## **Report of: Performance and Compliance Officer**

# Subject: Annual Partnership Framework Monitoring Report 2024/25 and approval of Partnership Framework

#### **Decision Required: Yes**

#### **Recommendation:**

The Authority is recommended to:

- a. Comment on and note the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's Partnership Framework Monitoring Report 2024/25
- b. Approve the Partnership Framework and provide delegated authority to officers to apply any minor amendments agreed during the meeting.

#### 1. Key Messages

- 1.1 The report provides an overview of key strategic partnerships the Authority is engaged with in support of its wider strategic priorities. The reporting period covered is 2024/25.
- 1.2 A Partnership Framework is set out in Appendix 1 of the report. It was presented in draft format with last year's report and has been updated to reflect changes following approval of the Partnership Plan at the March 2025 NPA. Having a partnership framework in place, helps support good governance and manage risk for the Authority when engaging with partners. Members are asked today to formally approve the framework.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 This is the second annual Partnership Framework Monitoring report for Members. This report does not cover all the Authority's collaborative or partnership work but focuses on our significant partnerships that contribute to delivery of our strategic priorities. This includes where the Authority makes financial contributions in support of a partnership arrangement or is in receipt of funding through a partnership.
- 2.2 Updates on status of partnerships within the framework are captured quarterly on the Authority's Performance Reporting System and monitored by the Management Team via partnership framework dashboards.
- 2.3 RAG status has been included in the report for each partnership with comparison RAG status for 2023/24. RAG explanation table included at the start of the report. Most partnerships are in green, with only four in amber:

- Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority - Joint Planning Ecologist – Assessment: Effective partnership with PCC Planning in terms of service providing expertise for both Authorities. However, the Development Management Team have raised concerns about the resilience of the shared resource when staffing issues have arisen. They also highlighted the potential need for additional resource to deliver the level of biodiversity improvement across all planning applications that is now required because of PPW12.
- Coastal Bus Services (via Greenways Partnership) Assessment: This is an important partnership that supports public transport access to the Coast and it is positive two services returned for 2024/25. It plays an important role in terms of contributing to decarbonisation and regenerative tourism priorities. However, the financial environment for public bodies and wider challenges facing bus provision/ sector means that continued engagement with local partners and Welsh Government is crucial to ensure longevity and continuation of service provision.
- Toilet Working Group with Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) and other partners – Assessment: Taking a collaborative approach has helped to develop routes for dialogue between the two Authorities on this matter. This has provided opportunity to work together to develop strategic approaches to securing grant funding. However, 2 year funding agreement is due to end in March 2026, as a result work is needed to determine future partnership approach. Authority has faced delays in terms of completing Traeth Mawr project, and completion of this project is its current focus. Car Park study provides steer on where Authority would potentially seek additional grant funding for.
- Visit Pembrokeshire Assessment: The Authority, along with other organisations such as Pembrokeshire County Council, has invested in setting up Visit Pembrokeshire and should continue to support the organisation as it seeks to reach a sustainable business model and support delivery of Pembrokeshire Destination Management Plan. The Authority agreed to support VP for a 5-year period in February 2020 and 2025 marked the 5th year of support. Members at the February 2025 NPA agreed that a cost-benefit analysis would be required in the upcoming year to assist Members in future discussions regarding future funding for Visit Pembrokeshire.

#### 3. Consultation

- 3.1 Following Members feedback on the first annual Partnership Framework Monitoring report the following additions have been made:
  - a) Explanation of RAG Status table added
  - b) Category added for each partnership to provide wider context to status of the partnership
- 3.2 We will look to refine future reports based on any feedback received from Members on this second report.

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- 3.3 Link Officers were asked to review relevant sections of the report for partnerships they lead on.
- 3.4 Partnership Framework was circulated to Members for comment.

### 4. Strategic Policy Context

- 4.1 Strategic partnerships we are part of should contribute to the following strategic areas:
  - a) Partnership Plan for the National Park 2025-2029
  - b) Authority's Well-being Objectives
  - c) Well-being Plan for Pembrokeshire
  - d) Joint working with regional partners or other designated landscapes. Including partnership that support corporate areas of change.
- 4.2 The Authority agreed a new Partnership Plan in March 2025, and going forward our partnership engagement should focus on how partnership working can support delivery of this plan and the Authority's Well-being Objectives. The development of a potential Partnership Plan forum provides us with a further opportunity to scrutinise the effectiveness of partnership working to achiever Partnership Plan priorities and meet the challenges facing the Park.
- 4.3 The Engagement and Inclusion Team have carried out a Stakeholder Mapping exercise and this should also inform our engagement with partners, including opportunities for developing joint projects for funding bids.

#### 5. Financial Considerations

- 5.1 Authority makes financial contributions and in-kind contributions to number of partnerships and partnership projects. Officer time is spent on facilitating and participating in partnerships and collaborative action. Partnership working can help leverage in funding via joint project bids.
- 5.2 Financial pressures on the Authority and its partners are creating new challenges and demands in terms of strategic partnerships. This financial climate requires the Authority to consider how to best manage existing partnerships, financial and in-kind contributions and new requests for support or involvement in partnership projects. Value for Money and clear evidence of added value from a partnership have become increasingly important. Partnerships are an area for consideration as part of the Authority's wider review of cost savings and efficiencies. A Partnership Framework Monitoring and Review Matrix has been developed for Management Team as part of writing this report as a tool to assist them with wider review of Partnerships.

#### 6 Risk and Compliance Considerations

6.1 Working in partnership can bring a wide range of benefits but also produces particular risks and governance issues. To protect the interests both of Authority and Public it is therefore important that:

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- a) we know what our significant partnerships are,
- b) we understand their purpose and how they contribute to strategic priorities,
- c) we understand the costs and benefits of working in that way,
- d) we have assurance that partnerships' governance supports their operation particularly in key areas such as making decisions and accountability.
- 6.2 This report and framework aims to support the above considerations.

#### 7. Impact on our Public Sector Duties

#### 7.1 Integrated Assessment Completed: No

#### 7.2 Equality, Socio-Economic, Health and Human Rights Impacts

- 7.2.1 Partnerships and collaborative working play an important role in supporting the Authority to meet its Equality Objectives, increase access to the Park for those who face additional barriers and supporting wider efforts relating to addressing poverty including child poverty in Pembrokeshire.
- 7.2.2 The Authority needs to ensure that it considers how partnership arrangements are contributing to and remaining compliant with the Public Sector Equality Duty and Socio-Economic Duty.
- 7.2.3 Officer are in the process of reviewing our involvement in Health and Wellbeing networks and partnership to inform our future approach in this area.

#### 7.3 Welsh Language Impacts

- 7.3.1 Partnerships and collaborative working can play an important role in supporting the Authority to meet its objectives in its Welsh Language Strategy. This is an area that could benefit from further exploration of partnership opportunities. The Eisteddfod being held in Pembrokeshire in 2026 provides a good platform to identify further collaboration opportunities.
- 7.3.2 The Authority needs to ensure that it considers how partnerships arrangements are contributing to the promotion of the Welsh Language and support compliance with the Welsh Language Standards.

#### 7.4 Section 6 Biodiversity Duty and Carbon Emission Impacts

- 7.4.1 Partnerships play an important role in supporting the Authority to meet the Partnership Plan Conservation and Climate Missions and its Conservation and Climate Well-being Objectives.
- 7.4.2 Regional developments such as the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee and Celtic Freeport are growing in importance. The Authority's involvement in strategic regional partnerships provides it with opportunities to shape responses to complex challenges facing the Park in areas such as transport, decarbonisation or land use policy.

## 7.5 Well-being Goals for Wales and 5 Ways of Working (Sustainable Development Principles) Impacts

7.5.1 Collaboration and Integration are two of the five ways of working under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Collaboration is at the heart of the Authority's Well-being Objectives and essential for delivery of the Partnership Plan. Positive change for complex challenges facing the Park can only be achieved through working together with others and taking a strategic and integrated approach with partners.

## 8. Conclusion

8.1 Partnerships play an essential role in delivering the Authority's strategic priorities. Partnership Framework and ongoing monitoring play an important role in managing risk and assessing effectiveness of Partnerships. Increased financial pressures means that the Authority needs to ensure that it is getting value for money and added value through engagement with a partnership.

## 9. List Background Documentation:

- 9.1 Annual Partnership Framework Monitoring Report 2024/25
- 9.2 Partnership Framework Standards

(For further information please contact Mair Thomas, Performance and Compliance Officer, mairt@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk)

# Annual Partnership Framework Monitoring Report – 2024/25

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

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#### 1. Introduction

This is the second annual Partnership Framework Monitoring report for Members. It provides an overview of key strategic partnerships the Authority is engaged with in support of its wider strategic priorities. The reporting period covered is 2024/25.

This report does not cover all the Authority's collaborative or partnership work but focuses on our significant partnerships that contribute to delivery of our strategic priorities. This includes where the Authority makes financial contributions in support of a partnership arrangement or is in receipt of funding through a partnership.

Updates on status of partnerships within the framework are captured quarterly on the Authority's Performance Reporting System and monitored by the Management Team via partnership framework dashboards.

Collaboration and Integration are two of the five ways of working (sustainable development principles) under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Collaboration is at the heart of the Authority's Well-being Objectives and essential for delivery of the Partnership Plan. Positive change for complex challenges facing the Park can only be achieved through working together with others and taking a strategic and integrated approach with partners.

Regional developments such as the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee and Celtic Freeport are growing in importance. The Authority's involvement in strategic regional partnerships provides it with opportunities to shape responses to complex challenges facing the Park in areas such as transport, decarbonisation or land use policy.

The Authority agreed a new Partnership Plan in March 2025, and going forward our partnership engagement should focus on how partnership working can support delivery of this plan and the Authority's Well-being Objectives. The development of a potential Partnership Plan forum provides us with a further opportunity to scrutinise the effectiveness of partnership working to achieve Partnership Plan priorities and meet the challenges facing the Park.

The Engagement and Inclusion Team have carried out a Stakeholder Mapping exercise and this should also inform our engagement with partners, including opportunities for developing joint projects for funding bids.

Financial pressures on the Authority and its partners are creating new challenges and demands in terms of strategic partnerships. This financial climate requires the Authority to consider how to best manage existing partnerships, financial and inkind contributions and new requests for support or involvement in partnership projects. Value for Money and clear evidence of added value from a partnership have become increasingly important. Partnerships are an area for consideration as part of the Authority's wider review of cost savings and efficiencies. A Partnership Framework Monitoring and Review Matrix has been developed for Management Team as part of writing this report as a tool to assist them with wider review of partnerships. A Partnership Framework is set out in Appendix 1 of the report. It was presented in draft format with last year's report and has been updated to reflect changes following approval of the Partnership Plan at the March 2025 NPA. Members are asked today to formally approve the framework.

### 2. Explanation of RAG Status

#### **RAG Status**

RAG	Description
Green	Healthy sustainable partnership in place, delivering against desired outcome or purpose. Partnership delivering value for money for Authority, linked to outcomes achieved through the partnership.
Amber	<ul> <li>Moderate concerns about</li> <li>failure of partnership to deliver against desired outcome or purpose, little evidence of added value</li> <li>sustainability of partnership and financial pressure of partnership on Authority</li> <li>reputation or legal issues related to partnership</li> </ul>
Red	<ul> <li>High/ Critical concerns about</li> <li>failure of partnership to deliver against desired outcome or purpose, no evidence of added value</li> <li>sustainability of partnership and financial pressure of partnership on Authority</li> <li>reputation or legal issues related to partnership</li> <li>partnership working has halted/ become dysfunctional</li> </ul>

#### 2. Partnership Framework Monitoring 2024/25

#### 2.1 Conservation – Strategic Partnerships

Conservation Strategic Partnerships the Authority is engaged with should support delivery of:

- Our Conservation Well-being Objective (and associated outcomes): To deliver nature recovery and connectivity at scale, so nature is flourishing in the Park, contributing to the protection of 30% of our land and seas for nature by 2030.
- Partnership Plan Policies that support:
  - Conservation Mission: Conserve and enhance landscapes, seascapes, natural beauty and wildlife (and associated results):
    - Policy L1: Conserve and enhance National Park landscapes and seascapes.
    - Policy E1: Protect and improve biodiversity quality, extent and connectivity at scale
    - > Policy E2: Conserve and enhance marine biodiversity

- Climate and Natural Resources Mission: Reduce and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Manage natural resources sustainably.
  - Policy N1: Contribute to a carbon neutral Wales
  - Policy N3: Conserve and enhance soils and natural carbon storage
  - Policy N4: Conserve and enhance water quality and restore natural watercourses
  - Policy N5: Protect air quality.
- Well-being Plan for Pembrokeshire Project Biodiversity and the Nature Emergency
- Section 6 Biodiversity Duty.

#### 2.2 Conservation Partnerships Overview 2024/25

#### a) Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership

**Purpose of Partnership:** Support delivery of Pembrokeshire Nature Recovery Plan. Including the allocation of biodiversity small grants through the partnership.

Category: Collaborative Pembrokeshire Partnership – Focused on specific area.

PCNPA Lead Officer: Conservation Team Leader - Lead Ecologist

#### **Resources:**

- £8154.32 annual contribution
- Authority Conservation Team Leader/ Lead Ecologist chairs partnership which meets 4 times per year and is on the grant panel.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Ongoing participation by Authority officer in steering group, including chairing the partnership. Steering group assisted with assessing and considering the biodiversity grant applications for the Local nature partnership projects.
- Authority delivered Little Havens Lichen project through Local Nature Partnership project funding.
- Ongoing funding offer for next two years has been received.
- Update <u>report</u> on work of the partnership delivered to the December Operational Review Committee.

