visual field and contrast sensitivity
 - Assess your colour vision and depth perception

Arising thereon, Members discussed the cost of the service to the Authority and officers noted the importance of monitoring what was being provided. The 'app' is included as an additional staff benefit for recruitment purposes.

RESOLVED to note the report and await the further details, as outlined.

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

Submitted – The minutes of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board meeting held on 15th November 2023.

The Chairman of the Plas Tan y Bwlch Management Board presented the minutes for information. Arising thereon, and in response to questions from Members:-

- the Chief Executive and the Director of Corporate Services provided Members with a short update on progress to date and confirmed that the Property Manager will be presenting a report to the next meeting of the Management Team.

- the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that Plas Tan y Bwlch was a 'Freehold' property in the sole ownership of the Authority. He agreed to look further at the deeds to allay Member concerns and also confirmed that the problem with bees had now been addressed.
- the Director of Corporate Services agreed to confirm with the Property Manager that following replacement of the syphon at Llyn Mair Reservoir, all the measures in the interest of safety will be complete, and the reservoir will be in the best condition possible in readiness for any future decisions on Plas Tan y Bwlch.

RESOLVED to note the minutes, for information.

13. Report of the Asset Management Group Meeting

Submitted – The report of the Asset Management Group meeting held on the 31st January 2024.

The Chairman of the Asset Management Group presented the report, for information.

RESOLVED to note the report.

14. SNPA Chief Executive (National Park Officer) Recruitment Process

Received – An oral update from the Chief Executive / Head of Human Resources on issues that have arisen regarding the appointment procedure.

Arising thereon, and in accordance with Standing Order 7.8 (Motions Affecting Officers), the Chairman asked Members to consider excluding the Press and Public from the meeting in order to discuss the matter fully.

RESOLVED to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting.

Reported – The Chief Executive advised that he would remain in the meeting as the decision had already been taken, this was now an operational matter.

The Head of Human Resources presented an oral update following the Authority meeting on the 6th March 2024, at which time Members had resolved that Option B was the preferred option. Arising from detailed discussions with the Senior Management Team, this option had been rejected due to insufficient capacity to deliver and that a revised Option C would be the preferred option.

Members discussed the issues raised in detail and agreed:-

RESOLVED

- 1. to note the detailed discussions and to amend Option C to provide an interim structure as the preferred recruitment option for appointing a permanent Chief Executive for the Authority.**
- 2. to authorise the Head of Human Resources to further discuss the amended option with the Senior Management Team in order to ensure business continuity.**
- 3. that the Head of Human Resources presents a further detailed report to the next meeting of the Authority on 24th April 2024 outlining the way forward.**

The meeting ended at 11.45

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
FRIDAY 26th APRIL 2024**

PRESENT:

Member appointed by Gwynedd Council

Councillor Elfed Roberts;

Member appointed by Conwy County Borough Council

Councillor Dilwyn Roberts;

Member appointed by the Welsh Government

Sarah Hattle;

Independent Members

Martin J. Hughes, Mark Jones, Sharon Warnes (Chair);

In Attendance (ex. officio)

Tim Jones;

Officers

Mr. G. Iwan Jones, Mrs Anwen Gaffey.

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Edgar Owen (ex. officio);

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

1 Chair's Announcements

The Chair welcomed Members and officers to the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interest

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

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 1st September 2023 were accepted and the Chair signed them as a true record. The Chair thanked Sarah Hattle for not attending the meeting in September in order to balance the membership and ensure a quorum.

4. Annual Report to the Authority's Annual General Meeting

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services for Members to agree the contents of the Annual Report.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and background and advised upon the additional statutory duty to prepare an annual report on how the committee's functions have been discharged and provide an overview of conduct matters within their Authority.

Members considered the report and made the following observations on Section 4:-

- para 4.2 – Members noted that the new hybrid system was being trialled at the meeting today and officers invited further feedback from the Members who were attending remotely. The Director of Corporate Services stated that past acoustic problems had been addressed by installing a new ceiling, and new screens and

microphones had been purchased to allow the Authority to convene its meetings at the National Park Headquarters in Penrhyndeudraeth in future. Members agreed that the updated facilities were an improvement on the facilities at Plas Tan y Bwlch, although some problems did arise at the meeting which were reported to the IT department.

- the Director of Corporate Services to ascertain whether the Chair's input to the Wales Audit report on Governance of National Park Authorities and the Standards Committee's input to the Penn Review had previously been reported in the Annual Report 2023.
- the Chair confirmed that she was available to present the Standards Committee Annual Report to the Authority's AGM on the 12th June 2024.

RESOLVED subject to the above, to agree the contents of the Annual Report to be presented to the Authority's Annual General Meeting, as set out in Section 4 of the report.

5. Report by Internal Audit on Support Provided to the Authority's Members

Submitted – An information report by the Director of Corporate Services for Members to note and discuss.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the Internal Audit Service's report in detail.

Members considered the report and made the following observations:-

- Members welcomed the report conclusion that there was a high level of certainty that the internal mechanisms in place provided sufficient support to Members.
- the Standards Committee raised concerns on the low level of participation by Members to the Internal Audit Service's questionnaire. A total of three responses had not provided the Internal Audit with enough information to make an informed analysis and on this occasion the Authority had benefited from the additional evidence and information provided.
- the Standards Committee agreed that such lack of engagement should be referred to in the annual report and to encourage Members to respond fully to such matters when the opportunity presents itself in future.

RESOLVED

1. to note the report

2. to include in the Annual Report the Standard Committee's concern at the lack of engagement by Members.

6. Declaration of Members' Interests

Submitted – A report by the Director of Corporate Services for the Standards Committee to monitor the operation of the code of conduct.

Reported – The Director of Corporate Services presented the report and background and Members noted they had had reviewed the process which seemed to be working very well.

RESOLVED to note the report, for information.

7. Standards Committees Chairs' Forum Wales – Monday 29th January 2024

Submitted - The minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committees Chairs' Forum Wales, for information.

Reported – Members noted that the Chair would present the minutes and not the Vice-Chair as stated in the Agenda.

The Chair presented the minutes and advised that many of the matters under discussion at the Chairs' Forum were not relevant to National Park Authorities.

Arising thereon, Members and officers discussed:-

- use of the Local Resolution process
- the support provided for the Standards Committees
- an online session on the use of social media, prepared by the WLGA, which could be accessed by using the link in the report.
- Members noted that the recently published report by the Auditor General for Wales on Governance of National Park Authorities was available on the Audit Wales website, for information.

RESOLVED to note the oral report, for information, and to thank the Chair for representing the Snowdonia National Park Authority Standards Committee at the Standards Committees Chairs' Forum Wales.

The meeting ended at 14.55