

Operational Review Committee

10 December 2025

Present: Dr R Plummer (Chair)

Councillor S Alderman, Councillor M Bowen, Councillor T Evans, Councillor S Hancock MBE, Mrs S Hoss, Mr G A Jones and Councillor C Williams BEM.

Also in attendance: Arwel Evans (Farming Conservation Liaison Officer), Clare Flynn (Conservation Officer), Julie Garlick (Conservation Officer), Georgia Jones (Democratic Services Officer), Tegryn Jones (Chief Executive), Sarah Mellor (Conservation Team Leader), James Parkin (Director of Nature Recovery & Tourism), Matt Tebbutt (INNS Project Coordinator), Mair Thomas (Performance and Compliance Officer), and Michelle Webber (Head of Nature Recovery).

(Virtual Meeting: 10.00am – 12:30pm)

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Tinley.

2. Disclosures

Dr R Plummer made a general declaration as Trustee of the Pembrokeshire Coast Charitable Trust. Councillor S Alderman made a general declaration as a Member and former County Chairman of NFU.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 24 September 2025 were presented for confirmation and authentication.

On the proposal of Councillor S Alderman, seconded by Councillor M Bowen, it was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2025 be confirmed and authenticated.

4. Action Log and Matters arising

It was noted that there were no actions to report.

Noted.

[Mr G Jones joined the meeting during consideration of the following item]

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

The Head of Nature Recovery presented a deep dive report and self-assessment on the wellbeing objective of Conservation. It was reported that the Conservation objective focused on delivering nature recovery and connectivity at scale, contributing to the protection of 30% of National Park land and seas for nature by 2030. 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.

A discussion took place regarding the challenges faced by the team and key learnings from the year.

In response to a Member's query, it was confirmed that although statistics were available to demonstrate the impact of the team, Nature Recovery was a difficult area to measure by metrics. The Officer confirmed that the team had commissioned a study to evaluate the extent of land within the National Park that had been managed for nature to support the Authority's progress toward the 30 x 30 target and would help shape and deliver a 10-year Nature Recovery Strategy for the Park. The Officer explained that the study and strategy would be important tools against which the team could measure progress. The Performance and Compliance Coordinator confirmed that changes had also been made on a National level which would inform the indicators adopted by the Authority.

Noted.

[Councillor S Hancock joined the meeting at this juncture]

6. Connecting the Coast Project

The Conservation Officer gave a presentation that provided information, evaluation and feedback on the Authority's Connecting the Coast Scheme which took place between July 2023 and March 2025. It was reported that the Connecting the Coast Scheme had been funded by Welsh Government Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places (SLSP) and was a land management scheme that provided tailored support, advice and funding for biodiversity. It was added that the project worked in partnership with local farmers and landowners to create a wealth of opportunities for nature recovery in the Park.

The Officer provided an additional presentation which outlined the aims of the SLSP fund, a timeline of the project, details of the participating sites, relevant statistics and the focus for the next stage of funding.

A Member queried whether there had been any evidence of landowners sharing best practice within their farming network. The Officer responded that in the next phase of work, the team aimed to increase their level of engagement with landowners and would look to bring landowners together by developing a newsletter that promoted the work of the Authority alongside relevant events to increase connections and awareness. The Officer added that feedback had been received that a network of landowners would be welcomed.

Noted.

[Mrs S Hoss joined the meeting at this juncture]

7. Stitch in Time Project

The Invasive Non-Native Species Project Coordinator presented a report that provided Members with information, evaluation and feedback on the Authority's Nature Networks (Round 2) Pwyth Mewn Pryd – Stitch in Time project which had been delivered between June 2023 and March 2025. It was reported that this project supported the Authority with its ongoing work to control invasive non-native plants in the Park, with focus on Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed.

The Officer also gave a presentation which outlined relevant definitions, details of the target species of work, statistics of volunteer hours and different examples of the work carried out.

Members commended the team and volunteers for their work and asked for further details regarding next steps for the project. The Officer confirmed that a further 2 years of funding had been secured for the project with the aim of extending the areas of work. With regards to monitoring, it was confirmed that the Authority mapped invasive non-native species across the Park with the support of members of the public who reported new sightings.

Noted.

[The meeting adjourned between 11:53 – 12:00]

[Councillor C Williams joined the meeting at this juncture. Councillor S Alderman and Mrs S Hoss left the meeting at this juncture].

8. Well-being Objectives Performance Report

The Performance and Compliance Officer presented the Well-being Objectives Performance Report that detailed progress made against priority indicators/projects/work programmes for the period ending 30 September 2025 and included quarter 2 statistics for some measures. The performance report set out the Authority's performance against its four Well-being Objectives (Conservation, Climate, Connection and Communities) as set out in the Authority's Corporate and Resources Plan 2023/24 – 2026/27.

Members noted that the RAG rating for the majority of measures was green and queried whether the measures were sufficiently ambitious. The Chief Executive confirmed that the number of green RAG ratings reflected the hard work of the team and the positive change that the Authority had made however he welcomed Members comments on the measures.

A Member suggested that further details regarding electric vehicle charging and beach wheelchairs be featured in the report in future and this was noted by the Officer.