**Assessment:** Partnership is working well and plays an important role in terms of facilitating nature recovery opportunities in the Park particularly through securing funding for small grants for biodiversity action. Important partner for delivering Partnership Plan.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	+

#### b) Name of Partnership: Pembrokeshire Grazing Network

Purpose of Partnership: Support co-ordinated approach to grazing activities.

Category: Collaborative Pembrokeshire Partnership – Focused on specific area

#### PCNPA Lead Officer: Farming Conservation Officer

#### **Resources:**

• £12,500 allocated from the biodiversity projects budget for 2024/25. This includes facilitation costs for ponies and cattle.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- The Pembrokeshire Grazing network builds on strong relationships between landowners and graziers to ensure conservation-focused land management.
- In 2024/25, 403 hectares were managed across 67 sites throughout the National Park. Ponies remain the primary grazer, but goats and cattle using no-fence collars continue to be introduced to some sites. Cattle on no-fence collars are used to graze habitat land and ancient woodlands where fencing or other grazing methods are unfeasible. Habitat types managed include hay meadow restoration, Rhos pasture for the Marsh Fritillary butterfly, and other conservation areas. Though mostly privately owned, many sites have public access via rights of way or commons.
- The Pembrokeshire Grazing Network continues to grow as new sites seek its services, successfully meeting demand. Sites under management agreements, managed by grazing through the scheme, continue to yield surprising results, such as the discovery of Greater Butterfly Orchids for the first time on an established management agreement and revitalized Marsh Fritillary colonies.

**Assessment:** The network remains an effective tool for nature recovery, benefiting all stakeholders. However, external factors such as weather conditions and the availability of graziers have impacted capacity. These challenges are managed by officers to maintain the network's success

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	+

#### c) Pembrokeshire Wildfire Group

**Purpose of Partnership:** Group works with landowners and communities to help reduce outbreaks of wildfires and through practical land management minimising the potential damage.

Category: Collaborative Pembrokeshire Partnership – Focused on specific area

## PCNPA Lead Officer: Farming Conservation Officer

**Resources:** The group is now administered by the Authority and PLANED provide secretariat support (when it was formed it was run and administered by PLANED under Pembrokeshire Sustainable Agricultural Network.) Officer time. Authority also hosts equipment therefore there are some maintenance costs but the Authority uses the equipment for Authority purposes as well. Most of the group's work is Grant funded.

## 2024/25 Activities:

- The Pembrokeshire Wildfire Group, chaired and coordinated by the Authority, is a multi-agency partnership that brings together land managers, emergency services, and public bodies to address wildfire risk through proactive land management, training, and coordinated response planning. Earlier in March, the group facilitated a controlled burn at the Authority's Penlan site. This was not only an important land management exercise but also served as a valuable live training opportunity for Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) personnel, improving readiness and strengthening inter-agency coordination ahead of the main fire season.
- In late March, a large wildfire broke out on the northern slopes of the Preseli Hills, burning for several days and impacting a significant area of open access land. Officers from the Authority were on-site for two days, supporting the MAWWFRS with specialist equipment and local knowledge to help contain the fire. This effective joint response demonstrated the value of the strong, long-standing working relationship between the two organisations, built in large part through their collaboration within the Pembrokeshire Wildfire Group.
- During the Preseli incident, previously installed firebreak infrastructure developed by the Authority as part of its conservation and risk mitigation work—played a key role in slowing the spread of the fire and creating access for firefighting operations. This demonstrated the tangible benefits of investing in long-term landscape management for wildfire resilience.
- To further enhance its wildfire response capabilities, The Authority has secured funding through the Local Places for Nature grant to purchase a Utility Task Vehicle (UTV). This vehicle will expand the reach of the Authority's fire suppression equipment, allowing teams to access more remote or challenging areas quickly and safely in the event of future incidents.

**Assessment:** Partnership plays an important role in facilitating collaborative approaches to help prevent and respond to wildfires in Pembrokeshire. This was demonstrated in the response to the large wildfire that broke out on the northern slopes of the Preseli Hills in March 2025. Authority now holds responsibility for administering the group with PLANED providing secretariat support.

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### d) Biodiversity Deep Dive Designated Landscapes Working Group

**Purpose of Partnership:** Collaborative working group to respond to recommendations from Welsh Government Biodiversity Deep Dive and steer implementation of the Designated Landscapes Deep Dive action plan. Influencing the future sustainable farming scheme and its impact on Park and Nature Recovery activities.

Category: Collaborative National (Welsh) Designated Landscape Partnership

PCNPA Lead Officer: Head of Nature Recovery

Resources: Officer Time

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- A report from the working group, with 9 recommendations for future work has been submitted to Welsh Government.
- Ongoing engagement with Welsh Government through group. The working group reports to the Core Biodiversity Deep Dive Group, which reports to the Minister for Climate Change.
- <u>Meeting notes from the working group</u> are available on the Tirweddau Cymru website.
- A workshop with the British Ecological Society and partners took place in January 2025.
- A forward work plan for the group has been agreed and future meetings are being arranged to progress delivery of the recommendations.

**Assessment:** Work of this group will influence the Authority and wider designated landscapes responses to Recommendation 3 of the Biodiversity Deep Dive 'Unlock the potential of designated landscapes (National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) to deliver more for nature and 30 by 30'.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

## e) Responding to Avian Flu – Working with Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) and Other Partners

Purpose of Partnership: Multi Agency response to Avian Flu.

**Category:** Collaborative Pembrokeshire Partnership – Focused on specific area.

PCNPA Lead Officer: Director of Nature Recovery and Tourism

**Resources:** Existing budgets – no additional funding provided to manage local response. Officer time.

## 2024/25 Activities:

- The Director of Nature and Tourism continues to contribute to localised Emergency Planning meetings (led by PCC) to ensure that we can coordinate a multi-agency response to any major issues facing the county including Avian Flu. Of concern is how pressure on public sector budgets could potentially hamper any localised response to an outbreak of Avian Flu and this issue has been highlighted to our sponsor division at WG.
- During 2024/25 we received no reported incidents of Avian Flu in Pembrokeshire after two years of back-to-back outbreaks with significant impacts on the local seabird population. However, incident of Avian Flu in Pembrokeshire was confirmed in June 2025.

**Assessment:** Positive partnership working to address impact of Avian Flu on the Park. Partnership emergency planning structures and collaborative working will be important going forward in terms of future outbreaks.

## **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

## f) Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority - Joint Planning Ecologist

**Purpose of Partnership:** Provision of Ecologist Planning expertise for both planning Authorities

**Category:** Collaborative Pembrokeshire Public Body Partnership – Shared Resource

PCNPA Lead Officer: Development Management Manager

**Resources:** Salary cost of posts shared between PCNPA and PCC.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

• 2 joint planning ecologist posts continue to be in place with PCC, which helps provide consistency across the county. One post provides 2 days a week support and one post provides 1.5 days a week.

**Assessment:** Effective partnership with PCC Planning in terms of service providing expertise for both Authorities. However, the Development Management Team have raised concerns about the resilience of the shared resource when staffing issues have arisen. They also highlighted the potential need for additional resource to deliver the level of biodiversity improvement across all planning applications that is now required because of PPW12.

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Amber	$\checkmark$

## g) Relevant Authority Groups for Marine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

**Purpose of Partnership:** Supporting conservation work in the Marine Environment. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority is one of the relevant Authorities for the Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation, Cardigan Bay Special Area of Conservation and Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Sites (Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation).

**Category:** Voluntary association (not all SACs have RAGs) but they are encouraged as a practical way for the "relevant authorities" - which are themselves defined in law (Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017) - to meet the legal obligations.

PCNPA Lead Officer: Management Plan and Marine Officer

#### **Resources:**

- PCNPA financial contribution 2024/25 Pembrokeshire Marine: £3,663.60
- PCNPA financial contribution 2024/25 Cardigan Bay: £610.60
- PCNPA financial contribution 2024/25 Carmarthen Bay: £1,831.80
- Officer time.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Marine Officer continued to attend Pembrokeshire Marine SAC, Cardigan Bay SAC and Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Sites relevant authority group meetings.
- The Authority's contribution helps fund the SAC Officer post which in turn unlocks the ability to access external funding, e.g. in 2024/5, the SAC Officer delivered:
  - Native Oyster project (funded by National Park Authority's Wild Coast! Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places aiding restoration efforts by Natur am Byth!)
  - Seagrass e.g. maintenance of existing moorings to protect seagrass in Pembrokeshire (funded by Natur am Byth!)
  - Surveying the Waterway Environment for Pollution Threats (SWEPT) - 156 sites in Pembrokeshire were tested Nov/Dec 2024 with 354 instances of voluntary surveyor effort (funded by Natur am Byth!). Volunteers also sampled 51 sites in Ceredigion and 70 sites in Carmarthenshire / Gower (funded by Nature Networks Fund – Improving Marine Protected Areas).

 Otters – coastal citizen science project plus subcontractors in Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Gower and Ceredigion (funded by Nature Networks Fund – Improving Marine Protected Areas)

**Assessment:** Partnership working through SACs is important as the marine environment is a shared responsibility. Supporting SAC officer enables the partnership to function and develop and secure funding for projects that have positive impact on marine environment.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

## h) Welsh Government - Wales Coastal and Seas Partnership (formerly Wales Marine Action and Advisory Group)

**Purpose of Partnership:** The partnership of stakeholders is committed to working collaboratively to achieve the shared vision set out in the Welsh National Marine Plan and specifically the <u>Shared Narrative</u>.

Category: National (Welsh) Collaborative Partnership

PCNPA Lead Officer: Management Plan and Marine Officer

Resources: Officer Time

## 2024/25 Activities:

- Wales Coastal and Seas Partnership met in June, October 2024 and February 2025. Minutes for the meetings are available on the <u>Welsh</u> <u>Government Website</u>.
- Capacity building workshops were held in September and December.

**Assessment:** Partnership provides opportunities for Authority to work with others at national level to improve marine resilience in Wales.

## **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	+

## i) Marine Protected Areas Management Steering Group

**Purpose of Partnership:** To steer and champion effective Marine Protected Area (MPA) management, raising the profile of MPA management and increasing buy-in from management authorities and wider stakeholders across Wales. The terms of references can be viewed <u>here.</u>

Category: National (Welsh) Collaborative Partnership

### PCNPA Lead Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Resources: Officer Time

#### 2024/25 Activities:

• Chief Executive continues to represent the Authority and Eryri National Park Authority on the Group.

**Assessment:** Partnership provides an opportunity to engage with Relevant Authorities to guide the management of Marine Protected Areas.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### j) Cleddau Nutrient Management (Plan) Board

**Purpose of Partnership:** Catchment based collaboration to produce robustly evidenced Nutrient Management Plans.

**Category:** Collaborative Catchment Based Partnership – Focused on specific area.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Director of Placemaking, Decarbonisation and Engagement

#### Resources: Officer time

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Officers attending both Nutrient Management Board and Technical Officers group as appropriate,
- Evidence base has been developed and Plans published.

Assessment: Nutrient Management Boards are an effective and efficient framework for assisting in meeting the Authority's duties of ensuring development is compliant with the Habitats Regulations, whilst also restoring and maintaining the favourable conservation status of the rivers. The Authority support as a key partner and Member of the relevant Nutrient Management Board (Cleddau) is essential to the successful implementation of Nutrient Management Plan. More information on NMB website here: <u>Nutrient</u> <u>Management Board Website</u>

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

# k) Foreshore management partners, including Pembrokeshire Beach Liaison Group

Purpose of Partnership: Partnership approach to foreshore management

Category: Collaborative Pembrokeshire Partnership - Focused on specific area

PCNPA Lead Officer: Director of Nature Recovery and Tourism

**Resources:** Commissioning of independent review. Officer Time for involvement with Beach Liaison Group.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- The Authority commissioned an independent review of our approach to foreshore management via Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum. This was done in consultation with key agencies (i.e. NRW, Crown Estate, etc) as a cross-cutting piece of work that will help underpin Authority priorities relating to conservation, recreation management, income generation. The report will now be considered via the Asset Management Group with any specific policy decisions brought to committee in due course.
- The Head of Engagement and Inclusion chaired the Beach Liaison Group to review and collaborate on beach management including water safety, water quality, signage and beach awards.

**Assessment:** The independent review should help inform future partnership working in this area going forwards.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Amber	Green	<b>^</b>

#### I) Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group (MHWESG)

**Purpose of Partnership:** Collaborative group of industry, statutory authorities and others with an interest in the environmental quality of the Milford Haven waterway.

Category: Collaborative Pembrokeshire Partnership – Focused on specific area.

PCNPA Lead Officer: Management Plan and Marine Officer

#### **Resources:**

- Officer time
- Authority financial contribution 2024/25: £3,120

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Continued Officer attendance at meetings.
- Updates from group included progress reports from British Geological Survey (which in 2023 took mud cores from 8 Waterway sites to provide a timeline of contaminant data). Several survey reports were received and

budget for 2025 includes periodic macrobenthic and rocky shore surveys. British Geological Survey core samples from 8 sites around the Waterway are being analysed for deposition dates, trace metals and pesticides.

**Assessment:** Partnership supports provision of high quality environmental information to enable members of the Group to contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of the marine environment of the Waterway.

## **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### m) Skomer Marine Conservation Zone Advisory Group

**Purpose of Partnership:** MCZ has an advisory committee which meets annually, made up of individuals and organisations with an interest in the area.

#### Category: Advisory Committee

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Management Plan and Marine Officer. Authority Member Representative.

