

Operational Review Committee

29 June 2022

Present: Councillor Dr S Hancock, Councillor R Jordan, Dr M Havard, Mrs J James, Councillor PJ Morgan, Dr R Plummer and Councillor A Wilcox.

[Councillors M Wiggins and C Williams joined the meeting during the presentation on the Outdoor Schools Network (Minute 7) refers]

(Virtual Meeting: 10.00am – 11.50am)

1. Election of Chair

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Councillor S Hancock be elected Chair for the ensuing year.

[Councillor Hancock took the Chair and presided over the remainder of the meeting.]

2. Election of Deputy Chair

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Dr R Plummer be elected Deputy Chair for the ensuing year.

3. Apologies

Councillor M Wiggins had apologised that she would be joining the meeting late.

4. Disclosures

Dr R Plummer made a general declaration; Councillor Dr S Hancock and Dr M Havard each disclosed an interest in the item on the Outdoor Schools Partnership (Minute 7 refers) however all remained in the meeting and played a full part in the discussions.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 16 March 2022 were presented for confirmation and authentication.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2022 be confirmed and authenticated.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

a) Performance Report for the period ending 31 January 2022 (Minute 6)

A Member asked whether there was any update regarding the future of the collaborative project to develop a regional approach to One Planet



Developments and Biodiversity Enhancement. The Chief Executive agreed to check and let Members know.

b) Thanks (Minute 9)

Thanks were given to the previous Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee for their work.

NOTED.

7. Presentation on the Outdoor Schools Partnership

The Discovery Team Leader explained that this was a longstanding partnership which had been working across Pembrokeshire for the previous 12 years. It had been started by two local head teachers in 2010 as a way of engaging teachers and learners to spend time outdoors, and covered topics across the whole curriculum. The Partnership generated its own funding, which, alongside project funding, allowed it to employ a part-time coordinator initially, however the current coordinator was full-time and this had allowed the project to achieve more in recent years.

The Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools Coordinator went on to report that Estyn (Education and Training Inspectorate in Wales) recognised the good practice of Outdoor Schools and highlighted the benefits to pupils of outdoor learning in their reports. Outdoor learning also supported the new curriculum in Wales which would be in place from September. As a result of the Pandemic, an Outdoor Schools website had been developed and this had allowed resources to be shared widely and beyond Pembrokeshire. There was also a strong social media following. An Autumn training event had been held in 2021 and over 20 schools had been involved in Wales Outdoor Learning Week. A day to celebrate the success of the Partnership had recently been held, when awards had been made to all schools which were involved. The Coordinator went on to share case studies of the work being undertaken in Neyland and Johnston Primary Schools, and Milford Haven Comprehensive which was using the Cynefin approach to learning about the humanities through exploring their own area. It was noted that an open day at Johnston in May had attracted over 80 teachers, some travelling from Cardiff.

Members were impressed with the work of the Partnership, some having seen its benefits to schools first hand, and asked whether this was being shared with other National Parks and groups more widely. The Discovery Team Leader noted that the work had been highlighted at the National Park Educators Conference and that the model had also been adopted by neighbouring Local Authorities. Members also highlighted the importance of the Authority's educational offer and the engagement with young people as a result. The Chief Executive added his congratulations to officers for their work and hoped that greater support for the Partnership,



financial or otherwise, would be received from the Local Education Authority and others going forward.

Noted.

8. Update on the rollout of the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Network

The Building Projects Manager had provided a late report to the Committee which outlined the work of the Authority, in partnership with Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC), to deliver a County wide network of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points with the aim of installing a 'fast' EV charging infrastructure across its sites, depots (in readiness for the electrification of its pool and fleet vehicles) and charging car parks with 'rapid' charge points at destination locations (hubs). It was noted that the same charging units as PCC had been installed to ensure a coordinated approach and seamless delivery across the county. The network was designed to give thorough coverage across the County of Pembrokeshire to address the EV charging needs of residents, visitors and primarily to support and encourage the transition to electric vehicles. Given Pembrokeshire's established and vital tourism industry the project also enabled the county to promote the concept of 'eco-tourism' to visitors. The project had been supported with £1.4 million of Welsh Government funding.

