

Operational Review Committee

10 June 2026

Present (Online):

Councillor M Bowen, Miss F Day, Dr M Havard (Observer), Mrs S Hoss, Mr G A Jones, Councillor A Tinley and Councillor C Williams BEM.

Also in attendance:

Georgia Jones (Democratic Services Officer), Tegryn Jones (Chief Executive), James Parkin (Director of Nature Recovery and Tourism), Jake Taylor (Countryside Operations Manager), Libby Taylor (Head of Engagement and Inclusion) and Mair Thomas (Performance and Compliance Officer).

(Virtual Meeting: 10.00am – 11:20am)

1. To appoint a Chair for the meeting

On the proposal of Mr G Jones, seconded by Councillor M Bowen, it was **resolved** that Councillor C Williams take the Chair for the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Evans, Councillor S Hancock MBE and Councillor M Williams.

3. Disclosures

No disclosures of interest were received.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 March 2026 were presented for confirmation and authentication.

On the proposal of Miss F Day, seconded by Mr G Jones, it was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2026 be confirmed and authenticated.

5. Action Log and Matters arising

The action log was noted.

Noted.

6. Well-being Objective Deep Dive/Self-Assessment: Connection

The Head of Engagement and Inclusion presented a deep dive report and self-assessment on the wellbeing objective of Connection. It was reported that the Connection objective focused on creating a Park that was a natural health service that supported people to be healthier, happier and more connected to the landscape, nature and heritage. 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 Head of Engagement and Inclusion highlighted the key messages from the report, and the Countryside Operations Manager presented relevant case studies relating to access, infrastructure and partnership working.

It was noted that the Authority's connection agenda had been largely delivered through externally funded projects in an increasingly challenging funding landscape and Members queried whether Officers were concerned regarding the future of the funding. The Head of Engagement and Inclusion explained that there had been an increase in competition for grant funding and Officers had been continuously innovating in order to be competitive and different approaches were being explored to secure funding in future. The Officer confirmed that funding was an ongoing concern for the team however Officers would attempt to work flexibly around the funding available, adapting the way in which they worked if necessary. The Chief Executive highlighted that should obtaining external funding for projects become too difficult in future, Members would be required to assess how resources should be allocated to this area of work as part of reviewing how resources are allocated across the Authority's priorities.

It was noted that as a result of challenges with funding, the team were required to integrate the connection agenda with other work areas and a Member requested further information on how this would be achieved. In response, the Head of Engagement and Inclusion explained that two of the key elements in achieving improved integration in this area were working effectively with stakeholders and project participants and achieving multiple objectives through the same piece of work.

It was reported that mobility equipment bookings had almost doubled to 830 in 2025/26 compared to 427 in 2024/25 and a Member queried whether there were long wait times for use of the equipment during peak periods of the year. Members were reassured that although bookings for the equipment had increased significantly, the service had not yet reached saturation point. It was added that members of the public were redirected to locations with available equipment should their first choice of equipment be booked. The Officer highlighted that storage was one of the main challenges with the mobility equipment as host businesses were seasonal and so the equipment could be less accessible to the public during off-peak periods. It was added that during off-peak periods, members of the public had the option to collect equipment from the Authority headquarters, or a member of the Engagement team could arrange to transport the equipment where necessary.

Noted.

7. Case Study: Routes to Discovery Partnership Project



The Head of Engagement and Inclusion presented a report that provided Members with an overview of the Routes to Discovery Partnership Project and how present and planned activity in this area was being developed to meet the needs of project participants. It was reported that Routes to Discovery was a people led wellbeing project that connected people with nature in the local area which helped the individual, community and natural environment. It was added that the project was run in partnership with Mind Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire and funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. The report featured further details regarding the project goals, target audience, team/ resource information, progress to date, communications, participant feedback, professional feedback, overview of progress against schedule and financial considerations.

Members commended Officers and their team for their hard work and for the achievements of the project. In relation to capturing the impact of the project to report back to funders, a Member requested further information regarding how the project would be evaluated. The Officer confirmed that the project was being actively evaluated with both figures and impactful stories being captured. It was added that this information would be shared with Members at the end of the project.

Noted.

8. Case Study: Pathways Project

Officers presented a Pathways Project video to Members which demonstrated the value of the project to participants.

Noted.

[Councillor A Tinley joined the meeting during consideration of the following item.]

9. 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 31 March 2025/26. 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. The Officer highlighted the key areas for the Members to note.

In relation to Connection, it was noted that a number of issues had arisen during the Traeth Mawr Access Improvement project which had resulted in the need for a revised completion date and budget and a Member requested further information. In response, the Chief Executive confirmed that the Authority's consultation period had been excessive in duration and



additionally, there had been challenges with the tendering process as insufficient bids had been received which had resulted in the Authority having to go to tender 3 times. It was added that the weather had impacted the progress of the work throughout the project and as the site had not been developed for a significant period of time, unexpected challenges had arisen. The Chief Executive commended the team for their hard work in progressing the project and commented that the site would look exemplary upon completion.

Noted.