**Resources:** Member and Officer Time

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Appointed Member attended the AGM on 29/04/25. During the AGM the annual report and monitoring update of 2024/25 was received. The report noted operational challenges with marine equipment downtime, however the team had managed to deliver their work programme with a flexible approach to managing the workstreams. The Committee had presentations on the monitoring work undertaken on the population of grey seals and pink sea fans from colleagues in academia.
- The <u>Annual Report</u> is available on the NRW website.

**Assessment:** Members and Officers continue to contribute to advisory Committee in support of the Skomer Marine Conservation Zone Advisory Group.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### n) Promotion of the NPUK 'Look Wild' project (Time Limited)

**Purpose of Partnership:** Wider promotion of the NPUK 'Look Wild' project to encourage a broader range of audiences to engage in nature.

**Category:** Collaborative National Designated Landscape Partnership (Time Limited)

PCNPA Lead Officer: Head of Marketing and Communications

Resources: Officer Time.

## 2024/25 Activities:

• The Look Wild initiative was promoted via social media during 2024 to support the national programme, as well as our wider conservation work locally. The Authority will continue to promote where relevant and will now focus on wider promotion of our conservation work through our communications and marketing activities and national NPUK campaigns.

**Assessment:** Authority used social media to promote <u>National Park UK 'Look</u> <u>Wild' app</u>, encouraging broader range of audiences to engage in nature through supporting micro-volunteering citizen science opportunity. This was a time limited activity and has now ended.

## **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

## 2.3 Climate – Strategic Partnerships

Climate Strategic Partnerships the Authority is engaged with should support delivery of:

- Our Climate Well-being Objective (and associated outcomes): To achieve a carbon neutral Authority by 2030 and support the Park to achieve carbon neutrality and adapt to the impact of climate change.
- Partnership Plan Policies that support:
  - Conservation Mission: Conserve and enhance landscapes, seascapes, natural beauty and wildlife (and associated results):
    - Policy L1: Conserve and enhance National Park landscapes and seascapes.
    - Policy L2: Protect and enhance dark night skies
  - Climate and Natural Resources Mission: Reduce and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Manage natural resources sustainably.
    - Policy N1: Contribute to a carbon neutral Wales
    - Policy N2: Adapt to climate change
    - Policy N1: Contribute to a low carbon economy for Wales and adapt to climate change
    - Policy N3: Conserve and enhance soils and natural carbon storage
    - Policy N4: Conserve and enhance water quality and restore watercourses
    - Policy N5: Protect air quality
- Well-being Plan for Pembrokeshire Projects:

- Climate adaptation
- Decarbonisation and Net Zero

#### 2.4 Climate Partnerships Overview 2024/25

#### a) Coastal Bus Service (via Greenways Partnership)

**Purpose of Partnership:** Increase public transport options for tourists and visitors at Park sites through coastal buses provision

**Category:** Partnership Funding Agreement. Collaborative Pembrokeshire Public Services Partnership – Focused on specific area.

PCNPA Lead Officer: Strategic Policy Manager

**Resources:** £70,943 PCNPA contribution towards Coastal Bus service and 50% of Greenways Officer post in 2024/25. Tenby Park and Ride - £7,000. Officer Time for partnership meetings.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Authority continued to provide funding to support work of the partnership. Authority officers attend quarterly Greenways Partnership meetings.
- Partnership secured for 2024/25 return of two popular bus services to the Pembrokeshire Coast
  - The Puffin Shuttle (service 400) running between St Davids and Marloes, via Little Haven, Druidstone, St Brides and Martins Haven
  - The Strumble Shuttle (Service 404) runs via the coast road between St Davids and Fishguard, including Abereiddy, Porthgain and Strumble Head.)
- Passenger number figures for 2024/25:
  - 387/8 Coastal Cruiser (Daily summer, 2 days winter): 7,696 (6,986 in 2023/24)
  - 400 Puffin Shuttle (Daily summer only): 8,899
  - 403 Celtic Coaster (Daily summer only): 25,052 (28,939 in 2023/24)
  - o 404 Strumble Shuttle (Daily summer only): 5,884
  - Tenby Park and Ride (Daily summer only): 33,821
  - o Total: 81,352
- In March 2025 Welsh Government published <u>Our Roadmap to Bus Reform</u> which is likely to have an impact on this area of partnership working.

**Assessment:** This is an important partnership that supports public transport access to the Coast and it is positive two services returned for 2024/25. It plays an important role in terms of contributing to decarbonisation and regenerative tourism priorities. However, the financial environment for public bodies and wider challenges facing bus provision/ sector means that continued engagement with local partners and Welsh Government is crucial to ensure longevity and continuation of service provision.

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Amber	Amber	<b>→</b>

## b) Transport for Wales – Collaboration to market sustainable transport options

**Purpose of Partnership:** Increase the scope of our partnership project with Transport for Wales to promote and market sustainable transport.

Category: Collaborative National (Welsh) Partnership

PCNPA Lead Officer: Head of Marketing and Communications

**Resources:** Communications and Graphics' staff time to support PR/marketing activity linked to the launch of the Carew Castle Express and sustainable transport Coast to Coast editorial.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Collaboration completed for promotion of the Carew Castle Express a new train promoting a route into West Wales.
- Coast to Coast features a sustainable transport section, including promotion of the Flexibus scheme.
- Project funding has been received by Visit Pembrokeshire to develop a marketing initiative with Transport for Wales/GWR to develop a 'Come to Pembrokeshire by train' campaign, and the Authority will be involved in supporting the content development and wider promotion of this campaign.

**Assessment:** Positive partnership supporting marketing of sustainable transport options for people looking to travel to Pembrokeshire and the Park.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	+

## c) Corporate Joint Committee for South West Wales Sub Groups – Strategic Plan, Energy, Transport, Economic Development

**Purpose of Partnership:** Input into regional planning, co-ordination and delivery of transport, land use planning, economic development and energy.

**Category of Partnership:** Regional Statutory Public Body Partnership (Note: When CJCs are exercising the function of preparing a Strategic Development Plan the relevant National Park authority is also a member of the CJC. The

council members of the CJC may choose, in agreement with the NPA, to extend the NPA membership of the CJC to include other purposes/functions<sup>1</sup>)

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Director of Placemaking Decarbonisation and Engagement. Authority Member Representation.

Resources: Member and Officer Time.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Members and Officers attended relevant Committee sub groups during the year.
- Draft South West Wales Regional Transport Plan went out for consultation.

**Assessment:** Involvement in Corporate Joint Committee for South West Wales sub groups ensures that the Authority is having a voice at a regional level and able to influence development of regional plans. This is particularly important in terms of areas that impact on wider decarbonisation challenges such as transport and energy. Members are Co-opted (non voting) on some of the Committees sub groups.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### d) UK National Parks Climate and Energy Group – Race to Zero

**Purpose of Partnership:** Collaborative opportunities with other National Park Authorities, including supporting Race to Zero application.

Category: Collaborative national (UK) Designated Landscape Partnership

PCNPA Lead Officer: Head of Decarbonisation

Resources: Officer time.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- UK wide National Park submission to Race to Zero have been approved.
- Small World Consulting have created a tracker portal for territorial emissions data for tracking performance and progress.

**Assessment:** Positive collaborative working to support National Parks to contribute to talking the climate emergency and to monitor progress at a Park level.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

<sup>1</sup> <u>https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-01/corporate-joint-committees.pdf</u>

### e) Public Services Board Group – Tackling Climate Change and Nature Emergency

**Purpose of Partnership:** Progress and monitor Public Services Board Wellbeing Plan projects on Nature, Decarbonisation and Adaptation.

**Category of Partnership:** Statutory Local Authority area (Pembrokeshire) Public Body Partnership (Note: Authority is not a required statutory member under the Well-being of Future Generations Act but is an invited member).

PCNPA Lead Officer: Head of Decarbonisation. Strategic Policy Manager.

Resources: Officer Time.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Ongoing participation in the subgroup.
- Head of Decarbonisation delivered a presentation about the Race to Zero National Parks applications (UK wide) within the context of what we have been doing in the Authority and how it fits with PSB sub group.
- Authority commissioned Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail Climate Change Risk Assessment and Climate Adaptation Advisory report. This report will help inform work needed by the Authority and partners to address climate risks for the Pembrokeshire National Trail.

**Assessment:** Positive collaborative working to support Pembrokeshire Services Board to deliver local actions in support of the Well-being Plan Climate adaptation and Decarbonisation and Net Zero projects.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### f) WLGA Climate Strategy Panel

**Purpose of Partnership:** Shared learning and engagement with other local Authorities in support of public sector route map to net zero.

**Category of Partnership:** National (Welsh) Collaborative Public Sector Partnership

PCNPA Lead Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Resources: Officer Time.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

• Continued attendance by Chief Executive of meetings and sharing of relevant information with staff to help inform Authority's approach.

**Assessment:** Positive partnership providing expert knowledge sharing that supports the Authority in terms of its decarbonisation work, provides opportunities to learn from local authorities.

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### g) SLSP Dark Skies Project Partnership - Led by Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape [Time Limited Partnership Project – Project has now ended]

**Purpose of Partnership:** Supporting through SLSP funding lighting schemes and retrofitting projects across the 8 Designated Landscapes.

**Category:** National (Welsh) Collaborative Designated Landscape Partnership Project (Time limited)

PCNPA Lead Officer: Management Plan and Marine Officer

**Resources:** £38,000 SLSP Funding for PCNPA via partnership project. Officer Time.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Following a survey in August 2023, sites were identified where improvements could be made to the lighting stock to reduce the incidence of light pollution within the Park. Prosiect Nos contributed to National Trust Stackpole capital and installation costs and capital costs of retrofit at Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi (with installation supported by SLSP Wild Coast funding.)
- There is a connected load saving of 2,275kW in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park because of the project.

**Assessment:** Collaborative project approach with other designated landscapes has helped secure capital funding for lighting scheme and retrofitting projects in the Park in support of dark skies. Project funding has now ended.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	+

#### 2.5 Connection – Strategic Partnerships

Connection Strategic Partnerships the Authority is engaged with should support delivery of:

- Our Connection Well-being Objective (and associated outcomes): To create a Park that is a natural health service that supports people to be healthier, happier and more connected to the landscape, nature and heritage.
- Partnership Plan Policies that support:

- Cultural Heritage and Connect Mission: Conserve and enhance cultural heritage, including promotion of the Welsh language. Enhance equitable access to the National Park and promote the enjoyment, understanding, and health benefits of its special qualities for all.
  - Policy H1: Conserve and enhance landscapes of historic interest, Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens, Scheduled Monuments, buildings of interest, non-designated heritage assets and their settings.
  - W1: Provide and promote sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities for all.
  - W2: Provide and promote inspiring outdoor learning, well-being and personal development experiences for all.
- Communities Mission: Foster the socio-economic well-being of National Park communities in the pursuit of National Park purposes
  - Policy SE1: Foster socio-economic well-being of National Park communities (in pursuit of National Park purposes)
- Well-being Plan for Pembrokeshire Projects: Reducing Poverty and Inequalities.

## 2.6 Connection Partnerships Overview 2024/25

## a) Toilet Working Group with Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) and other partners

**Purpose of Partnership:** To develop a strategy to seek grant funding to improve general standards at locations around the coast and to develop an Accessible Coast project, submitting grant funded applications.

**Category:** Partnership Funding Agreement. Collaborative Pembrokeshire Partnership – Focused on specific area.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Director of Placemaking, Decarbonisation and Engagement

**Resources:** The Authority has agreed a financial contribution to toilets of £110k per year to support toilets over a 2 year period. Officer time from Director, Head of Decarbonisation and Building Projects Manager being used towards the regular meetings. SLSP funding supporting Traeth Mawr project and Coastal Car Park study.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- First year of agreed financial contribution by the Authority made to PCC. Further information, including background information on need for partnership approach set out in May 2024 NPA report: <u>PCNPA facilities</u> <u>voluntary payment to PCC regarding public toilets – update on joint</u> <u>working</u>.
- Ongoing meetings taking place between key officers of the Authority and PCC.
- Coastal Car Park Study has been completed.

• Traeth Mawr is being developed as a test site using SLSP funding. PCC officers have supported redesign of this scheme. Phase 1 of this project has faced delays. Following securing Brilliant Basics funding for phase 2, the 2 phases will now come together in one contract.

**Assessment:** Taking a collaborative approach has helped to develop routes for dialogue between the two Authorities on this matter. This has provided opportunity to work together to develop strategic approaches to securing grant funding. However, 2 year funding agreement is due to end in March 2026, as a result work is needed to determine future partnership approach. Authority has faced delays in terms of completing Traeth Mawr project, and completion of this project is its current focus. Car Park study provides steer on where Authority would potentially seek additional grant funding for.

## **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Amber	$\checkmark$

# b) Open to All Accelerator Project with Visit Pembrokeshire [Time Limited Partnership Project – Project has now ended]

**Purpose of Partnership:** Shared Prosperity Funded Project to support inclusive tourism offer in Pembrokeshire.

**Category of Partnership:** Pembrokeshire Collaborative Partnership Project (Time Limited)

PCNPA Lead Officer: Open to All Project Manager

**Resources:** £392,988.18 from UK Shared Prosperity Fund. In kind match funding through Officer/ Staff time £32,561 (PCNPA) and £26,569 (Visit Pembrokeshire).

