

REPORT OF THE PERFORMANCE AND COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR

SUBJECT: BENCHMARKING OF PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S PLANNING AUTHORITY PERFORMANCE

Purpose of Report

To provide Members with further information on PCNPA's Planning Authority performance benchmarked against other Planning Authorities in Wales.

Background

In January the Welsh Government's All Wales Planning Annual Performance Report (APR) for reporting period April 2016 to March 2017 was published. A copy of this document can be found at <http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/180109planning-annual-performance-report-en.pdf>. APR's have been introduced as part of Welsh Government proposals, embodied with the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, to modernise the planning system and improve local delivery of planning service.

This report provides a summary of key benchmarked planning performance indicators across the areas of efficiency, quality, engagement and enforcement.

Efficiency

The Wales average for Indicator 07 - Percentage of all applications determined within time periods required was 86.7%. The Authority was 1 of 19 LPAs that fell into the good category at 80.4%. Both Brecon Beacons and Snowdonia Authorities also fell into the good category at 96.00% and 80.8% respectively.

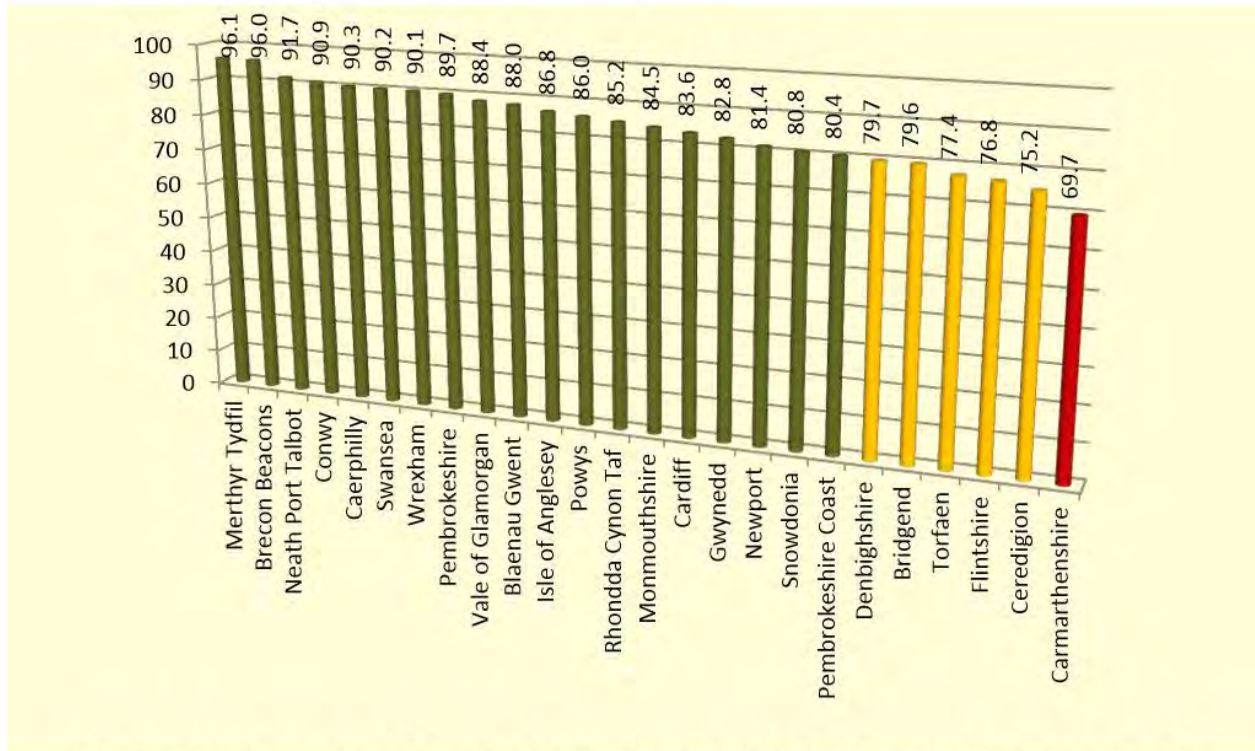


Fig 18 – Year-on-year comparison of percentage of all planning applications determined “on time”

