

National Park Authority

26 March 2025

Present (Remotely)

Councillor D Clements (Chair)

Councillor M Bowen, Councillor T Evans, Councillor C George, Dr M Havard, Dr R Heath-Davies, Mrs S Hoss, Councillor M James, Mr GA Jones, Dr R Plummer, Councillors B Price, Councillor S Skyrme-Blackhall, Councillor A Tinley, Councillor V Thomas, Councillor M Wiggins and Councillor C Williams BEM.

Also in attendance:

Lynwen Davies (Simultaneous Translator), Catrin Evans (Head of Finance & Fundraising), Emma Gladstone (Strategic Policy Manager), Richard Griffiths (151 Officer), Georgia Jones (Democratic Services Officer), Tegryn Jones (Chief Executive), Michael Kent (Monitoring Officer), Gayle Lister (Planning Officer, Strategic Policy), Caroline Llewellyn (Democratic Services Manager), Jessica Morgan (Head of Decarbonisation), Sara Morris (Director of Place and Engagement) and Michel Regelous (National Park and Marine Policy Officer).

[Councillor A Tinley joined the meeting during consideration of report 08/25, Draft Budget Planning 2025/26.]

[Online Meeting, 10.00am – 1:30pm]

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J James and Councillor SL Hancock MBE.

2. Disclosures of Interest

Dr R Plummer made a general declaration as Board Member of Natural Resources Wales and Chair of its Protected Areas Committee and as Welsh Government Senior Independent Member for Public Appointments. Councillors V Thomas and M Wiggins both declared an interest in report 11/25, Cresswell Quay Management Plan. Councillor B Price declared an interest in report 14/25, Clarification statement on potential implementation of Article 4 (1) Direction on Camping and Caravans.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 05 February 2025 were presented for confirmation and authentication.

A Member highlighted an incorrect title featured in minute 3 and confirmed that it should read 'Dr M Havard'.



On the proposal of Councillor D Clements, seconded by Councillor S Skyrme-Blackhall, it was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 05 February 2025 be confirmed and authenticated subject to the above amendment.

4. Action Log and Matters Arising

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Pay & Grading Review was coming to an end, and a review would be conducted in the near future.

With regards to action 982, it was reported that stakeholders had met to agree the terms of reference for a Strategic Advisory Board which would be responsible for presenting any actions to Visit Pembrokeshire. The action could therefore be removed from the action log.

In relation to action 1036, a Member requested to see the final version of the Welsh Language Assessment for the Camping and Caravan Consultation, and this was noted by the Chief Executive.

Noted.

5. Chair's Announcements

The Chair reported that she had attended the following events/meetings:

- Corporate Joint Committee where the current Corporate Plan was discussed, and an amendment was made to the Net Zero Statement
- WLGA Rural Forum where the draft manifesto was discussed
- A meeting with a representatives of HDR Consulting and the Welsh Government (WG) regarding a WG project on reviewing arrangements for evaluating Members in Welsh National Park Authorities.
- Tenby Chamber of Trade Breakfast where students from Greenhill School had the opportunity to engage with local businesses to gain valuable insight into the world of work.

The Chair congratulated the team for the launch of Tirlun, an online portal that featured a wide range of learning resources that aimed to embed outdoor learning and learning about the outdoors in a variety of forms.

The Chair congratulated the Carew Team for their nomination as the Best Attraction in the National Tourism Awards.

The Chair took the opportunity to congratulate and thank Owen Duffy, an Authority Warden who had achieved 40 years of service and was now the longest serving member of staff in the Authority.



The Deputy Chair highlighted that the Authority's internal Auditors were seeking suggestions for topics for future audits, and Members were invited to submit their suggestions.

Noted.

6. Reports of meetings of various Authority Committees

The following reports of several of the Authority's Committee meetings were presented to Members for consideration:

- i) Development Management Committee held on 29/01/2025
- ii) Operational Review Committee held on 18/12/2024
- iii) People Services Committee held on 15/01/2025

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the above-mentioned Committees be received.