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- The Open to All project worked with businesses and organisations to make Pembrokeshire the first choice for residents and visitors who face barriers to travel and tourism. During 2024/25 the project offered
  - a range of training sessions, including Deaf Awareness and BSL, Website accessibility, accessibility awareness, sight loss awareness, mental health first, neurodiversity training
  - facilitated bespoke events, including Watersports open day, BSL tour of Carew, Mobiloo tour
  - o carried out audits
  - developed a resource hub.
- The Open to All Final Project Report can be downloaded from: <u>https://visit-pembrokeshire.vercel.app/ota/collections/open-to-all-project-</u> <u>2024</u>.

**Assessment:** Project worked with tourism industry/ businesses and others to support Pembrokeshire on its journey to be a destination for anyone who faces barriers to travel and tourism and create a more welcoming and inclusive destination. Project has now ended but range of resources developed are still available. Authority staff are building on approaches and learning from this project to inform our engagement and inclusion approaches including for regenerative tourism areas of work.

## **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

## c) Roots to Recovery Joint Project with MIND Pembrokeshire [Time Limited Partnership Project]

**Purpose of Partnership:** Working in partnership with MIND Pembrokeshire to support the mental health of local people through a range of outdoor experiences at locations in and around the National Park.

**Category of Partnership:** Pembrokeshire Collaborative Public Sector and Third Sector Partnership Project (Time Limited)

PCNPA Lead Officer: Learning and Inclusion Team Leader

**Resources:** Big Lottery Funded project in partnership with MIND Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire. Annual cost of c£96,000 entirely externally funded – Funding in place until end of August 2025 for Roots to Recovery and awaiting outcome of Big Lottery People and Places Fund (Stage 2) bid for follow on Routes to Discovery project. 3 project staff, 2 based in PCNPA and 1 in Mind. Learning and Inclusion Team Leader provides project management.

## 2024/25 Activities:

- Strong collaborative partnership working has developed through this project between Authority officers, MIND Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire staff, project mentors and participants.
- Roots to Recovery is a people centred project so participants suggest and choose the activities they would like to do with activities including gentle strolls to beach games, practical conservation work, gardening or exploring the National Park. Participant numbers are always high, and activities are well attended. Each session is planned to achieve all the five ways to wellbeing.
- Participants report that their mood and mental health improves because of connection with others, physical activity in the outdoors and involvement in local projects. The engaging programme is designed to allow participants to grow their confidence and skills with participants becoming Volunteer Mentors. Impact on participants captured in following Roots to Recovery You Tube Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRYpDj130wk&t=19s

As part of our review of PCNPA/Mind Pembrokeshire's Roots to Recovery project, the project team spoke to representatives from the 'carer community' in Pembrokeshire. They heard from several groups, and it was clear that for some, the opportunity to spend time outdoors offered the potential for much needed respite time and a boost to wellbeing. Building on the partnership with Mind Pembrokeshire and their CYP (Children and Young People) initiative, they heard directly from young people who had benefitted from spending time outdoors as part of the Roots to Recovery programme to benefit both mental health and wellbeing. In August of last year the project contacted Action for Children (Young carers | Action For Children), who support young carers from 8 to 25 in Pembrokeshire. The charity runs groups as well supporting individuals and families in the County. Working with Action for Children has helped inform the development of a bid with Mind for Big Lottery People and Places funding for the Routes to Discovery Project.

**Assessment:** Roots to Recovery project demonstrated the important impact we can have through working with trusted delivery partners. Our partnership through this project with Mind Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire enabled participants to gradually build up their engagement. Starting with drop-ins at a Mind Resource Centre where they are accessing other mental health services and building up to day-long activities and visits as they get to know and trust the project staff, volunteers and participants. This is a time limited grant funded project and Authority staff have worked with Mind Cymru and engaged with Action for Children to submit a bid for Big Lottery People and Places funding.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### d) Public Services Board Project Group – Reducing poverty and inequalities

**Purpose of Partnership:** Joint working on Well-being Plan for Pembrokeshire project on reducing poverty and inequalities.

**Category of Partnership:** Statutory Local Authority area (Pembrokeshire) Public Body Partnership (Note: Authority is not a required statutory member under the Well-being of Future Generations Act, but is an invited member)

PCNPA Lead Officer: Head of Engagement and Inclusion

**Resources:** Officer Time. Additional project funding required to deliver additional activities.

#### Activities 2024/25:

 Authority actions feature in the <u>Pembrokeshire Public Services Board:</u> <u>Tackling Poverty: Our Strategy 2023 Action Plan</u> and Authority is providing updates to group inline with their reporting requirements. This includes updates on our

- First 1000 Days project, Roots to Recovery, Pathways volunteering, wider volunteering activities and Beach wheelchairs and Get Outdoors. Authority has continued to seek external funding to support continuation of these projects.
- Progress against Real Living Wage accreditation. The Authority currently pays the Real Living wage and is in the process of seeking accreditation. We are changing our ways of working to meet the criteria in terms of paying contractors.
- The Authority has however as part of our price changes and nonstaff related savings, removed concession pricing for the centres.
   Oriel y Parc and its gallery remain free to enter.

**Assessment:** Authority is committed to working with other members of the Public Services Board on addressing issue and impact of poverty in Pembrokeshire. Additional work in this area for the Authority is likely to be dependent on securing project funding. Going forwards the Authority will need to balance commitment to supporting partnership action to reducing poverty and inequalities in Pembrokeshire alongside the need to generate income and deliver cost saving efficiencies due to financial pressures.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

## e) Visit Wales – Promotion of Years of Trails [Time limited activity]

**Purpose of Partnership:** Work in partnership with Visit Wales to promote Year of Trails to highlight the benefits of outdoor access and the PCPNT.

Category: Collaborative National (Welsh) Partnership (Time Limited)

PCNPA Lead Officer: Head of Marketing and Communications

**Resources:** Communications and Graphics' staff time to support PR/marketing activity linked to PR associated with Year of Trails.

#### Activities 2024/25:

- During 2024/25 work carried out to support wider promotion of the Year of Trails, including references and promotion in Coast to Coast, social media and relevant press releases.
- Years of the Trails has now ended. Authority will continue to promote walking, the Coast Path and National Trail through our various marketing and promotional activities.

**Assessment:** Participating in Year of the Trails provides good opportunity to market and raise awareness of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail.

This partnership activity has now concluded.

#### RAG Status

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### f) Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools

**Purpose of Partnership:** Working with Partners to promote the use of the outdoors across the National Curriculum for young learners in Pembrokeshire

**Category:** Collaborative Pembrokeshire Partnership – Focused on specific area. Authority funded Partnership.

PCNPA Lead Officer: Learning and Inclusion Team Leader

**Resources:** Officer Time – Learning and Inclusion Team Leader as Chair. Full time project officer supported with external funding.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools initiative received funding from a range of sources, working closely with fundraising officers and PCNPT to secure this funding. Funding guaranteed to end of September 2025.
- The PODS Co-ordinator has been providing school grounds advice for settings wishing to improve areas for learning and INSET training at local schools for teachers (as part of their CPD programmes)
- Sessions delivered through the Outdoor Schools partnership included:
  - Tree planting work with pupils as part of the Ros's rainbow wood initiative at Neyland Learning Resource Centre and at Greenhill school.
  - Cynefin walk and Discovery sessions at Castle Pill Woods for Milford Haven Community Primary School
  - Coastal challenge day at Newgale with Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum, geologist and PCNPA's education team. The day included the use of mobility equipment to support two of the pupils to join the sessions on the beach.
  - Dark sky event with fire circle, night sky treasure hunt and astronomy with years 5 & 6 at Ysgol Gelli Aur/Golden Grove C P School
- A range of resources and case studies are available on the <u>Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools website</u>.

**Assessment:** Pembrokeshire Outdoors Schools is having a positive impact on supporting outdoor learning opportunities in Pembrokeshire. However, uncertainty does remain in terms of long-term funding arrangements for the partnership.

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

## g) SLSP Designated Landscapes Education Project [Time Limited Partnership Project]

**Purpose of Partnership:** Working with all Wales designated landscapes on collaborative education resource project funded through SLSP.

**Category of Partnership:** National (Welsh) Collaborative Designated Landscape Partnership Project

PCNPA Lead Officer: Learning and Inclusion Team Leader

**Resources:** 1 day week Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools Co-ordinator, and Education Officer (both funded through the project). 2.5 days month, Learning and Inclusion Team leader. Externally funded through SLSP grant.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Over the past three years the 8 Welsh Designated Landscapes (Landscapes Wales) have been working on a collaborative project to develop bilingual, Curriculum for Wales linked learning resources under the banner of Tirlun: <u>https://tirlun.wales/ https://tirlun.cymru/</u>. The initiative has been delivered by the Education Team at the Authority and supported by the Welsh Government's Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places fund.
- Tirlun was developed collaboratively, with the Designated Landscape teams, teachers from across Wales and consultants from Think, Learn, Challenge and Tinint (digital partners for the project) working together to develop and design activities and content.
- The first phase of the project was completed in March 2025, with a Senedd launch attended by educators and representatives from Designated Landscapes in Wales. The use of the new resources has been supported by promotional campaigns and by the inclusion of Tirlun as a cross-curricular learning resources for schools on Hwb, the Welsh Government's digital learning portal.
- A second phase bid for Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places collaborative funding has been successful.

**Assessment:** Collaborative project that provides accessible resources to support learning and promote understanding, appreciation and stewardship of designated landscapes and the wider environment for students across Wales.

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

## h) Review of our involvement in Health and Well-being Networks and partnerships

**Purpose of Partnership:** Health and Well-being Officer currently reviewing which networks and partnerships Authority is involved in. Following review, those carried forward or developed will be added to the framework.

Category: Review and exploration of partnership working opportunities

PCNPA Lead Officer: Health and Well-being Officer

Resources: Officer Time

#### Activities 2024/25:

- Review continued as well as exploration of partnership and collaboration opportunities. Officers have developed meaningful relationships with Pembrokeshire People First, Sign and Share Club, Mencap, Age Friendly Communities, Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter Group, Public Health Wales, 50+ Forum, PAVS and NHS-led health events, YHA, National Trust and Bluestone.
- Meeting held with Rehab department, positive response looking at referrals into general groups.
- Networking meeting with Public Health Wales Hapus looking at potential funding pots and partnerships and contributing to https://hapus.wales/ on promoting benefits of getting outdoors and the social prescribing offer the Authority and Park has.
- Health and Well-being Officer attended Human Learning system review in Cardiff led by Welsh government and Bevan fellows looking at how health and social care can be designed differently. Pembrokeshire is likely to lead on this approach having identified NHS projects where the system has become resource heavy. Examples of good practice from other localities were shared with a heavy emphasis on social prescribing.
- Our mobility equipment provision is supported by local hosts such as cafes, surf clubs and hostels. Exploring potential partnership agreement with PACTO.

**Assessment:** The review of Health and Well-being networks we are involved with will help ensure we are engaging with the right stakeholders to support partnership working opportunities on Health and Well-being. 2024/25 provided opportunity for new Health and Well-being team to explore potential partnership and collaboration opportunities.

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### i) Heritage Watch Scheme

**Purpose of Partnership:** Working collaboratively (with Dyfed Powys Police, Cadw, Heneb, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority) to address Heritage Crime in the Park

**Category**: Collaborative National (Wales) Partnership – Focused on specific area.

#### PCNPA Lead Officer: Community Archaeologist

#### **Resources:**

- Cash cost of £200 to produce leaflets, display boards and attend public events.
- In addition, staff time of community archaeologist to attend events, deliver talks, chair meetings and carry out patrols with support from rangers and graphics.

#### Activities 2024/25:

- Identification of heritage crime incidents and reporting to Dyfed Powys Police. Issues affecting heritage included graffiti, fire, disturbance and damage. Repair work has been carried out by Authority staff and volunteers at a couple of the affected sites. The Community Archaeologist carried our repair work with Police Cadets to a disturbed Bronze Age cairn on Carningli Common.
- Authority staff, heritage volunteers and police colleagues carried out patrols during year at sites at risk.
- Community engagement activities were undertaken to raise awareness of heritage crime. This included attending the Pembrokeshire History Day at Scolton Manor, Pembrokeshire Archaeology Day and Wrexham Archaeology Day.
- Online meetings continue between key partners and engagement carried out with wider partners with interest in Heritage Crime across Wales.
- The Community Archaeologist met with the heritage crime lead for Wales and support staff. This resulted in the creation of a generic Heritage Watch logo that will cover all areas of Wales with a Heritage Watch scheme.

**Assessment:** Strong partnership that has developed over the years in response to issue of heritage crime. This is demonstrated through joint patrol initiatives and activities around incident reporting.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### j) Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) - Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) and Local Access Forum

**Purpose of Partnership:** Delivery of Rights of Way Improvement Plan and statutory obligations in relation to Local Access Forum. Secretariat for Local Access Partnership passes between PCC and the Authority.

**Category:** Statutory advisory forum. Pembrokeshire Collaborative Public Body Partnership.

PCNPA Lead Officer: Access Team Leader. Authority Member representative.

**Resources:** Authority shares secretariat duties for Local Access Forum with Pembrokeshire County Council on a cyclical basis. The Authority was providing secretariat for 2022-2024. Four meetings in this term equates to three days per meeting for Access Team Leader setting agendas/meeting attendance/writing minutes and general admin. The Authority's Public Rights of Way Officer provides representation for the Authority. Budget of £500 for venue hire/travel expenses. Secretariat has now rotated to Pembrokeshire County Council for next three years.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Local Access Forum meetings held in April, July, October 2024.
- Secretariat has now rotated to Pembrokeshire County Council for next three years. They will recruit new membership and hold meetings. The Authority will still attend every meeting to receive advice and brief members.
- End of term report (2022-24) was completed by the Authority and circulated to stakeholders.

