

Operational Review Committee

12 June 2024

Present: Dr RM Plummer (Chair)

Mrs J James, Mr G A Jones, Councillor P Morgan, and Councillor C Williams BEM.

Also in attendance: Claire Bates (Head of Regenerative Tourism), Georgia Jones (Democratic Services Officer), Tegryn Jones (Chief Executive), Sara Morris (Director of Placemaking, Decarbonisation and Engagement), Graham Peake (Learning & Inclusion Team Leader), Rachel Perkins (Visitor Services Manager West), Libby Taylor (Head of Engagement & Inclusion) and Mair Thomas (Performance and Compliance Officer).

[Mr GA Jones joined the meeting during consideration of report 03/24, the Well-being Objective: Deep Dive / Self-Assessment: Connection. Mrs J James joined the meeting during consideration of report 04/24, the First 1,000 Days Project Review]

(Virtual Meeting: 10.00am – 12:50pm)

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor SL Hancock MBE, Councillor R Jordan and Councillor M Wiggins.

2. Disclosures

Dr R Plummer made a general declaration as a Board Member of Natural Resources Wales and Chair of their Protected Areas Committee, a Trustee of Plantlife and a Director of Plant Life Biodiversity Enhancements Ltd however she remained in the meeting and played a full part in the discussions.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 06 March 2024 were presented for confirmation and authentication.

On the proposal of Councillor C Williams, seconded by Councillor P Morgan, it was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 06 March 2024 be confirmed and authenticated.

4. Action Log and Matters arising

The action log was noted by Members.

Noted.



5. Well-being Objective: Deep Dive / Self-Assessment: Connection

The Chair welcomed the Head of Engagement & Inclusion who presented a Deep Dive report and Self-Assessment on the well-being objective of Connection. The report outlined that the Connection objective focused on creating a Park that was a natural health service that supported people to be healthier, happier and more connected to the landscape, nature and heritage. The report featured details of the outcomes for the objective, a progress assessment, several relevant case studies, details of challenges and opportunities, details of contributions to cross-cutting outcomes and an overall assessment with next steps. The Officer explained that the report followed a new format and Members feedback was sought.

The report highlighted the challenges faced by Officers in this area of work which included the funding landscape that had become more competitive in recent years. The Chief Executive explained that many of the projects highlighted in the report were grant funded and there was a possibility that the Authority would be required to prioritise projects in future, should the funding landscape continue to become more competitive.

Members commended Officers involved for their work in delivering projects that contributed to the Authority's objective of Connection and benefited the Parks communities. The importance of working collaboratively both between departments and organisations was discussed.

Noted.

[The meeting was adjourned between 11:15am – 11:25am]

6. First 1,000 Days Project Review

The Chair welcomed the Learning & Inclusion Team Leader who presented a review on the First 1,000 Days Project and how present and planned activity in this area was being developed to meet the needs of children and those involved in providing care for this age group. The report featured background information of the project, details of activity undertaken, comparisons, funding status, challenges, available resources, positive feedback and next steps.

The Officer commented that one of the main challenges for the project was communicating effectively with project participants as Officers were unable to use WhatsApp for data protection purposes. The Director of Placemaking, Decarbonisation and Engagement confirmed that this challenge was being considered by the Authority's Management Team to establish a solution.

A Member requested further information regarding the team's procedures for safeguarding and photography consent. In response, the Officer clarified both procedures and highlighted the significant level of experience within the team. It was added that the team's connection to Flying Start settings assisted with safeguarding matters.

A discussion ensued regarding the communities who benefited from the project and the Officer clarified that although the Authority aimed to engage with all communities, connections were often generated through early years settings. The Officer acknowledged that despite the success of the project, work was still required to increase the accessibility of the scheme.

A Member queried whether project participants were aware that the Authority were the facilitators of the project. The Officer replied that the project programme featured experience suggestions that encouraged participants to visit the National Park however further work was required to promote the National Park more generally. This suggestion was noted by the Officer.

Noted.

7. West Wales Walking for Wellbeing Project Review

The Learning & Inclusion Team Leader presented a report on the activities, outputs and outcomes of the West Wales Walking for Wellbeing project following its completion in January 2024.

It was reported that the project sought to develop and deliver a programme of walking for health and well-being opportunities that were community based, sustainable, embraced a social prescribing model, and connected primary health care with communities at a local level. The report detailed that the project sought to empower individuals to become more physically active with a focus on those living sedentary or relatively sedentary lives. The report provided further background on the project with relevant statistics and funding details.

A discussion ensued regarding the ways in which the project could be further developed and expanded, and Members' suggestions were noted by the Officer. It was confirmed that the Authority were looking to re-map and re-promote social prescribing opportunities to the public.

It was reported that the project was externally evaluated by Emma George Consultants and a Member requested that the full evaluative report be circulated to Members.

Noted.

8. Well-being Objectives Performance Report

The Chair welcomed the Performance and Compliance Coordinator who presented the Well-being Objectives Performance Report that detailed progress made against priority indicators/projects/work programmes for the period ending 31 March 2024 (end of financial year) and included quarter 4 statistics for some measures.

The performance report set out the Authority's performance against its four Well-being Objectives (Conservation, Climate, Connection and Communities) as set out in our Corporate and Resources Plan 2023/24 – 2026/27.

A Member noted that a large portion of measures had a green RAG rating, and asked whether the Authority's targets were not sufficiently ambitious. The Officer clarified that the report featured several new measures and took a more long-term approach which resulted in a large volume of green RAG ratings. A discussion ensued regarding the Authority's targets, the challenges in measuring the impact of some of the Authority's work and the need to strike a balance between achievable and ambitious targets. The Chief Executive added that several of the targets had been set externally as a result of associated grant applications.

A Member noted the complex terminology featured in the report and suggested that clearer headings be utilised. In response, the Performance and Compliance Coordinator explained that the Authority was required by legislation and Audit to follow a particular framework however the feedback was noted.

The Chair requested further information regarding the Carew Castle Access Project featured in the report. The Officer agreed to request further details from the relevant Officer including the project overview and next steps.

Noted.