The Wales average for Indicator 8 - Average time taken to determine all applications in days was 75.9 days. PCNPA was 1 of 9 LPAs that fell into the good category at 60.7 days. Both Brecon Beacons and Snowdonia Authorities fell into the fair category at 77.8 days and 77 days respectively.

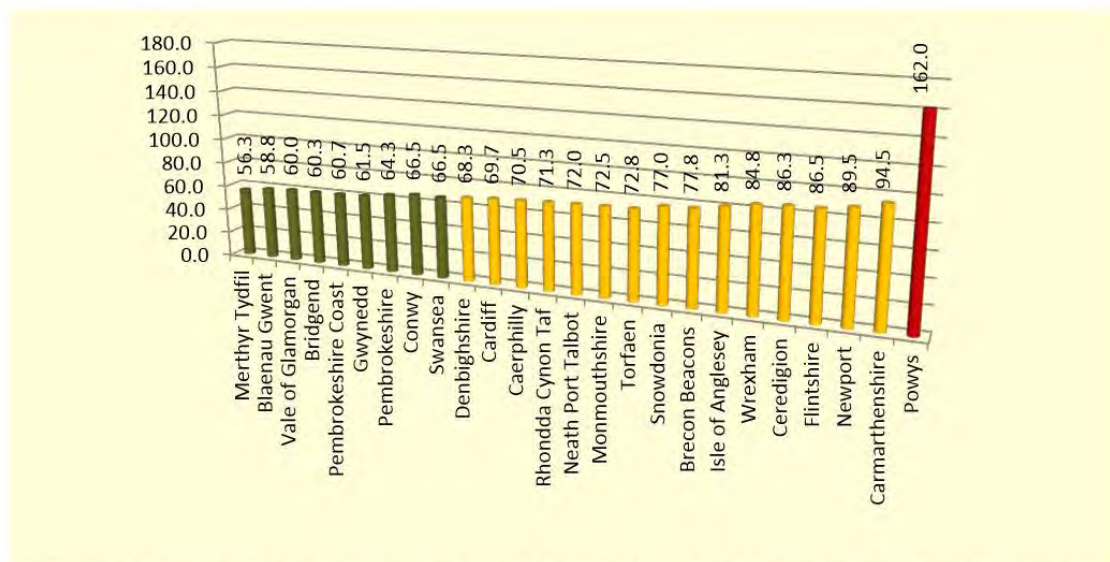


Fig 21 – Comparison of average time taken to determine all planning applications

Quality

The Wales average for Indicator 09 - Percentage of Member made decisions against officer advice was 10.9%. PCNPA was 1 of 10 LPAs that fell into the improve

category with 9.1% of Member made decisions against officer advice. Members have on occasions been struggling to adhere to the principles around accessibility issues which are central to the government’s sustainability policy. However appeal decisions which clearly state policy are of benefit in demonstrating the application of such policy.

The Wales average for Indicator 10 - Percentage of appeals dismissed was 60.9% PCNPA was 1 of 10 LPAs that fell into the good category with 83.3% of appeals dismissed.