**Assessment:** The Pembrokeshire Local Access Forum is a statutory body advising on the improvement of access to the countryside for recreation and enjoyment. The statutory function of the forum is to advise Pembrokeshire County Council, National Park Authority and Natural Resources Wales on the improvement of public access to the countryside of Pembrokeshire for the purposes of open air recreation and enjoyment. Authority plays an important role in delivery of ROWIP in terms of the Park area.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

# 2.7 Communities – Strategic Partnerships

Communities Strategic Partnerships the Authority is engaged with should support delivery of:

- Our Communities Well-being Objective (and associated outcomes): To create vibrant, sustainable and prosperous communities in the Park that are places people can live, work and enjoy.
- Partnership Plan Policies that support:
  - Conservation Mission: Conserve and enhance landscapes, seascapes, natural beauty and wildlife (and associated results):
    - Policy L1: Conserve and enhance National Park landscapes and seascapes.
  - Cultural Heritage and Connect Mission: Conserve and enhance cultural heritage, including promotion of the Welsh language. Enhance equitable access to the National Park and promote the enjoyment, understanding, and health benefits of its special qualities for all.
    - Policy H1: Conserve and enhance landscapes of historic interest, Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens, Scheduled Monuments, buildings of interest, non-designated heritage assets and their settings.
    - Policy H2: Promote the Welsh language and local dialects and celebrate culture and creativity related to the landscape.
    - W1: Provide and promote sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities for all.
    - W2: Provide and promote inspiring outdoor learning, well-being and personal development experiences for all.
  - Communities Mission: Foster the socio-economic well-being of National Park communities in the pursuit of National Park purposes
    - Policy SE1: Foster socio-economic well-being of National Park communities (in pursuit of National Park purposes)
- Well-being Plan for Pembrokeshire Projects: Strengthening Communities and Reducing Poverty and Inequalities

#### 2.8 Communities Partnerships Overview 2024/25

#### a) Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum (PCF)/ Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter Group and engagement with other recreation management partners

**Purpose of Partnership:** Work with internal and external partners and stakeholders to deliver effective recreation management in the Park.

**Category:** Partnership Funding Agreement. Collaborative Pembrokeshire Partnership – Focused on specific area.

PCNPA Lead Officer: Director of Nature Recovery and Tourism

**Resources**: £15,000 provided to Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum for 2024/25 (This supports Sustainable Recreation Management – Outdoor Charter engagement support, Pembrokeshire Marine Code engagement support, Wales activity mapping support and reading wider audiences support). Officer time.

# 2024/25 Activities/ Assessment:

- PCF provides the lead on both the Outdoor Charter and Marine Code with support from the Authority and other relevant agencies.
- PCF has been undertaking consultation regarding the effectiveness of both codes in recent months and a formal review has led to some minor changes to the Outdoor Charter and Marine Code which will be communicated to key partners ahead of the 2025 summer season.
- PCF arranged several workshops for adventure activity providers across Pembrokeshire to ensure that the industry is working collectively to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park.

**Assessment:** Financial support for and engagement with Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum is supporting communication and partnership working within the adventure activity sector for the long-term benefit and safeguarding of the Park's Special Qualities.

# **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

# b) Castlemartin Ranger/ Seasonal Assistant – MOD / NRW Tripartate partnership funding agreement

**Purpose of Partnership:** Work with internal and external partners and stakeholders to deliver effective recreation management on the Defence Training Estate in Pembrokeshire, supporting access when military use allows while also safeguarding the conservation features of the sites.

Category: Partnership Funding Agreement

PCNPA Lead Officer: Head of Engagement and Inclusion

**Resources:** PCNPA employs the Ranger team at Castlemartin with a funding contribution of £21,000 from the Defence Infrastructure Organisation's Conservation Stewardship Fund and £11,000 from NRW against total costs of c£43,000.

#### Activities 2024/25:

• A launch event for the new three-way agreement was held at Castlemartin with CEO/Senior Officers.

- Ranger Team involved in monitoring cliff nesting birds and seasonal cliff climbing restrictions. The Rangers monitor each nest site to ensure that the nest is occupied and check on progress of the nest and fledging activity through the season. The restrictions are lifted as soon as fledging has taken place. Several species are monitored and the rangers also deal with access arrangements for the public, organise visits for students and conservationists and ensure that path furniture and vegetation are managed.
- Turf removal took place at Templeton Airfield to improve yellowhammer habitat.
- The Annual Access and Recreation Meeting took place in November to facilitate links between the MOD and stakeholders including community councils and representatives from recreational user groups who use the military ranges. No significant concerns were raised, but access and briefing arrangements were confirmed for the coming year.
- The Authority hosted the Annual Cliff Climbing Liaison Meeting in December. This forum reviews voluntary access restrictions for climbing throughout Pembrokeshire and agrees any changes for the coming year in consultation with the British Mountaineering Council and NRW.
   Preparations for the 2025 season commenced with new leaflets and website information prepared.
- Partnership funding for the coming year 2025/26 was confirmed in March and plans are in place for monitoring/managing recreation and conservation and projects for the coming season.

**Assessment:** Positive partnership to enable public access to the Castlemartin Ranges when military use allows while also safeguarding conservation features. The tripartite partnership funding agreement between the Authority, NRW and Defence Infrastructure Organisation is crucial to the delivery of this activity.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### c) Pembrokeshire Water Safety Forum

**Purpose of Partnership:** Working collaboratively to support visitor safety in the Park

**Category of Partnership:** Collaborative Pembrokeshire Partnership – Focused on specific area

PCNPA Lead Officer: Head of Engagement and Inclusion

**Resources:** Officer time to attend 4 meetings of the Forum per year, sub-group meetings and occasional presence at events.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- An initial communications task and finish group meeting took place in April which set out a plan to share campaigns and messaging through the summer period. Focus for PCNPA was to share and amplify safety messaging by RNLI and other water safety organisations as appropriate.
- The Forum met at the end of September. Members reported that although the season had seen lower numbers of beach visitors/water users, weather conditions resulted in a similar number of rescues. The Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools officer demonstrated the education resources that have been created to accompany the RNLI Exhibition in Oriel y Parc. Partners discussed ways to engage schools and children in learning to swim as part of this work. A working group has been set up to review safety arrangements at Manorbier beach where there have been several reports of rescues where people have been caught in rip currents.

**Assessment:** Positive partnership supporting water safety management in the Park. As a coastal National Park issue of water safety is of particular importance when looking at recreation opportunities in blue spaces.

# **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### d) Visit Pembrokeshire

**Purpose of Partnership:** Strategic Promotion and management of sustainable tourism growth and recreation in the Park through supporting Destination Marketing Organisation for Pembrokeshire.

Category: Partnership Funding Agreement

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Chief Executive Officer / Director of Nature Recovery and Tourism. Authority Member representative.

**Resources:** In March 2024 Members agreed to continue with the decision taken in January 2023 to provide a cash contribution of £25k to Visit Pembrokeshire for the financial year 2024-25, instead of an in-kind contribution. The payment is based on a performance focused agreement where payments are reviewed every six months and linked to reaching membership targets. If these targets are not met, then payment can be withheld.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

• The Authority continues to work closely with Visit Pembrokeshire, as the Destination Marketing Organisation (DMO), to review our collective promotional approach throughout 2024/25. Joint meetings are regularly organised by Visit Pembrokeshire to ensure that the visitor pressures on local communities and infrastructure are carefully managed.

- An updated Destination Management Plan was launched at the annual Tourism Summit
- Visit Pembrokeshire where able to implement a number of changes outlined in their <u>update to NPA</u> on 5 February 2025 due to the change to cash support from the Authority. This has seen an increase in Membership of the organisation and therefore contributed to Visit Pembrokeshire become a more sustainable organisation in the future. Members during the meeting discussed the financial situation of the Authority and the sustainability of Visit Pembrokeshire as an organisation. They <u>resolved</u> to continue the cash contribution for 2025-26 and requested a cost benefit analysis be conducted.
- Authority Members have identified the need for a DMP Strategic Advisory Board to be established as a priority and this has been fed back to Visit Pembrokeshire.
- During 2024, the Authority in partnership with Visit Pembrokeshire delivered the "Pembrokeshire – Open to All Accelerator" project funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Project funding has been received by Visit Pembrokeshire to develop a marketing initiative with Transport for Wales/GWR to develop a 'Come to Pembrokeshire by train' campaign.

# **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Amber	$\checkmark$

e) Sponsorship of Ironman Wales (Agreed for 2022-2026)

Purpose of Partnership: Supporting events in Pembrokeshire.

Category of Partnership: Event Sponsorship

PCNPA Lead Officer: Chief Executive Officer

**Resources:** At the NPA 28 July 2021 it was <u>resolved</u> that the Authority support Ironman Wales for the period of 2022 to 2026 with a contribution of £20,000 per year

#### 2024/25 Activities:

• Iron Man event held on 22 September 2024.

**Assessment:** In partnership with Pembrokeshire County Council the Authority has supported Ironman Wales since it was set up. The event provides significant economic benefits to the area and has also encourages a number of local people to improve their health and wellbeing. Agreement is in place until 2026.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	+

#### f) Sponsorship of Pembrokeshire County Show

Purpose of Partnership: Supporting events in Pembrokeshire.

Category of Partnership: Event Sponsorship

PCNPA Lead Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Resources: £5,000

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Pembrokeshire County Show held on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
- Visitors to the Authority stand were invited to share their views on the Park Partnership Plan consultation and engage directly with Authority staff on a wide range of topics. The Pembrokeshire Coast Charitable Trust also joined the event, promoting their Adopt a Bee scheme and the Force for Nature campaign. Younger visitors to the stand were able to enjoy a range of interactive activities, from butterfly making and exploring and archaeological dig sandpit, as well as using images by local artist to match animals with their habitats.
- A key highlight of the show was a special reception celebrating the achievements of the Authority's Connecting the Coast land management scheme. This initiative provided essential funding for the creation and maintenance of wildlife habitats along Pembrokeshire's diverse coastline. The reception was very well attended by local politicians, partners, landowners and community representatives, underscoring the importance of the scheme in preserving the region's natural beauty.
- The Authority stand also hosted visits from Welsh Government representatives.

**Assessment:** Supporting important Pembrokeshire community event and providing opportunity for Authority to raise awareness of its work and engage with public. County Show in 2024 was used as an opportunity to engage with public on its draft Partnership Plan.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	+

#### g) Amgueddfa Cymru (AC) - National Museum Wales

**Purpose of Partnership:** Service Level Agreement – Continued partnership and curation of exhibitions

**Category of Partnership:** Collaborative Public Sector Partnership. Note: Based on Service Level Agreement.

# PCNPA Lead Officer: Head of Regenerative Tourism

#### **Resources:**

- Exhibitions are resourced by Amgueddfa Cymru as part of the SLA, funding can be sought from various providers to support an exhibition, but the Authority does not contribute financially.
- The Authority contribute significant staff time and resources from across the Authority to ensure any exhibition is appropriate and relevant to our values and audiences. This includes the Communications Team, where interpretation for an exhibition is primarily created by the Interpretation Officer, as well as marketing support from the Head of Communications and Marketing. The team at Oriel y Parc work closely with Amgueddfa Cymru in the curation of an exhibition and the installation, including VSA time and Site Warden support, as well as committing staff resource to ensure each exhibition is supported by appropriate events and merchandising.
- The Engagement and Inclusion Team offer support in terms of learning expertise and ranger led engagement sessions, as well as inclusion sessions with key audiences and groups.
- The Grade A galley in which the exhibitions are housed is environmentally controlled to museum standards, this is resourced and maintained by the Authority.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Successful ending of Geiriau Diflanedig/ Lost Words exhibition with a farewell event, attended by AC Touring Exhibitions Manager.
- Delivery of the Courage and Community: RNLI 200 exhibition:
  - The exhibition successfully places local voices at its core, fostering community engagement and reflection on the heritage and experiences of those living and working by the sea around Pembrokeshire.
  - Two successful events held to open the exhibition at the end of June 2024. A preview evening attended by 90 people invited from the RNLI, AC, local lifeboat crews, lifeguarding and fundraising teams, contributors to the exhibition, stakeholders and press. And a celebration event for all visitors, with a programme of music, talks and family-friendly activities.
  - Positive feedback on exhibition and noticeable trend of local families making repeat visits. The archive footage and historic photographs featured on the interpretation panels generated considerable interest among local people, who returned to explore these and share with family and friends. The interactive elements encouraged extended engagement with the displays – dressing up, experiencing a rescue in an Arancia-class inflatable rescue boat.
  - Linking up with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and St Davids Lifeboat volunteers and crew, a

RNLI trail was created for the St Davids Peninsula. It featured points of interest to encourage visitors to explore further afield. The Interpretation Officer and Research and Sustainability Appraisal Officer used storymaps through the arcgis system to add layers of interpretation to the digital trail.

- There have been significant changes within AC which have affected the team working on exhibitions. Introductory meetings between new contacts at AC and Authority staff took place. Regular meetings were also held to develop a 5-year exhibition plan, with the ability to be agile to emerging trends and one-off opportunities.
- Relationships continued to be strengthened with new colleagues at AC in preparation for the upcoming exhibition Môrwelion/The Sea Horizon by Garry Fabian Miller. Garry Fabian Miller's meditative works are held in collections internationally, including Amgueddfa Cymru, Metropolitan Museum of Art New York and the Victoria and Albert Museum. In January, the AC team visited to assess the space and discuss possible layouts for the upcoming exhibition.
- To enhance upcoming exhibitions, the Visitor Services Manager and Interpretation Officer have facilitated two internal workshops. Colleagues from across the organisation came together to explore ideas, shape additional content and inclusive interpretation to accompany future exhibitions. The first session focused on Môrwelion/The Sea Horizon (2025/26), while the second explored themes around Welsh culture and the National Eisteddfod, which Pembrokeshire will host in summer 2026.

