

## **Report of Health, Well-Being, Recreation and Tourism Officer**

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### **Subject: Welsh National Parks: Landscapes for Everyone: Our Approach to Social Inclusion and Child Poverty [Revised for 2021].**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. Members are asked to note the revised 'National Parks Wales Landscapes for Everyone: Our Approach to Social Inclusion and Child Poverty'. The document can be found in Annex 1 to this report.

#### **Introduction/Background**

2. Landscapes for Everyone was first published in the spring of 2020 during the early stages of the covid-19 pandemic. The Socio-Economic Duty came into force in Wales on 31 March 2021. The Welsh National Parks recognised that they would need to be responsive and reflective of both the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the commencement of the Socio Economic Duty and it was planned that the paper would be revised in 2021.
3. The National Parks of Wales are 'Landscapes for Everyone'. They strive to connect people with the natural and cultural heritage of National Parks and through proactive engagement promote social inclusion, tackle social exclusion and reduce the negative impacts of poverty.
4. Landscapes for Everyone is a position statement with principles and priority areas to guide the efforts of the Welsh National Parks in delivering their core purposes and duty whilst meeting the requirements of 'Valued and Resilient' (the Welsh Government's Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks July 2018). The revised 'Landscapes for Everyone' now also covers the policy and programme areas previously covered by the paper Welsh National Parks: Together for Health and Well-being (2016)<sup>1</sup>.
5. 'Landscapes for Everyone' sets out the challenges and defines the role of the National Park Authorities to help focus our work and have the greatest impact. To deliver 'Landscapes for Everyone' it will be essential to continue to enhance and develop collaborative working in and across all National Park Authorities and for ongoing engagement and collaboration with stakeholders and beneficiaries in both statutory and non-statutory services and settings.

#### **Context**

6. Social inclusion and tackling the negative impacts of poverty are identified by the Welsh Government as essential factors in improving the health, well-being and overall quality of life for people living in Wales and are all an integral part

of the Welsh Government's priorities linked to The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and supporting the well-being goal of an Equal Wales.

7. The Welsh Government has been undergoing a series of reviews focused on poverty.<sup>1</sup> In September 2020 the Welsh Government implemented the commencement of Part 1, Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010 – the Socio-economic Duty. The duty requires specified public bodies including National Park Authorities, to consider how their decisions could help to reduce the inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage when they are making strategic decisions such as 'deciding priorities and setting objectives'.
8. On 13 October 2021 the Welsh Government published a report to support the implementation of the Socio-economic Duty.<sup>2</sup> This report provides a summary of key evidence relating to how socio-economic disadvantage affects the people of Wales and highlights the intersectionality that is key when examining socio-economic deprivation, and summarises the key inequalities of outcome that certain groups face. Going forward Welsh National Parks will also look to this report as it can be used as a source of evidence for policy development and support the Authority in implementing the Socio-economic Duty.
9. On April 2021 the Welsh Government published the responses to the consultation on the Draft Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill.<sup>3</sup> On 6 July 2021 the Counsel General announced the Welsh Government's plans to legislate for a Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill as part of the legislative programme. The Bill aims to strengthen social partnership arrangements in Wales and provide a framework to drive greater social equality for Welsh workers across the economy. This position statement demonstrates how National Park Authorities in Wales considers socio-economic impacts in their work, including issues relating to child poverty.
10. The Authority is in the process of reviewing its Well-being Objectives following the agreement of new priorities for the Authority by the NPA in July<sup>4</sup>, focused on Conservation, Climate, Connection and Communities. As the Authority develops activities to deliver these priorities it is important that it considers how it continues to deliver positive outcomes in terms of health, well-being, poverty, equality and social inclusion across the priorities. For example the Well-being of Future Generations Commissioner and Public Health Wales have recently released a report that highlights the need to consider opportunities to address inequality when looking at responses relating to climate change.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-01/child-poverty-strategy-2019-progress-report.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [Evidence review: socio-economic disadvantage and inequalities of outcome | GOV.WALES](#)

<sup>3</sup> [https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2021-07/summary-of-responses\\_0.pdf](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2021-07/summary-of-responses_0.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [30\\_21-Strategy-Report.pdf \(pembrokeshirecoast.wales\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> Welsh Government, Public Health Wales: Inequality in a Future Wales: Areas for action in work, climate and demographic change: [FGCW Equalities-Report E-UPDATED.pdf \(futuregenerations.wales\)](#)