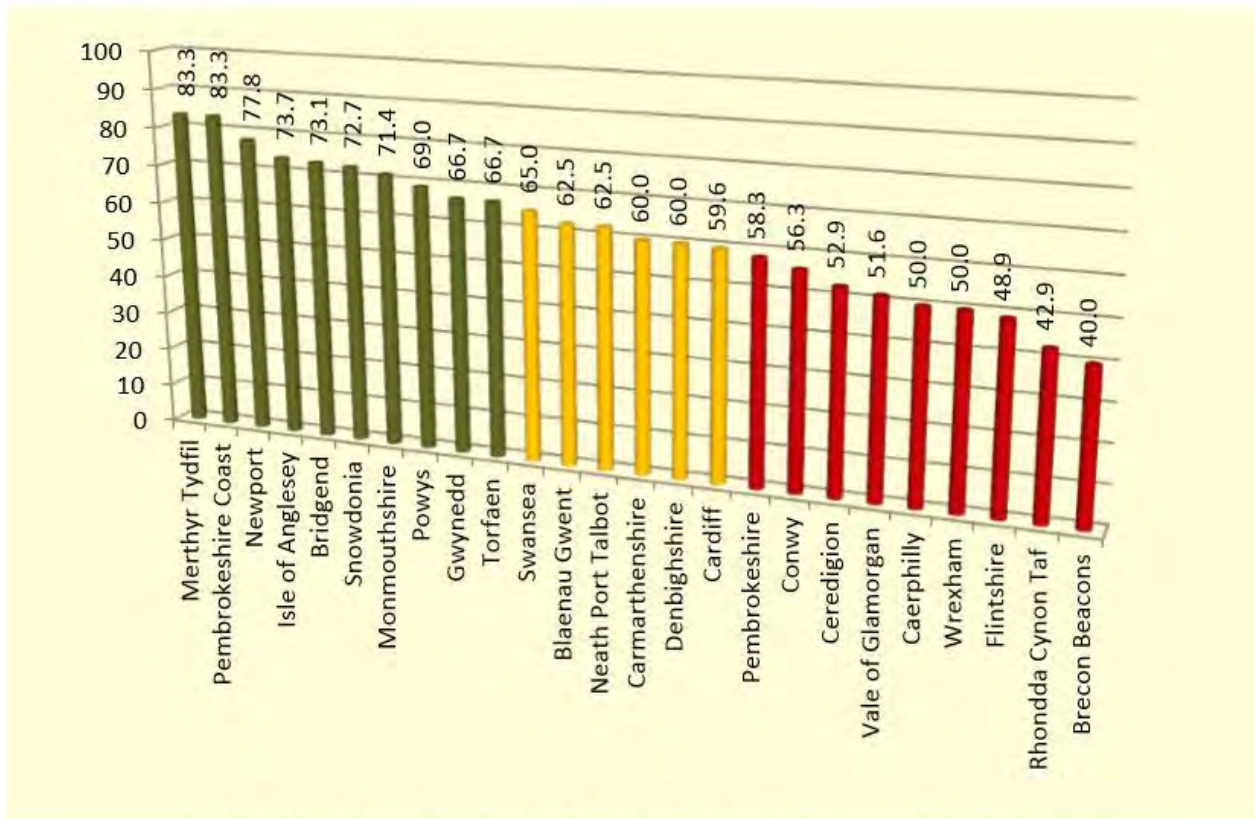


Fig 27 – Percentage of planning appeals dismissed

PCNPA was one of 6 LPAs to have 1 application for costs at Section 78 appeal upheld in the reporting period and fell into the fair category. 14 LPAs had no applications for costs at Section 78 appeal and 5 LPAs had more than 1 application upheld.

Engagement

The Authority is one of the 24 LPAs out of 25 LPAs that allowed members of the public to address the Planning Committee in 2016/17.

PCNPA is one of the 22 LPAs out of 25 LPAs that has an officer on duty to provide advice to members of the public.

PCNPA is one of 2 LPAs that had a partial online register of planning applications in 2016/17. 20 LPAs in Wales out of 25 had full planning application details on their web site and 3 had no planning application details. The Authority is currently purchasing a document management system, but early installation has been thwarted by development issues with the contractor.