7. The Partnership Plan

The Management Plan and Marine Officer presented a report that sought Members' final approval for the National Park Partnership Plan 2025-2029 and associated impact assessments. The report featured background information, details of the consultation, an overview of key changes, a copy of the revised Plan, relevant impact assessments and next steps.

A Member noted that the Special Qualities identified within the Plan would become material considerations in the context of Planning and it was suggested that these be highlighted to the Authority's Solicitor to feature in his Report that is presented to the Development Management Committee. The Officer noted this suggestion.

A discussion ensued regarding the scope and ambitions of the Plan and a Member commented that it was not clear which elements the Authority would be accountable for. The Officer confirmed that the Partnership Plan would involve a range of stakeholders in the area and the Authority's Corporate Plan outlined the elements of the Partnership Plan which the Authority would be accountable for. Members suggested that the Authority's Corporate Plan be referenced in the Partnership Plan.

It was noted that stakeholders were referenced in The Partnership Plan and a Member expressed concern that the list could be incomplete. Suggested wording that clarified that the list was not exclusive was proposed and this was noted by the Officer.

On the proposal of Dr R Plummer, seconded by Councillor M James, it was **resolved** that:



- a) The summary report of consultation of the draft Partnership Plan 2025-2029 be noted.
- b) The final text of the following documents be approved:
 - i. Partnership Plan
 - ii. Equality Impact Assessment
 - iii. Habitats Regulations Assessment
 - iv. Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment
 - v. Well-being of Future Generations Assessment
 - vi. Welsh Language Assessment
- c) Delegated responsibility be granted to Officers for the following tasks:
 - i. Make any further changes agreed by Members today
 - ii. Include a foreword from the Cabinet Secretary
 - iii. Make any minor changes required (e.g. to correct typographical errors or update data, make action references consecutive)
 - iv. Prepare the text for online publication (including accessible HTML and accessible portable document format)
 - v. Continue with development of the Plan Partnership Group

8. Draft Budget Planning 2025/26

The Head of Finance & Fundraising presented a report that outlined the draft revenue and capital budgets for 2025/26 and forecast for 2026/27 to 2028/29, the draft 2025/26 levy on the Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC), the prudential indicators for the capital programme and an investment strategy, reserves and treasury management policy statements for 2025/26.

It was reported that the draft Welsh Government 2025-26 budget published in December 2024 had indicated that the National Park Grant for 2025-26 would increase by 5%. The Authority continued to face considerable increase in costs due to inflationary pressures, pay & grading impact combined with reduced real terms core income. These two factors had put the Authority in the difficult position of setting an operating budget deficit for 2025-26 of £566k. However, the Authority's cash reserve position provided a cushion to address this deficit in the short term. It was also noted that the revenue forecasts beyond 2025-26 were equally as challenging. The financial situation would therefore need to be managed by, where appropriate, discontinuing certain activities, improved efficiencies, cost savings, reviewing opportunities to generate income and seeking sources of grant aid.

The Officer explained that the budget was set in the context of global uncertainties, and the picture was a little better than had been outlined at



the budget workshop held for Members in December 2024 as WG had confirmed that additional funding would be awarded to the Authority however these were one-off payments. It could be seen that, assuming continued flat line budgets, that the deficit was predicted to increase year on year and action was being taken to address this within the next six months. The Officer added that the Authority required long-term settlements from the WG to be able to plan for the future.

It was noted that the draft 2025/26 levy on the Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) had been agreed at the February meeting of the Authority, although the proposed increase in National Park Grant for the coming year would mean that this was likely to increase slightly. Despite the likely Grant increase, it was noted that the total reduction between 2010/11 and 2024/25 in cash terms had been £285k effectively year on year. Further when the consumer prices index was applied the overall reduction in real terms since 2010/11 equated to 49.3% or circa £2m.

