

Report of: Performance and Compliance Officer

Subject: Annual Partnership Framework Monitoring Report 2025/26

Decision Required: No

Recommendation:

The Authority is recommended to:

- a. Comment on and note the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's Partnership Framework Monitoring Report 2025/26

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 2025/26.
- 1.2 This report supports the [Partnership Framework](#) Members approved at the 30/07/2025 NPA meeting.
- 1.3 The format of this report will be reviewed for next year to explore how work and reporting of partners through Partnership Plan Forum can inform its content and assessments.

2. Background

- 2.1 This is third 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 2024/25. 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 and sufficiency of the shared resource. The amount of time the Ecologists have to spend on HRA's and responses to planning applications is not currently sufficient to be able to provide timely responses to applications or to enable any pro-active responses within the team. Potentially the increase in planning fees could enable the Authority to obtain further ecology support/ time.

- Public Services Board – Tackling Climate Change and Nature Emergency Sub Group: Group has potential to facilitate 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. However, RAG status is in Amber as group only met once after 12 month gap in 2025/26, this impacts on collaborative potential of the group. The Chief Executive is now the PSB lead for Nature, Decarbonisation and Climate and has set up two sub groups - one on Decarbonisation and one on Climate Adaptation. The Head of Decarbonisation is now the lead officer on this area of work for the PSB.
- Toilet Working Group with Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) – Assessment: Taking a collaborative approach has helped to develop routes for dialogue between the two Authorities on this matter. This has provided forum to develop opportunities to work together to develop strategic approaches to securing grant funding. However, partnership is in Amber as an additional 2 year funding request was made by PCC and there has been slower than hoped for progress with PCC in them supporting grant bids for sites. Authority has faced delays in terms of Traeth Mawr project.
- Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools – 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. Officers are actively exploring and seeking new funding partnerships.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 Following request from Members at that meeting a Stakeholder and Partnership online survey was undertaken through the Authority's Partnership Forum during May and June 2026. A summary of the survey results is included in Appendix 1 of the report.
- 3.2 Lead/ Link Officers were asked to review relevant sections of the report for partnerships they lead on.

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 the 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.

5. Financial Considerations

- 5.1 The 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 The Authority's Financial Standards notes delegation limits in terms of where Grant, Sponsorship, Strategic Partnership require NPA/ Committee approval.
- 5.3 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. During 2025/26 Members through NPA were asked to make decisions relating to financial contributions to partnerships where relevant this have been referenced in the report.

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:
 - 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 it sits under aims to support the above considerations.

7. Impact on our Public Sector Duties

7.1.1 Integrated Assessment Completed: No – Trigger Document completed, no assessment required as relates to reporting not decision making.

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. The Authority has also been engaging with health and well-being networks and partnerships to explore joint working and funding opportunities.
- 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.

7.3 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. The report includes reference to partnership working the Authority has been involved with in support of Eisteddfod y Garreg Las.
- 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.
- 7.3.3 In terms of the stakeholder and partnership survey, 1 respondent noted that they engage or communicate with us in Welsh as part of their partnership work with the Authority and that they are satisfied with the Welsh-language support we provide during partnership or stakeholder engagement. For the other respondents the main reason for them not engaging with us in Welsh was not being confident using Welsh in professional settings (8 respondents) and preferring to use English (2 respondents).

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 The Authority's involvement in the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee provides it with opportunities to shape regional 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. Ongoing monitoring as part of our partnership framework plays 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 – 2025/26

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