

## **Operational Review Committee**

### **24 September 2025**

**Present:** Dr R Plummer (Chair)

Councillor S Alderman, Councillor M Bowen, Councillor S Hancock MBE, Mrs S Hoss and Mr G A Jones.

**Also in attendance:** Sue Burton (Marine SAC Officer), Arwel Evans (Farming Conservation Liaison Officer), Bethan Jones (Sustainability Officer), Georgia Jones (Democratic Services Officer), Tegryn Jones (Chief Executive), Jessica Morgan (Head of Decarbonisation), Sara Morris (Head of Place and Engagement), and Michel Regelous (National Park and Marine Policy Officer).

(Virtual Meeting: 10.00am – 11:30am)

#### **1. Election of Chair**

The Chief Executive opened the meeting and reported that only one nomination had been received for the office of Chair: Dr R Plummer.

On the proposal of Councillor S Hancock, seconded by Councillor S Alderman, it was **resolved** that Dr R Plummer be appointed Chair for the ensuing year.

Dr R Plummer then took the Chair.

#### **2. Election of Deputy Chair**

It was reported that one nomination had been received for the office of Deputy Chair: Councillor S Alderman.

On the proposal of Dr R Plummer, seconded by Councillor S Hancock, it was **resolved** that Councillor S Alderman be appointed Deputy Chair for the ensuing year.

#### **3. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Evans, A Tinley and C Williams BEM.

#### **4. Disclosures**

Councillor S Alderman declared an interest in report 10/25, the Greening Agriculture report 2022-2025.

#### **5. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 June 2025 were presented for confirmation and authentication.



On the proposal of Dr R Plummer, seconded by Councillor S Hancock, it was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2025 be confirmed and authenticated.

**6. Action Log and Matters arising**

The Chief Executive confirmed that the action related to Welsh Language events had been removed from the action log as the Authority were engaged in ongoing discussions with the Welsh Language Commissioner on this matter. It was confirmed that the matter of Welsh Language Events would be revisited with Members once discussions had concluded with the Commissioner.

A Member requested an update in relation to the 43% increase in public rights of way (PROW) concerns in 2024/25, as discussed in the previous meeting. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Authority raised PROW concerns with the Welsh Government (WG) on a regular basis as a result of the increased climate impact. He added that a report would be presented to Members in the near future featuring a climate risk assessment of the Coast Path as Officers aimed to better understand the challenges faced by the Authority in this area.

**Noted.**

**7. Well-being Objective Deep Dive/Self-Assessment: Climate**

The Head of Decarbonisation presented a deep dive report and self-assessment on the wellbeing objective of Climate. It was reported that the Climate objective focused on achieving a carbon-neutral Authority by 2030, supporting the Park to achieve carbon neutrality and adapting to the impact of climate change. The report featured details of the outcomes for the objective, a progress assessment, relevant statistics, case studies, challenges and opportunities, details of contributions to cross-cutting outcomes and an overall assessment with next steps.

The Officer also gave a presentation which outlined the Authority's Decarbonisation Delivery Plan, a snapshot of current emissions with a narrative, details of key progress and achievements, community and partnership work and next steps.

A Member asked for further details regarding the team's level of collaboration with other partners. The Officer confirmed that the Welsh Local Government Association had established a group for Sustainability Officers which offered the opportunity to share best practice, resources and to discuss similar challenges as all public bodies were required to complete the same paperwork on an annual basis. The Officer confirmed that the team had also received support from Wales Energy Service who had carried out a Statewide Assessment for the Authority, free of charge. The Officer added that support was also available from UK National Parks groups.

**Noted.**

## **8. Oyster Project**

The Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Officer gave a presentation which detailed the Bangor University Milford Haven Waterway Native Oyster Project which had been led by the Authority's Conservation Team. The presentation outlined the project and its benefits, and featured information regarding oysters, the challenges faced by the team, public engagement, details of other comparable projects and future aspirations.

Members commended the team for their hard work and achievements and agreed that the project helped to protect both biodiversity and local culture and heritage. The Marine SAC Officer confirmed that the team wished to increase their engagement with the community in the area as oysters were an important part of the local history.

A discussion ensued regarding the positive impact that oysters had on water quality and the SAC Officer confirmed that oysters removed excess nutrients from the water by incorporating it into their shells and tissue as they grew. She added that the nutrients would remain stored as long as the seabed was undisturbed.

In response to a Member's query, the SAC Officer confirmed that the ambition for the project was to eventually build reefs however this was a long-term goal.

**Noted.**

## **9. Greening Agriculture**

The Farming Conservation Liaison Officer presented a report that outlined the work that had been undertaken over the past three years through the Greening Agriculture programme and the Traditional Boundaries Grant. The report and presentation outlined the key achievements, detailed farm case studies, carbon and biodiversity impacts, and lessons learnt from delivering decarbonisation support to landowners across Pembrokeshire. The Officer also outlined the next steps for the project and confirmed that the focus moving forward would be on freshwater management, regenerative farming, commons protection, traditional boundaries and species conservation.

In response to a Member's query, the Officer confirmed that the project was funded on a three-year cycle. He added that Officers were supporting landowners through the Ffermio Bro project to work towards the new collaborative layer of the Sustainable Farming Scheme which would open new opportunities to the farms with access to additional funding.

The Officer and his team were commended for the successes of the project and a Member commented that expansion of the project in future would be a welcome development.

**Noted.**