The report set out the draft Capital programme, and it was noted that this was largely unchanged from the previous year to allow delivery of existing obligations. A Member suggested that income generating/invest to save projects should be prioritised in future.

In response to increased operating costs, an increase in the Authority's general reserves was proposed. Both general and earmarked reserves were expected to fall by the year end. A Member noted that the number of staff had increased, and it was confirmed that this was due to grant funded projects. In response to a question, the officer also confirmed that scenario planning in respect of the assumption of 2% for the pay award had taken place as this was one of the areas of uncertainty.

On the proposal of Dr R Heath-Davies, seconded by Councillor M James, it was **resolved** that:

- a) The draft budget 2025/26 be approved in principle, subject to noting that the NPG/Levy estimate had yet to be confirmed
- b) The financial forecasts for 2025/26 to 2028/29 be noted

On the proposal of Dr R Plummer, seconded by Councillor M Bowen, it was **resolved** that:

- a) The prudential indicators be adopted as presented
- b) The financial reserves and the investment strategy & treasury management policies for 2025/26 be approved

[The meeting was adjourned between 11:26am and 11:35am]



9. Asset Management Strategy and Policy

The Head of Decarbonisation presented a report that sought Members' approval for an Asset Management Strategy and Policy. The report highlighted key messages and background information.

A Member queried whether the document would aid Members in prioritising assets if the need arose in future, and the Officer confirmed that the team were developing a scoring matrix for this purpose.

On the proposal of Dr R Plummer, seconded by Dr R Heath-Davies, it was **resolved** that:

- a) The Asset Management Policy be approved
- b) The Asset Management Strategy be approved

10. Enforcement Policy

The Director of Place and Engagement presented a report that sought Members' approval to adopt the updated policy in relation to Planning Enforcement and Compliance. The report detailed key messages, background information, details regarding the consultation process and strategic policy context.

Members noted how useful the recent workshop had been in outlining the work of the Enforcement Team and explaining some of the challenges they experienced. They noted that some detailed comments had been provided on the policy, and it was proposed that the policy be adopted subject to delegating authority to officers to include those corrections and amendments.

On the proposal of Dr R Plummer, seconded by Dr M Havard, it was **resolved** that the updated Planning Enforcement and Compliance Policy be adopted, subject to inclusion of the suggested minor corrections and amendments.

11. Cresswell Quay Management Plan

The Strategic Policy Manager presented a report that sought Members' approval for the draft Cresswell Quay Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan for consultation. The report detailed key messages, background information, legal background, and programme details.

Members discussed the many stages of the consultation and agreed that communications would need to be clear to ensure that stakeholders understood that this was a separate stage of the consultation and further comments would be required. The Officer noted this suggestion.

On the proposal of Councillor D Clements, seconded by Councillor V Thomas, it was **resolved** that the draft Cresswell Quay Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan be approved for consultation.



12. Local Development Plan 2 Review Report

The Strategic Policy Manager presented a report that sought Members' approval for the Review Report to be submitted to the Welsh Government (WG). The report highlighted key messages, background information, details of the consultation and programme details. The Review Report concluded that due to a range of issues being identified a full revision procedure was recommended which would result in a replacement plan being prepared, to be known as LDP 3. A Delivery Agreement would then be prepared which would be presented to a future meeting of the Authority for agreement. It was noted that LDP2 would remain in place until LDP3 had been adopted.

On the proposal of Dr M Havard, seconded by Councillor M Bowen, it was **resolved** that:

- a) The report of consultation on the review report be noted
- b) The review report be approved for submission to the WG

13. Llyr Floating Offshore Wind Energy Response

The Principal Planning Officer (Strategic Policy) presented a report that sought Members' approval for the principles of the National Park Authority's response to the consultation on the consent required for the Llyr Floating Offshore Wind Farm project and for the response to be submitted to PEDW. The report highlighted key messages and featured background and legal information.

The Chief Executive highlighted that 'Uninterrupted horizons' had been identified as a special quality of the Park in the Authority's Partnership Plan, and it was suggested that this be featured in the Authority's response to the consultation. The suggestion was noted by the Officer.