**Assessment:** Positive work has been carried out with Amgueddfa Cymru to develop engaging exhibitions that align with wider Authority priorities, and to maintain relationships with contacts at the Museum.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### h) Public Services Board Project Group – Strengthening Communities

**Purpose of Partnership:** Joint working on Well-being Plan for Pembrokeshire project on strengthening communities.

**Category of Partnership:** Statutory Local Authority area (Pembrokeshire) Public Body Partnership (Note: Authority is not a required statutory member under the Well-being of Future Generations Act, but is an invited member

PCNPA Lead Officer: Head of Engagement and Inclusion

Resources: Officer Time

2024/25 Activities:

- Head of Engagement and Inclusion joined the Pembrokeshire Strengthening Communities Operational Group.
- The Pembrokeshire Strengthening Communities Operational Group met in August and suggested several operational subgroups to support the work of the Strengthening Communities priority within the Wellbeing Plan for Pembrokeshire. Authority officers are involved in two groups:
  - Volunteering. The Volunteering Development Officer attended the first meeting of Volunteering Subgroup in October which set out plans to update the Pembrokeshire Volunteering Strategy. The draft Volunteering Strategy was presented to the PSB in February.
  - Community Profiles and Wellbeing Plans. The Head of Engagement and Inclusion is part of the Community Wellbeing Plans subgroup. This subgroup is supporting through a SPF project the development of community wellbeing plans for a small number of communities. The project is led by Together for Change and the steering group supported them to shortlist communities to work with and planning workshops. It is hoped that this work will provide a template to be taken wider to other communities. In quarter 4 work continued on Together for Change's Community Wellbeing Plans for St Davids and Crymych and the Ranger Service contributed to the community workshops that were held to support this process.
- The Head of Engagement and Inclusion took part in a workshop to support the development of Pembrokeshire County Council's Community Strategy.

**Assessment:** In 2023/24 the Authority had limited engagement with this group, however in 2024/25 the Head of Engagement and Inclusion joined the group, strengthening our relationship with it. This has meant we have engaged with activities linked to Pembrokeshire Volunteer Strategy, PCC's Community Strategy and the creation of Well-being plans.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Amber	Green	♠

# i) Pembrokeshire College Advisory Forum

**Purpose of Partnership:** Develop stronger relationships with the college helping shape the future educational opportunities for post-16 learners in the county.

Category of Partnership: Pembrokeshire Advisory Partnership

PCNPA Lead Officer: Authority Member representatives

Resources: Member Time

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- The Forum meets termly in March, November and June. A new Member representative was appointed at the AGM in June 2024 and attended the forum meeting in November.
- A successful 1 week work placement has taken place within Countryside Management and a Pembrokeshire College student. Members of Pembrokeshire College staff attended a meeting with several Team Leaders and Managers to meet key players and gain insight into suitable roles for work placements and the limiting factors.
- NN4 funded project has included a resourcing officer post within People Service, part of this role will be to engage with local colleges in terms of traineeship programme.

**Assessment:** Member in 2023/24 was unable to attend meetings. A new Member representative was appointed at the AGM in June 2024 and they have been able to attend meetings. Provides opportunity for Authority to engage with Pembrokeshire College, this is important when will look at areas of work linked to skills development, work placements and training.

# **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Amber	Green	↑

# j) Port of Milford Haven Advisory Committee

**Purpose of Partnership:** Provides a forum for discussion and interaction between the Port and stakeholders.

Category of Partnership: Pembrokeshire Advisory Partnership

PCNPA Lead Officer: Authority Member Representative

**Resources:** Member Time.

# 2024/25 Activities:

- The Advisory Committee aims to meet twice a year, the last meeting being held on 12 September 2024 (with the next one being 15 May 2025). The meeting agenda included discussions on the Port's growth strategy, and KPIs; the Celtic Freeport; Port investment for FLOW and renewables; and the Community Fund, which is managed for the Port by PAVS.
- In addition to attending the Advisory Committee, in October the Authority also took part in a Stakeholder Survey and Perception Interview conducted for the Port by Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum. The outcomes of the Stakeholder Survey will be discussed at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

**Assessment:** Engagement with Port of Milford Haven Advisory Committee and through annual stakeholder meetings is important in terms of opportunity to gain understanding of impact of <u>Celtic Freeport</u> development.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	+

#### k) Saundersfoot Harbour Advisory Forum

**Purpose of Partnership:** Provides a forum for discussion and interaction between Saundersfoot Harbour and Stakeholders

Category of Partnership: Pembrokeshire Advisory Partnership

PCNPA Lead Officer: Chief Executive Officer. Authority Member Representative

**Resources:** Member and Officer Time

#### 2024/25 Activities:

• The Forum meets every 3 months and the major topic of conversation is around the current Harbour Revision Order, Length of Commissioners' term as a commissioner and any news regarding the empty restaurant at the end of the harbour.

**Assessment:** Provides opportunity for Authority to engage with Saundersfoot Harbour about its operation and strategy.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### I) Next Generation Partnerships: Designated Landscapes, PCC – Futureworks, Third Sector - Action for Children

**Purpose of Partnership:** Development of projects that benefit young people providing them with opportunities to engage with one another, influence the work of the Authority and have shared learning or well-being opportunities.

**Category of Partnership:** Project Based Collaborative Partnerships (Covering Designated Landscapes, Public Sector and Third Sector)

PCNPA Lead Officer: Head of Engagement and Inclusion

**Resources: Officer time:** Youth and Inclusion Officer 2 days/month. Learning and Inclusion Team Leader 1 day/ month. Funding AMEX (NPUK) £4,500 for collaborative working across the 3 Welsh National Parks youth voice initiatives.

Funding of £14,280 has been secured from Principality Building Society's Future Generations Fund. Funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council for Heritage at risk project.

# 2024/25 Activities:

- Youth group managers from Clwydian Range National Landscape, Bannau Brycheiniog and Pembrokeshire Coast met in February to discuss a joint event, planned for June/July 2025. The gathering of young people from the three Designated Landscapes is part of a more collaborative approach to work with young people across Designated Landscapes. We envisage other Wales Landscape areas will take part in joint working in the future.
- The National Park Authority, in partnership with the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) and Futureworks, were successful in obtaining funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to deliver an engagement project with young people focussing on heritage at risk due to climate change. The project commenced in January 2025 and will conclude in June. The Futureworks participants aged 16-20 are learning about the impact of climate change at monuments across the National Park area, including St Brides, St Davids, Angle and Whitesands Bay. The participants are supported by Futureworks, MOLA and National Park Authority staff.
- As part of our review of PCNPA/Mind Pembrokeshire's Roots to Recovery • project, the project team have developed connections with Action for Children. In August 2024 they contacted Action for Children, who support young carers from 8 to 25 in Pembrokeshire. The charity runs groups as well supporting individuals and families in the County. Since the Autumn, we have delivered 5 outdoor sessions with young carer groups in Pembrokeshire. We were able to work the 11- to 16-year-old young carers group (who are based at the Picton Centre in Haverfordwest) on three occasions. Focussing on experiences that could take place in and around the centre, the group took part in bushcraft activity, got creative with some 'environmental art' and joined in a group barbecue at Fortunes Frolic, a location within walking distance of the group's meeting place. As some of the young people explained to us, 'there isn't always time for them to take part in activities once the school day is over', and so making use of the time set-aside to attend the Action for Children young carers youth group enabled most of the group to join in. This work has helped inform and build relationships to support the Routes to Discovery project bid (follow up to Roots to Recovery project with Mind.)

**Assessment:** Through project based collaborative partnership approach, we are securing funding to develop projects that benefit young people providing them with opportunities to engage with one another, influence the work of the Authority and have shared learning or well-being opportunities.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### m) Development of Partnership Plan Forum

**Purpose of Partnership:** Engagement to help develop, deliver and monitor the Partnership Plan.

**Category of Partnership:** Park Plan Collaborative Partnership. **Note:** Required to engage with relevant Authority Stakeholders as part of NPMP development, provides opportunity to gain buy in for development and delivery of partnership plan.

PCNPA Lead Officer: Management Plan and Marine Officer

#### Resources: Officer Time

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- A number of partner organisations provided detailed responses to the draft Partnership Plan, this led to substantial changes being applied to the document. A key theme to emerge from the consultation was that a "Plan Partnership" should be defined and established early on to aid Plan delivery and to be able to assist in the next Plan review.
- An initial meeting of some of the key identified lead and delivery partners was held on 28th January 2025. Partners were updated on progress and the requirement for and potential roles of a partnership were explored. There was general agreement on the following points:
  - Many effective partnerships already help to deliver National Park purposes and it is essential to continue to draw on these in Plan delivery and monitoring. There may also be additional roles for partner organisations in implementing and monitoring the Plan. These will often align with partners' existing roles and responsibilities.
  - There is also a role for an overarching partnership or forum to further specify, guide and scrutinise Plan achievements within the Plan period. This needs to have an inclusive, adaptive membership, and be able to take an overall view of contributions of existing partnerships (as well as any new partnerships or task-orientated groups that may arise).
- Officers will now work to determine the functions and membership of the group and arrange further meetings.

**Assessment:** Authority has responded to feedback from consultation of need for Partnership Plan forum to support the Partnership Plan. It is still early days, however the development of the partnership forum should provide opportunity to strengthen our partnership approach to delivery of Partnership Plan. There are

opportunities to learn from best practice and experience of Eryri National Park Authority's Fforwm Eryri linked to their Cynllun Eryri.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
N/A	Green	N/A
	(Partnership in	
	development)	

# n) Pembrokeshire County Council – Collaboration on planning matters (second homes, holiday lets, affordable housing

**Purpose of Partnership:** Joint working on policy developments related to second homes, holiday lets, affordable housing and Local Housing Market Assessment.

**Category of Partnership:** Pembrokeshire Collaborative Public Sector Partnership

PCNPA Lead Officer: Strategic Policy Manager.

Resources: Officer time

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Data sharing agreement in place to received 6 monthly updates on second homes, short term lets and empty homes.
- Collaborating on preparation of Local Housing Market Assessment
- Regular meetings with PCC's Housing Officers and RSLs.

**Assessment:** Positive collaborative working between the planning authorities in support of addressing issues that impact on affordable housing. Positive example of data sharing between public bodies using data sharing agreement.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	+

#### o) POSW – Planning Officers Society Wales

**Purpose of Partnership:** Working with partners and stakeholders to ensure the Welsh planning system delivers sustainable developments and successful outcomes.

**Category of Partnership:** National (Welsh) Collaborative Public Sector Partnership

PCNPA Lead Officer: Director of Place and Engagement

**Resources:** £800 contribution. Officer time.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Officers attendance at quarterly meetings.
- Provides opportunity for officers to share information on professional basis with other planning officers in Wales and to receive updates from Welsh Government as well as annual training in POSW AGM conference
- Continue to use POSW as a mechanism to support responses to Welsh Government.

**Assessment:** Positive partnership providing expert knowledge sharing that supports the Authority in terms of planning policy and service delivery.

# **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

# 2.8 Partnerships supporting Corporate Activities or Cross Cutting Outcomes

The Authority is also involved with a number of strategic partnerships which support broader corporate activities or cross cutting outcomes.

# 2.9 Corporate Partnerships Overview 2024/25

# a) Welsh Government – Shared Priorities (Strategic Grant Letter)

**Purpose of Partnership:** Support delivery of shared priorities as set out in National Park Authorities: Term of Government Remit letter and Strategic Grant Letter.

Category of Partnership: Sponsorship Department

PCNPA Lead Officer: Chief Executive Officer

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Ongoing meetings with sponsorship team at Welsh Government. Including discussions on mid-term financial picture. Significant end of year funding from Welsh Government illustrates some success in the approach
- Development of Ffermio Bro Scheme and new round of SLSP funding.

**Assessment:** Positive working relationship with sponsorship team, important in terms of navigating financial challenges while also seeking opportunities to deliver against shared priorities.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
N/A	Green	<b>→</b>

# b) Pembrokeshire Public Services Board (PSB)

**Purpose of Partnership:** Working together with other members of PSB to improve well-being in Pembrokeshire by thinking more about the longer-term; working better with people, communities and each other; and looking to prevent problems before they happen.

**Category of Partnership:** Statutory Local Authority area (Pembrokeshire) Public Body Partnership (Note: Authority is not a required statutory member under the Well-being of Future Generations Act, but is an invited member)

PCNPA Lead Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Resources: Officer Time

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Chief Executive continues to represent Authority on Public Services Board.
- <u>Agenda's and Minutes for Pembrokeshire Public Services Board</u> for 2024/25 are available on Pembrokeshire County Council website.
- Authority actions feature in the <u>Pembrokeshire Public Services Board:</u> <u>Tackling Poverty: Our Strategy 2023 Action Plan</u> and number of staff sit on sub groups for Nature and Climate, Tackling Poverty and Community.
- Partnership Plan approved in March 2025 identifies Pembrokeshire Public Services Board as a key partner to support delivery of the plan.

**Assessment:** Involvement in Pembrokeshire Public Services Board provides collaborative opportunities to work with other public bodies and partners to contribute to delivery of the Pembrokeshire Well-being Plan, wider Authority Well-being Objectives and the Partnership Plan.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### c) South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee

**Purpose of Partnership:** Regional working to improve the regional planning, coordination of delivery of transport, land use planning, economic development and energy.