## **Financial considerations**

11. 'Landscapes for Everyone' will not come with any additional budgetary implications for this Authority. However, it should define how we maximise the use of existing resources (including financial resources) to deliver health and social inclusion work effectively. It can also assist in the preparation of funding bids.
12. At present much of the Authority's social inclusion and health focused work is project funded, for example the National Lottery People and Places Fund supports the Roots to Recovery Project. Project funding of this type is always time limited and there is a need to consider how this type of work might be continued in the future. Whilst there continues to be a range of external funding opportunities and partnership possibilities available to support this work, the Authority might wish to increase its core funding to ensure the long-term success of our health and social inclusion work.
13. As a supplement to this work, the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority has recruited a specialist to deliver a review and recommendations for 'Experiences for All'. Due to the pandemic this work was delayed, and the final report is now due at the end of 2021. This work is funded by Welsh Government.

## **Risk considerations**

14. The anticipated Welsh Government Report on poverty originally due in Spring 2020 but as yet to be published may include further recommendations for National Park Authorities to help mitigate the negative impacts of poverty that have not been identified in Landscapes for Everyone. If this is the case then the document may require review to reflect. On 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021 the Counsel General announced the Welsh Government's plans to legislate for a Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill as part of the legislative programme for year one of this Senedd term this may have implications for National Park Authorities and impact on their work going forward.
15. As the Authority develops activities to deliver its new priorities it is important that it considers how it continues to deliver positive outcomes in terms of health, well-being, poverty, equality and social inclusion. The effective use of integrated assessments that include consideration of equality and socio economic impacts can assist with this and ensure compliance with relevant equality and socio economic duties.

## **Compliance**

16. The document highlights and supports activities carried out by National Park Authorities to comply with their Public Sector Equality Duty, the Socio Economic Duty and the Well-being of Future Generations Act and delivery of Park Purposes.

## **Human Rights/Equality issues**

17. The content of this Statement is derived from Plans such as the Management Plan, the Local Development Plan and the Equality Plan which themselves have been subject to rigorous assessment in relation to these issues. The document highlights and supports activities carried out by National Park Authorities to comply with their Public Sector Equality Duty, the Socio Economic Duty and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

## **Biodiversity implications/Sustainability appraisal**

18. 'Landscapes for Everyone' contains no activity that is likely to result in a negative impact on biodiversity in the National Park. Broadly speaking delivering 'Landscapes for Everyone' will result in an increased awareness of biodiversity in Pembrokeshire (amongst new audiences) and involve participants in positive actions which support biodiversity. The content of this Statement is derived from Plans such as the Management Plan, the Local Development Plan and the Equalities Plan which themselves have been subject to rigorous assessment in relation to these issues.

## **Welsh Language considerations**

19. Any work developed by the Authority in accordance with 'Landscapes For Everyone' will be done in accordance with the Authority's commitment to the Welsh language.

## **Conclusion**

20. 'Landscapes for Everyone' builds upon previous commitments from National Parks Wales on health, well-being, social inclusion and poverty. It provides a clear and concise approach and if agreed, will help guide all work across National Parks in Wales and provide the context needed to support actions as requested in 'Valued and Resilient'.

## **Recommendation**

**Members are asked to note 'National Parks Wales: Landscapes for Everyone' as set out in Annex 1 to this report.**

## **Authors**

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## **Background Documents**

1. Valued and Resilient <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-04/areas-outstanding-natural-beauty-national-parks-2018-report%20.pdf>

2. Child Poverty <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-01/child-poverty-strategy-2019-progress-report.pdf>
3. Wellbeing of future Generations Action ( Wales) 2015  
<https://futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/>
4. National Parks Wales – Health and Wellbeing Position Statement and Priority Actions 2018  
[https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/Files/files/Committee/Operational%20Review/2018%20March%207/02\\_18%20Health%20Wellbeing.pdf](https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/Files/files/Committee/Operational%20Review/2018%20March%207/02_18%20Health%20Wellbeing.pdf)
5. [A More Equal Wales. The Socio-economic Duty, Equality Act 2010, Statutory Guidance: WG42004 A More Equal Wales The Socio-economic Duty Equality Act 2010 \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales)

## Appendix A

### Welsh National Parks: Landscapes For All

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