It was requested that a summary of the Authority's position be included at the beginning of the response and that was noted by the Officer. It was also requested that officers discuss the Authority's response with partner organisations such as Natural Resources Wales and RSPB to ensure that their responses would highlight ecological impacts. A debate ensued regarding the position of the Authority and some Members stated that they wished to oppose the application rather than expressing concern as the impacts of the Windfarm could not be mitigated. It was noted that a Member Workshop on the subject of offshore windfarms would be helpful and this was noted.

Dr Heath Davies, seconded by Councillor Price, proposed that the officer report be amended to state that the Authority objected to the windfarm proposal. This was carried.

On the proposal of Mr Jones, seconded by Dr Havard, it was **resolved** that finalisation of a response to Planning and Environment Decisions



Wales be delegated to the Director of Place and Engagement, with the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority advising that it objected to the Llŷr Floating Offshore Wind Farm Project.

14. Clarification Statement on Potential Implementation of Article 4 (1) Direction on Camping and Caravans

The Director of Place and Engagement presented a report that sought Members approval for the publication of a clarification statement for a proposed Article 4 (1) Direction on Camping and Caravans. The report detailed key messages and background information.

Members were reminded that in December 2024 the making and publicising of an Article 4 (1) Direction to remove permitted development rights for 28-day rule camping, caravans and/or mobile homes across the whole of the National Park, with non-immediate effect had been approved. In accordance with the requirements of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development etc.) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2022 the Authority then publicised the opportunity for formal representations to be made. It was noted that Members of the Authority would be asked to take a formal decision on whether to confirm the notice of the Article 4(1) Direction along with a full report of consultations at the May 2025 National Park Authority meeting. However, ahead of this meeting Officers considered that it would be helpful to clarify the parameters that any Article 4 (1) Direction would operate within. The clarification statement featured examples of exempted uses, and the Officer clarified that the Authority did not wish to produce a definitive list of exempted uses but rather outline the parameters that Officers would consider when assessing an application.

It was suggested that members of the public could be hesitant to apply in case they were denied permission. The Officer responded that an appeal process would be available to applicants however the Authority would look to negotiate with applicants to find a resolution where possible. A Members' Workshop would be held the following week which would allow discussion of a number of the points raised by the consultation.

[Dr R Plummer left the meeting at this stage of the meeting].

On the proposal of Dr M Havard, seconded by Councillor V Thomas, it was **resolved** that the clarification statement be approved for publication.



15. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW) Report

The Democratic Services Manager presented a report that outlined the IRPW's Annual Report for 2025/26 and sought Members comments regarding which post(s) should be remunerated with a Senior Salary.

On the proposal of Councillor D Clements, seconded by Councillor M James, it was resolved that:

- a) The IRPW Annual Report for 2025/26 be noted
- b) The posts of Chair and Deputy of the Authority and the Chair of the Development Management Committee be remunerated with a Senior Salary.

16. Independent Members of the Standards Committee

The Monitoring Officer presented a report that sought Members approval to re-appoint an Independent Member of the Standards Committee.

On the proposal of Councillor M James, seconded by Dr R Heath-Davies, it was **resolved** that Mr Phillip Davies be re-appointed as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee for the period of four years until the 6th of May 2029.

17. Exclusion of Public

It was noted that in discussing the following report, information might be shared which was commercially sensitive, and it was therefore requested that the public be excluded from the meeting.

On the proposal of Dr R Heath-Davies, seconded by Councillor M James, it was **resolved** that the public be excluded from the meeting as exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 16 of part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

18. Judicial Review Update

The Chief Executive provided Members with an update regarding an ongoing judicial review in respect of NP/[24/0198/FUL](#) – Proposed building and change of use to outdoor adventure centre, with art studio & storage space above, and associated works – The Old Bus Depot, Moylegrove. The update included a summary of the process, details of how the review has progressed and the next steps.