**Category of Partnership:** Regional Statutory Public Body Partnership (Note: When CJCs are exercising the function of preparing a Strategic Development Plan the relevant National Park authority is also a member of the CJC. The council members of the CJC may choose, in agreement with the NPA, to extend the NPA membership of the CJC to include other purposes/functions<sup>2</sup>)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-01/corporate-joint-committees.pdf</u>

# PCNPA Lead Officer: Authority Chair. Chief Executive Officer

**Resources:** Member and Officer time. Awaiting further information in terms of future cost contributions that will be expected of the Authority.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- <u>Agenda's and Minutes for South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee</u> for 2024/25 are available on Neath Port Talbot Council Website.
- Chair and Chief Executive attend CJC meetings.
- Strategic Policy Manager has engaged with development of the draft Regional Transport Plan 2025-2030. During 2024/25 the CJC undertook a public consultation exercise on the draft plan, providing people with an opportunity to have their say on the future of transport networks in South West Wales.
- Chief Executive has participated in the process of shortlisting for Private Sector Advisors for the Committee.

**Assessment:** Involvement in Corporate Joint Committee for South West Wales ensures that the Authority is having a voice at a regional level and can influence development of regional plans. This is particularly important in terms of land use policy, however it is also important for other areas that impact on Park such as transport. Authority engagement in certain aspects of the partnership is mandated by legislation. Future funding obligations on the Authority to be determined.

# **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

# d) WLGA – Council, Executive Board, Joint Council for Wales, Rural Forum and WG Partnership Council for Wales

Purpose of Partnership: Joint working opportunities with other Local Authorities

**Category of Partnership:** National (Welsh) Collaborative Public Sector Partnership

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Authority Member representatives or Chair of National Parks Wales.

Resources: Member Time.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

 Chair attended meetings of Rural Forum. Forum has covered areas of relevance to the Park including discussing active travel initiatives in rural areas, draft rural manifesto, sustainable visitor economy plan 2035 – a model for other rural areas and sustainable food. Meeting at the Royal Welsh Show discussed achieving sustainable and resilient communities. Provision of Sustainable Farming Scheme update and response to Welsh Government.

- WLGA Council meetings are attended by the Chair of the Authority. The Authority is an Associate Member and has no vote. The Council receives updates at a strategic level on the work of the Association.
- The Chair of National Parks Wales represents the three Welsh National Parks on the WLGA Executive Board.

**Assessment 2024/25:** Ensures National Park Authority continues to be informed of WLGA strategic level work and on issues impacting on rural areas.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	+

# e) Tirweddau Cymru/ Landscape Wales Partnership

**Purpose of Partnership:** Partnership of the designated landscapes supporting joint working to address key shared challenges, including action on the climate change and nature emergencies.

**Category of Partnership:** National (Welsh) Collaborative Designated Landscape Partnership

# PCNPA Lead Officer: Chief Executive Officer

**Resources:** Authority hosts Tirweddau Cymru Manager and Administrator, and one of the Strategic Advisors. Following changes to the Strategic Landscape Coordinators the Authority is also now hosting the Nature Recovery Programme Manager and the Nature Recovery 30x30 Manager. Officer time – Chief Executive sits on the partnership. Welsh Government provide funding for Tirweddau Cymru partnership.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Organising and delivering the annual Tirweddau Cymru Seminar, bringing together landscape staff from across Wales and the UK to Bangor in May 2024. The seminar focused on 'Decarbonising the Designated Landscapes of Wales; working with our communities to achieve net zero.'
- The Tirweddau Cymru Seminar for 2025 was held in May and hosted by Wye Valley National Landscape with a focus on farming in designated Landscapes and included an event with the Cabinet Secretary, Huw Irranca -Davies launching Ffermio Bro, farming in Welsh Designated Landscapes scheme.
- Co-ordinating the Biodiversity Deep Dive Designated Landscapes Working Group (see Conservation partnerships).
- Co-ordinating Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places Capital Funding Programme, funded by the Welsh Government.

- Supporting set up and management of Ffermio Bro Scheme for Welsh Government through its Nature Recovery Programme Manager. Scheme was launched 1 April 2025 and will run until March 2028. Ffermio Bro is led locally by the Designated Landscapes and the Authority is part of the scheme.
- Tirweddau Cymru has supported collaborative projects across the designated landscapes including
  - o All Wales Dark Skies Project
  - Creation of <u>Tirlun education platform</u>, that the Authority led on.
- Changes to Strategy Advisors roles, with these roles now all sitting under Tirweddau Cymru:
  - Inclusion, Diversity and Governance Strategic Lead. Authority has been engaging with the lead to inform our inclusion and outreach activities and development of future projects. They also supported delivery of Open to All Project with Visit Pembrokeshire. They have been supporting RNIB Cymru's 'See Cymru Differently' National Parks project.
  - Nature Recovery Programme Manager manages the Farming in Designated Landscapes: Ffermio Bro programme.
  - Nature Recovery 30x30 Manager support Wales' Designated Landscapes to drive meaningful action towards the 30x30 biodiversity goal.

**Assessment:** Partnership is supporting collaborative working and projects with other designated landscapes and helping provide a voice for designated landscapes at a national level. Strategic Inclusion, Diversity and Governance Excellence Strategic Lead is supporting Authority to further develop its inclusion work and develop new connections. Changes to the strategic advisor roles now mean the Authority is currently hosting all partnership staff, increasing number hosted from 3 to 5.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	+

#### f) National Parks Wales

**Purpose of Partnership:** Joint working opportunities with other National Park Authorities in Wales.

**Category of Partnership:** National (Welsh) Collaborative Designated Landscape Partnership

PCNPA Lead Officer: Chief Executive Officer

**Resources:** Authority provides financial contribution to support the work of National Parks Wales.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Authority continues to engage with the other two Welsh National Park Authority's through National Park Wales
- National Parks Wales Members Seminar was hosted by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority on the 6 and 7 November 2024.

**Assessment 2024/25:** Facilitates joint working between the three National Park Authorities in Wales.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

# g) National Parks Wales UK Chairs Forum

**Purpose of Partnership:** Joint working opportunities with other National Park Authorities in them UK

**Category of Partnership:** National (UK) Collaborative Designated Landscape Partnership

PCNPA Lead Officer: Authority Chair

**Resources:** No direct costs however, the Authority buys into two partnership elements – Communications and Member Development.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Annual meeting held in September 2024.
- Two Members and two officers attended the National Park UK Conference.

**Assessment 2024/25:** Positive partnership as provides opportunity for Authority Chair to engage with other National Park Authority Chairs.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

# h) Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Trust

**Purpose of Partnership:** Create new funding opportunities for the Authority in line with Memorandum of Understanding.

**Category of Partnership:** Public Sector / Third Sector Collaborative Partnership. Note: based on Memorandum of Understanding.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** External Funding Manager. Members represented on the Trust Board.

#### **Resources:**

- PCNPA funding for PCNPT 2024/25: £93,456
- Amount in total raised in 2024/2025: £169,278.09
- Amount given to the Authority for specific projects: £112,318 (these include Pembrokeshire Outdoors Schools, Pathways, Get Outdoors, Beach Wheelchairs, Nature Recovery projects like Birds and the Bees, Wild about Woodlands)
- PCNPT Force for Nature mini grant scheme provided £40,000 to local projects.

# 2024/25 Activities:

- Trust received £1,500 donation towards Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools from Haverfordwest Town Council.
- Secured £1,000 from Robert Clutterbuck Charitable Trust, £5,000 from Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust and £2,000 from Oakdale Trust for Birds and Bees campaign.
- Secured £16,600 through Big Give Christmas challenge towards Protecting the Pembrokeshire Coast Paths.
- Secured £5,000 from Bruce Wake Trust for Beach Wheelchairs.
- Secured £750 from Milford Haven Port Authority Community Fund, £14,280 from Principality Future Generations Fund, £4,000 from D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust to support for Next Generation activities.
- Force for Naure Mini Grant Scheme awarded to 14 communities.
- Ongoing relationship with South Hook LNG in terms of the Gwreiddiau Roots project for a further 2 years and supporting the growth of the project through online resources.

**Assessment 2024/25:** Trust has been able to access and secure grants and raise funds through campaigns that support Authority projects and activities.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### i) National Parks Partnership

**Purpose of Partnership:** Partnership across the 15 UK National Park Authorities to generate income.

**Category of Partnership:** National (UK) Collaborative Designated Landscape Partnership

PCNPA Lead Officer: Chief Executive Officer

**Resource:** £10k per year, however, over during 2024/25 the Authority has received £40,000 through the partnership.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- £40,000 of funding was secured through the partnership for Connecting the Coast.
- Authority in 2023/24 secured funding through the partnership to purchase an accessible electric minibus. The accessible electric minibus has now been delivered and is in use by the Authority.
- The partnership has been working on a new brand deal for uniforms.

**Assessment 2024/25:** Continues to provide opportunities to access funding opportunities, particularly through corporate partnerships it secures.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### j) UK National Parks Charitable Foundation

**Purpose of Partnership:** Partnership across the 15 UK National Park Authorities to generate income

**Category of Partnership:** National (UK) Collaborative Designated Landscape Partnership

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Chief Executive Officer, who also Chairs the Board of Trustees

**Resource:** No financial contribution apart from officer time, however, over the past year the Authority has received £2,000 through the partnership.

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- The Authority has received £2,000 to support visits to the Park.
- As Chair, Chief Executive involved in process of appointing new trustees.

**Assessment 2024/25:** The Foundation works closely with National Parks Partnership and Authority can access additional funding opportunities via the Foundation.

#### **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

#### k) Cymru WARP (Warning, Advice, Reporting Partnership)

**Purpose of Partnership:** Opportunity to share information on threats, incidents and solutions with other public bodies as regards ICT security.

**Category of Partnership:** National (Welsh) Collaborative Public Sector Partnership

PCNPA Lead Officer: IT Team Leader

#### Resource: £250 subscription and Officer Time

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Ongoing monitoring by IT of WARP e-mail alerts in support of managing cyber security risks.
- Attendance at WARP meeting for useful security updates and resources.
- IT Team leader also engaged with CymruSOC (Security Operations Centre) set up by Welsh Government to support public bodies manage cyber security threats.

**Assessment 2024/25:** Positive partnership providing expert knowledge sharing that supports the Authority in actions to manage cyber security threats.

# **RAG Status**

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
Green	Green	<b>→</b>

# I) Social Partnership – Unison

**Purpose of Partnership:** Ensuring Authority embeds social partnership principles (Cooperation, Respect, Trust, Voice and Participation and Mutual Gains) in how it operates through working with Trade Union to find the best solutions to the challenges facing us to deliver fair work and equip the workforce with the skills and capabilities needed.

Category of Partnership: Collaborative Social Partnership

PCNPA Lead Officer: Head of People Services

Resource: Officer Time

#### 2024/25 Activities:

- Meeting with Union to discuss how to develop social partnership approach with them.
- Union involvement in Pay and Grading Review.
- Union Representative is a member of internal Job Evaluation Panel for all new posts.
- Staff union representative sits on the Authority's staff reps group.
- Union Representatives attend and participate at Employee Forum meetings.
- Trade Union invited to all staff meetings.

**Assessment 2024/25:** Working on embedding a social partnership approach through positive and pro active engagement with recognised Trade Union Unison alongside working with staff via staff Reps group.

**RAG Status** 

2023/24	2024/25	Trend
N/A	Green	N/A

Appendix 1



# Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

# Partnership Framework - Standards

Version	Active Date	Document Owner	Internal/ External
1		Chief Executive	Internal

Please note: Standards Control Sheet is at the end of the document. Standards document is uncontrolled once printed. Please refer to the Authority's Intranet site for up-to-date Standards.

#### Do these Standards relate to me:

• All Staff or Members engaged in partnership working on behalf of the Authority

# **Quick Reference - Key Messages from Standards:**

- Supports the Authority to:
  - o know what our significant partnerships are
  - o know their purpose and how they contribute to strategic priorities
  - $\circ$   $\,$  know the costs and benefits of working in that way
  - have assurance that partnerships' governance supports their operation particularly in key areas such as making decisions and accountability

# Contents

Do these Standards relate to me:	1
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#### 1. Purpose of the Framework

- 1.1 Working in partnership can bring a wide range of benefits, but also produces particular risks and governance issues. To protect the interests both of Authority and Public it is therefore important that:
  - we know what our significant partnerships are,
  - we understand their purpose and how they contribute to strategic priorities,
  - we understand the costs and benefits of working in that way,
  - and we have assurance that partnerships' governance supports their operation particularly in key areas such as making decisions and accountability.
- 1.2 The framework recognises that there is great variety in the scale and nature of the Authority's partnerships, but provides a standardised approach by which accountability can be strengthened, risks managed, and working arrangements rationalised.

#### 2. Strategic Priorities

2.2 Strategic partnerships we are part of should contribute to the following strategic areas:

#### a) Partnership Plan for the National Park 2025-2029

Every five years the Authority is required to produce a National Park Management Plan. The Plan sets out how it would like to see the National Park managed, not just by the Authority itself, but by the other agencies and organisations whose activities might impact on the Park. A new Plan was approved in March 2025 and is now called a Partnership Plan.

Our Partnership Plan is based on action across four complementary themes and missions:

- Conservation Conserve and enhance landscapes, seascapes, natural beauty and wildlife
- Cultural Heritage and Connection Conserve and enhance cultural heritage, including promotion of the Welsh language. Enhance equitable access to the National Park and promote the enjoyment, understanding and health benefits of its special qualities for all.
- Climate and Natural Resources Reduce and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Manage natural resources sustainably.
- Communities Foster the socio-economic well-being of National Park communities in the pursuit of National Park purposes.