The report provided an update of the work undertaken across the three phases of the project which had resulted in the installation of 18 Rapid Chargers and 95 Fast Chargers across the County, and a location map for these was presented. An overview of the operation and maintenance of the chargers was also provided. The project would be completed in August 2022, however PCC would continue to introduce further charging points and the Authority would consider extensions to the network in future as demand increased.

Members congratulated the officer on delivery of a successful project, thanking him for the comprehensive report, and were pleased with the partnership approach taken. They asked that an evaluation report on experience and usage be presented to the Committee next year. Members asked whether it was possible to pre-book a charger, to avoid the frustration of arriving at a location to find that all chargers were full or out of order. The officer did not believe that this was possible, but advised that experience so far was that users tended to charge little and often. However monitoring of the usage of the network would be taking place so that action could be taken where possible at any busy locations. Another Member asked about the loss of car parking spaces for non-electric cars, however the officer confirmed that a ticket was still required to park in an electric charging space and believed that their use would increase as people became more aware of them.



Noted.

9. Update on the Notice of Motion that the Authority enters into negotiation with Lamphey Community Council, and any interested parties, to either gift or sell land in Freshwater East, for the provision of a children's play area.

Members were reminded that this Notice of Motion had been delegated to the Committee by the National Park Authority, and that the matter had been considered at its previous meeting when it had been resolved that officers enter into further communication with Lamphey Community Council regarding the provision of a children's play area at Freshwater East and report back. Conversations had been had with both the individual behind the idea and the Chair of the Community Council and it had been suggested that this might be an issue of concern to one individual, rather than the Community Council as a whole. An email had also been sent to the Clerk, however no formal response had been received. It was suggested that a further reminder be sent, and any further progress would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee on 21 September, when a decision could be made on what, if any, further action should be taken, and a recommendation made to the Authority.

Members agreed that this was a good way forward and asked that Councillor Kidney, who was no longer a Member of the Authority, be kept apprised of the situation.

Noted.

[Dr M Havard tendered her apologies and left the meeting during consideration of the following item]

10. Performance Report for the Period Ending 31st March 2022

This report followed the structure of the Corporate and Resources Plan for 2021/22 and presented the performance for the full financial year 21/22 including Q4 data (January - March) for relevant data sets. It was noted that data would be reviewed prior to inclusion in the Authority's Annual Report on Meeting Well-being Objectives. The Performance and Compliance Coordinator highlighted a number of measures and actions to the Committee in respect of the work of the Authority.

Members thanked the officer for a clear report which demonstrated a fantastic performance in what had been a difficult year, and congratulated all teams on their work.

While the red RAG ratings for some planning indicators were noted, Members were hopeful that the measures that had been taken to try to address the situation would produce results; in response to a question, it was considered unlikely that targets would be met in the following quarter



as there had been difficulties in recruiting an Enforcement Officer, and new staff required training, however a further update would be provided at the following meeting. With regard to the pressure on the coast path, the Chief Executive noted this was significant, and not helped by recruitment challenges in that area. He added that last year's figures for coast path counters were up by 31% when compared to 2019, however no additional funding had been forthcoming from Natural Resources Wales. Comments were made on a number of other indicators, and where possible further information would be included in the next report.

NOTED

11. Work Programme for the Ensuing Year

Members of the Committee were invited to suggest any areas of the Authority's work on which they would like to receive reports over the coming year. One suggestion was that each of the meetings could be devoted to one of the four 'C's of the Authority's strategy – Conservation, Climate, Connection and Communities. It was also noted that a report on the Kickstart Scheme would be interesting.

Members were asked to let officers know of any further suggestions.

NOTED.

