Operational Review Committee
09 September 2026

Present (Online):
Councillor M Bowen, Councillor D Clements, Councillor S Hancock MBE, Mrs S Hoss, Councillor A Tinley, Councillor H Murphy, and Dr M Havard (substitute for Mr G A Jones).

Also in attendance:
Tom Bean (Learning and Inclusion Team Leader), Tegryn Jones (Chief Executive), Caroline Llewellyn (Democratic Services Manager - Minutes), Jessica Morgan (Head of Decarbonisation), Sara Morris (Director of Place and Engagement), Andrew Muskett (Buildings Projects Manager) and Mair Thomas (Performance and Compliance Officer).

(Virtual Meeting: 10.00am – 12:00pm)

1. **To appoint a Chair for the meeting**
   In the absence of both the nominated Chair and Deputy Chair for the ensuing year, it was agreed that a Chair be appointed for the meeting. On the proposal of Dr M Havard, seconded by Mrs S Hoss, it was **resolved** that Councillor D Clements be appointed as Chair for the meeting.

2. **To appoint a Chair for the ensuing year**
   On the proposal of Councillor D Clements, it was **resolved** that Councillor C Williams be appointed Chair for the ensuing year.

3. **To appoint a Deputy Chair for the ensuing year**
   On the proposal of Councillor D Clements, it was resolved that Miss F Day be appointed Deputy Chair for the ensuing year.

4. **Apologies**
   Apologies for absence were received from Miss F Day, Mr G A Jones and Councillor C Williams.

5. **Disclosures**
   No disclosures of interest were received.

6. **Minutes**
   The minutes of the meeting held on the 10 June 2026 were presented for confirmation and authentication.

   On the proposal of Dr M Havard, seconded by Mrs S Hoss, it was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2026 be confirmed and authenticated.

7. Action Log and Matters arising

The action log was noted.

Noted.

8. 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 Head of Decarbonisation highlighted the key messages from the report and clarified that the emission data was subject to review as it was yet to be submitted to the Welsh Government.

A Member commented that despite the Team's best efforts in 2024/25, the Authority's emissions had been seen to increase as a result of a combination of factors which had been disappointing for both the team and Members. It was noted that the updated emission figures for 2025/26 were more positive and Members considered this to be a testament to the hard work of the staff. A Member queried whether the team had a pathway to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 and in response, the Head of Decarbonisation confirmed that the team were confident that the Authority could become carbon neutral however calculations would need to be done to establish whether this target could be achieved by 2030.

It was noted that the ground source heat pump had failed at Oriel y Parc (OYP) and further details were requested. Officers confirmed that the ground source heat pump, which had originally been installed 20 years ago, had failed at the same time as the chiller on site and so the whole system required replacement. It was added that the project was scheduled to take place in the new year.

With regards to carbon literacy training, the Chair of the Authority encouraged Members to complete the training if not done so already. A Member commented that refresher training for carbon literacy would be useful.

Noted.

9. Case Study: Climate resilience and planning engagement

The Learning and Inclusion Team Leader presented a case study regarding a session hosted with Year 8 Pupils on the topic of climate change adaptation in Newgale. The presentation outlined the structure of the session and the topics explored and highlighted the benefits and challenges of working

collaboratively to deliver the needs of a range of different partners in education, planning and flood risk mitigation teams. It was explained that the Authority had worked with Ysgol Harri Tudur since 2022, delivering immersive activities that coincided with the new curriculum for Wales. The benefits and learning outcomes of the session were outlined and the positive legacy of sessions such as these was discussed. Members acknowledged the importance of partnership working, and Officers from both Pembrokeshire County Council and the Authority's Planning Department were thanked for supporting the session.

It was reported that a blog post covering the session had been published by an Authority Planning Officer and it was agreed that the link to the blog be circulated to Members.

A discussion ensued regarding the benefits of working with partners to engage with school children on topics such as climate adaptation. It was agreed that interactive sessions had a lasting impact and could inspire young people to become more involved with the National Park in future.

Members discussed the scalability of the work delivered by the Team and the Tirlun resources that had been produced to support sessions such as this. The challenges of delivering sessions such as these were also discussed including logistics, extreme weather, funding and resource constraints. It was added that many schools had limited resources which resulted in only a portion of schools being able to partner with the Authority.

The Team Leader explained that the Authority staff had been pleased to have had the opportunity to work with secondary school children on this occasion as these opportunities were rare due to the existing commitments of the schools. It was added that the team continued to develop resources and promote the opportunities to both primary and secondary schools to reach as many pupils as possible.

Noted.

10. 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 June 2026. 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 and provided an update regarding the solar canopies at Llanion, confirming that the associated planning application had been approved with the project set to commence in the new year.

It was noted that there had been a decrease of 30.4% in volunteer hours contributed compared to quarter 1 in 2025 which had been caused by a combination of factors including adverse weather, a reduction in the Authority's events and activities programme and a lack of a Volunteer Development Officer in post for a period of time. The importance of volunteers and volunteer opportunities was acknowledged, and it was suggested that a presentation be provided by the Volunteer Development Officer to the Committee, once established in post. A Member added that the report had stated that the reduction in volunteer hours had been impacted partially by the Authority's decision to reduce the number of events and activities being offered and it was suggested that this was an area to be kept under review.

With regards to visitor numbers, it was noted that Castell Henllys had seen a 25.43% decrease and a Member requested further information regarding this. The Performance and Compliance Officer confirmed that the remote location of Castell Henllys presented a challenge in attracting visitors and the site had also seen a reduction in school visits due to logistical and financial implications. The Chief Executive confirmed that the visitor numbers at Castell Henllys were being monitored with the intention of carrying out a review once staff capacity allowed. Following a Members request, it was agreed that a breakdown of visitor trends for Castell Henllys be circulated to Members.

Noted.