#### b) Authority's Well-being Objectives

The Authority is required to set Well-being Objectives under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Strategic partnerships can support the Authority to delivery its Well-being Objectives and associated outcomes.

The Authority's four Well-being Objectives are

- Conservation: To deliver nature recovery and connectivity at scale, so nature is flourishing in the Park, contributing to the protection of 30% of our land and seas for nature by 2030.
- Climate: To achieve a carbon neutral Authority by 2030 and support the Park to achieve carbon neutrality and adapt to the impact of climate change.
- Connection: To create a Park that is a natural health service that supports people to be healthier, happier and more connected to the landscape, nature and heritage.
- Communities: To create vibrant, sustainable and prosperous communities in the Park that are places people can live, work and enjoy.

# c) Well-being Plan for Pembrokeshire

The Well-being Plan for Pembrokeshire sets out how the Public Services Board will work together to improve well-being of people and communities in Pembrokeshire, now and in the future. The Well-being Plan represents the additional value that can be delivered through working innovatively and collaboratively as partners. Under the current well-being plan there are 5 priority project plan areas:

- Reducing Poverty and Inequalities
- Strengthening Communities
- Biodiversity and the Nature Emergency
- Climate adaptation
- Decarbonisation and Net Zero
- d) Joint working with regional partners or other designated landscapes. Including partnerships that support corporate areas of change.

#### 3. Ways of Working – Integration and Collaboration

- 3.1 Two of the five ways of working under the Well-being of Future Generations Act are
  - Integration (Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies)
  - Collaboration (Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives)

The Authority needs to ensure it has integrated these approaches effectively in how it operates.

- 3.2 The Authority also needs to consider how its engagement with partnerships support and/ or comply with the following duties, standards and policy areas:
  - Park Purposes
  - Sustainable Development Principles 5 Ways of Working
  - Public Sector Equality Duty and Socio-Economic Duty
  - Supporting reduction in Child Poverty
  - Welsh Language Standards and promoting the Welsh Language
  - Section 6 Biodiversity Duty and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
  - 30×30 target of protecting 30% of our land and seas for nature by 2030
  - Routemap for decarbonisation across the Welsh Public Sector by 2030 and Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget
  - Socially Responsible Procurement Duty and Social Partnership Duty
  - Value for money
  - Wider compliance areas such as health and safety, data protection, cyber security and finance.

#### 4. What is a Partnership?

4.1 The term partnership is used when two or more organisations agree to work collectively to achieve an objective or goal. They may create new structures or processes to achieve their goal, may plan and implement a jointly agreed project or service; may jointly provide or share staff or resources and may agree to share risks and rewards.

#### 5. Strategic Partnership

- 5.1 To be considered 'significant' partnerships should have either:
  - a) Strategic importance the partnership being critical to the delivery of key Authority objectives or statutory obligations, or is a fundamental component of Authority's priorities and functions and the Authority's reputation could be damaged by the Authority's failure to deliver.
  - b) Financial responsibility Authority is contributing funds, significant officer time or receiving funds as part of the partnership.

#### 6. Benefits and Risks of Partnership Working

6.1 Partnerships vary in size, service area, membership and function, funding, legal status and structure. They may be affected by the same pressures and challenges as the Authority. These include external factors such as funding reduction, national changes in policy and legislative changes, or internal factors

such as reducing staff resource, service level reviews and organisational restructures. Partnerships can provide an effective way of meeting these challenges but also carry risks because working across organisational boundaries and cultures can add complexity and ambiguity and reduce accountability. It's important to acknowledge both the benefits and risks when establishing and reviewing partnerships to ensure they remain the most effective way of achieving the desired aim:

# 6.2 Potential Benefits

- a) Better co-ordination and integration in the delivery of services
- b) Greater understanding of challenges and greater capacity to plan and develop solutions
- c) Pooling of expertise and resources
- d) Flexibility and innovation; learning from each other to produce better policy and stronger delivery than when working alone
- e) Effective communication and engagement to achieve outcomes
- f) More efficient and effective use of resources (money, people, assets, data) to deliver value for money.

#### 6.3 Potential Risks

- a) Lacking clarity of purpose, of partner expectations or of partner responsibilities
- b) Setting unrealistic goals or expectations, or being unaware of the extent of financial or legal implications
- c) Financial or time commitments outweighing potential benefits or gains
- d) Differing cultures, policies and behaviours leading to conflict, distrust, manipulation or domination
- e) Inadequate governance and scrutiny over planning, decision-making, management of resources, risk or performance management
- f) Lack of public transparency and/or perceived lack of democratic accountability.
- g) Mixed or confusing messaging to audiences

#### 7. Is a Partnership Needed?

- 7.1 Partnerships will not always be the best way in which to achieve a particular goal or deliver a service. The first consideration must be whether the establishment of a partnership is mandatory (statutory) or discretionary. Where the partnership is discretionary (voluntary) it is important to assess whether a partnership is necessary or whether the same objective could be achieved more efficiently and effectively by the Authority working alone. To help make that assessment the following should be considered:
  - a) Can the objectives, outcomes and benefits of the partnership be clearly expressed and linked to Authority strategies and priorities?

- b) Will the benefits of the partnership outweigh the costs when compared to other arrangements, including issues such as co-ordination of activity and resources?
- c) What is the resource impact and who will meet the costs of delivery, and of strategic and operational management?
- d) Can the partnership provide ongoing and robust compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements?
- e) Are there alternative delivery arrangements that could be considered?
- f) Is there a shared vision and purpose across the partners, or is it dominated by one partner?
- g) Are there a clear set of jointly agreed goals with respective values, capabilities and capacity of partners understood by all?

#### 8. Principles

- 8.1 Having established that a partnership is appropriate the following key principles should be considered not all will necessarily apply to every partnership, but their relevance should be considered and a proportionate approach applied.
  - a) Shared understanding partners should formally agree and record how the partnership operates. This will include: structure, purpose and aims, activities, roles and responsibilities, membership, regulatory framework, dispute resolution, timeframe for operation and exit strategy. Relevance to the agreed purpose should be maintained during the lifespan of the partnership.
  - b) Accountability partnerships should account for their actions through reporting, meetings, oversight and scrutiny of performance and regulatory compliance, openness and engagement, and complaints and redress processes.
  - c) Decision-making there should be clearly allocated roles, responsibilities and accountabilities, open and transparent processes such as records of delegated authority and decisions taken, and effective scrutiny.
  - d) Value for money costs and benefits should be understood and monitored to ensure that the partnership continues to provide value for money over alternative arrangements.
  - e) Corporate governance processes To ensure high quality cost effective operation to meet agreed priorities, proportionate processes should be in place for managing issues such as risk, performance, finance, information governance and data protection. These should be periodically reviewed during the lifespan of the partnership.
  - f) Standards high standards of conduct and leadership of the partnership should be agreed. This is to ensure the needs of all partners are met, conflicts of interest can be identified and managed, differences are respected, disputes may be resolved quickly and effectively and public confidence in the way in which the partnership operates can be maintained.

#### 9. Link Officers

- 9.1 Link officers provide the key point of contact between the Authority and a partnership. They are responsible for:
  - a) ensuring that corporately the Authority is informed of partnership activity and progress;
  - b) ensuring that appropriate governance arrangements, memorandums of understanding and agreements are in place
  - c) notifying Management Team and Senior Management Team of any concerns relating to a key strategic partnership.
- 9.2 Authority Members' representation of the Authority on external groups is agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

#### **10. Practice**

Below is guidance on how these principles can be put into practice either in the formation of a new partnership or when evaluating the effectiveness of an existing partnership.

#### 10.1 Purpose, Structure and Membership

#### **Good Governance**

- a) Aims, objectives, outputs and outcomes are agreed and communicated
- b) Membership is aligned to objectives to provide relevant interests experience and expertise
- c) There is an appropriate board and committee structure with clearly defined remits
- d) Personal interests of members do not impact on decisions.

#### **Good Practice**

Establish a partnership agreement which includes:

- a) Key messages and an agreed description of what the partnership is trying to achieve (purpose and deliverables)
- b) Roles and responsibilities
- c) Structure chart
- d) Partnership board and committee criteria
- e) Declaration of personal and pecuniary interest and requirement to withdraw from meetings/decisions
- f) Exit strategy for partners and the partnership
- g) Data sharing and data protection arrangements.

#### 10.2 Accountability and decision-making

#### **Good Governance**

- a) Good leadership promotes supportive culture and behaviour
- b) Roles, responsibilities and accountabilities are understood
- c) Decision-making is open and transparent
- d) Reporting to officers and/or Members supports scrutiny of decisions and activity

#### **Good Practice**

- a) Responsibilities for decisions are agreed and recorded
- b) Minutes of meetings record decisions, agreed action and relevant related discussion.
- c) There is regular reporting within existing scrutiny structures
- d) A communication strategy sets out internal and external communication processes, including how external stakeholders may engage with the partnership, spokesperson designation and process for approval of press statements.

#### 10.3 Monitoring and review

#### **Good Governance**

- a) There is regular review and evaluation of membership, policies, performance and risk
- b) Awareness is maintained of what is working and what is not, and action is taken to address issues
- c) There are strategies for change and exit.
- d) Disputes between partners are addressed effectively

#### **Good Practice**

- a) The partnership is regularly reviewed to ensure it remains fit for purpose and aligned to Authority objectives and priorities
- b) There are clearly defined indicators of performance to monitor delivery of the partnership objectives
- c) Performance and risk are actively monitored, managed and reported
- d) Processes are in place to resolve disputes, for partners to exit (or join) the partnership, and for its termination
- e) Consideration is given to internal and external audit requirements
- Processes are in place for dealing with external complaints and compliments

#### **10.4 Financial management**

#### **Good Governance**

- a) The partnership is resourced to deliver its aims and objectives
- b) Responsibility for financial decisions is clear

c) The partnership can show that it manages funding appropriately to add value efficiently and effectively

# **Good Practice**

- a) The accountable body for funding is identified
- b) Financial and business plans show clearly how funding and resources will be used to deliver objectives
- c) Financial accounting budgeting and reporting arrangements are in place and subject to appropriate external scrutiny
- d) Processes are in place by which financial, legal and other technical advice may be provided to the partnership

# 10.5 Meetings

# **Good Governance**

- a) Meetings operate efficiently and are of sufficient frequency to facilitate business
- b) The chair ensures meetings address the agenda, promotes contributions from all and ensures decisions are open and transparent
- c) Attendees bring expertise, knowledge and experience relevant to the objectives of the partnership and have the necessary authority to make decisions

# **Good Practice**

- a) Partnership terms of reference specify arrangements for meetings to include quorum, voting, representation and deputising, declarations of interest and arrangements for extraordinary meetings or other procedures for decision-making
- b) Agendas and minutes are produced to specified times, and arrangements for wider access (transparency) are clear
- c) Decisions, action points and accountable leads are clearly identified within the minutes
- d) Arrangements for a secretariat and resources to support it are in place if required

# **11. Monitoring of Partnerships**

- 11.1 Updates on status of Partnerships are captured quarterly on the Authority's Performance Reporting Framework and monitored by the Management Team via Partnership Framework Dashboard. Annually a Partnership Framework monitoring report will be presented to Members through National Park Authority Meeting.
- 11.2 Strategic Partnerships should be reviewed annually as part of budget and corporate planning priority setting. Management Team should review the list of partnerships and identify if we need to disengage from a partnership or engage

with a new partnership. A matrix tool has been created to assist them with this exercise linked to the annual partnership monitoring report.

- 11.3 The National Park Authority will publish regular reports on progress and impacts of the Partnership Plan. Discussions with partners have provided a strong steer that there should be an overarching partnership or forum to specify, guide and scrutinise Plan achievements.
- 11.4 Link Officers should notify Management Team and Senior Management Team of any concerns relating to a key strategic partnership.
- 11.5 Concerns about a strategic partnership should be brought to the attention of Members through the Audit and Corporate Services Committee and added to risk register if significant risks identified for the Authority.

#### **12. Related Policies and Operational Procedures**

- 12.1 Risk Management Policy and Strategy
- 12.2 Financial Standards
- 12.3 Welsh Language Standards
- 12.3 Data Protection Policy

# **Standards Control Sheet**

#### Change Level

Change Level	Tick
Minor editorial/ accuracy changes	
Under Scheme of Delegation change requires	
Management Team approval only	
Under Scheme of Delegation change requires	
Management Team approval only, however	
Management Team have requested for it to go to NPA	
for approval.	
New Standards or under Scheme of Delegation	
change requires NPA approval	

#### Consultation

Group	Date
Management Team/ Link Officers	June/July 2025
Members	June/July 2025

#### Assessments

Assessment – If Applicable	Date
Integrated Assessment – Full	N/A
Integrated Assessment – Policy/ Procedure Review	N/A
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Note: Partnerships involving sharing of personal data between partners may be subject to a DPIA.

# Approval

Approved by	Name	Date	Signature
National Park Authority	Chief Executive		

#### **Version History**

Version	Active Date	Summary of Changes
1		New partnership framework aligned with annual
		Partnership Framework Monitoring report.

#### Review

Version	Active Date	Document Owner	Review Date Trigger
1		Chief Executive	5 year review cycle.

#### Publication

Standards must be co-ordinated through the Performance and Compliance Team, for compliance, auditing, and control purposes. Please send all new or reviewed

standards once approved to mairt@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk for formal publication of policy to staff, Members, volunteers and where required on the Authority's website.

Publication	Date
Published on Sharepoint Corporate Policy/	
Standards Hub	
External Standards – Published on Website: HTML	