Enforcement

The Wales average for Indicator 15 - Percentage of enforcement cases investigated within 84 days was 85%. PCNPA was 1 of 5 LPAs that fell into the improve category with 69.4% of enforcement cases investigated within 84 days. Both Brecon Beacons and Snowdonia Authorities fell into the good category at 90.6% and 93.2% respectively. With maternity leave, and then a vacancy there was almost a 50% reduction in the personnel dealing with enforcement matters which meant that priorities had to be made regarding the urgency of cases investigated.

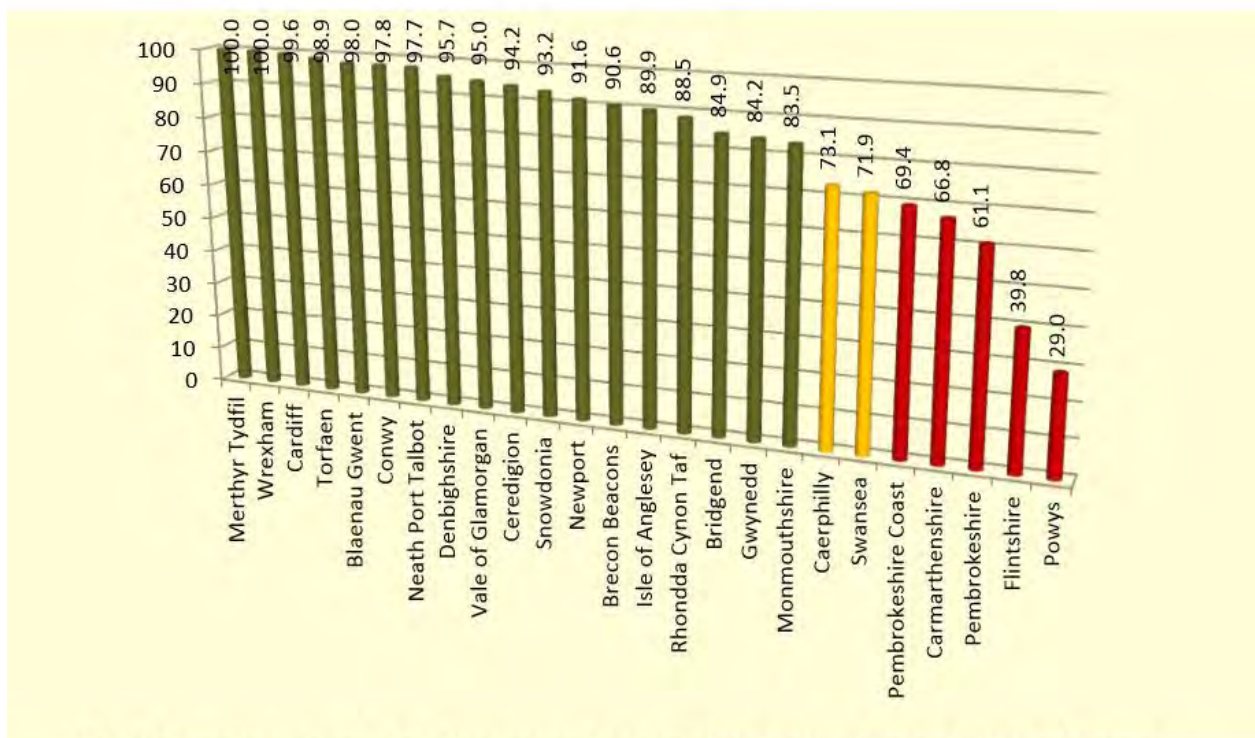


Fig 38 – percentage of enforcement complaints investigated within 84 days

The Welsh Government has agreed to withdraw the two following indicators from future reports following a review of performance indicators and targets:

- Indicator 16 - Average time taken to investigate enforcement cases
- Indicator 17 - Percentage of enforcement cases resolved in 180 days

The Wales average for Indicator 18 - Average time taken to resolve enforcement cases was 201.1 days. PCNPA was below the Wales average at 195.3 days.

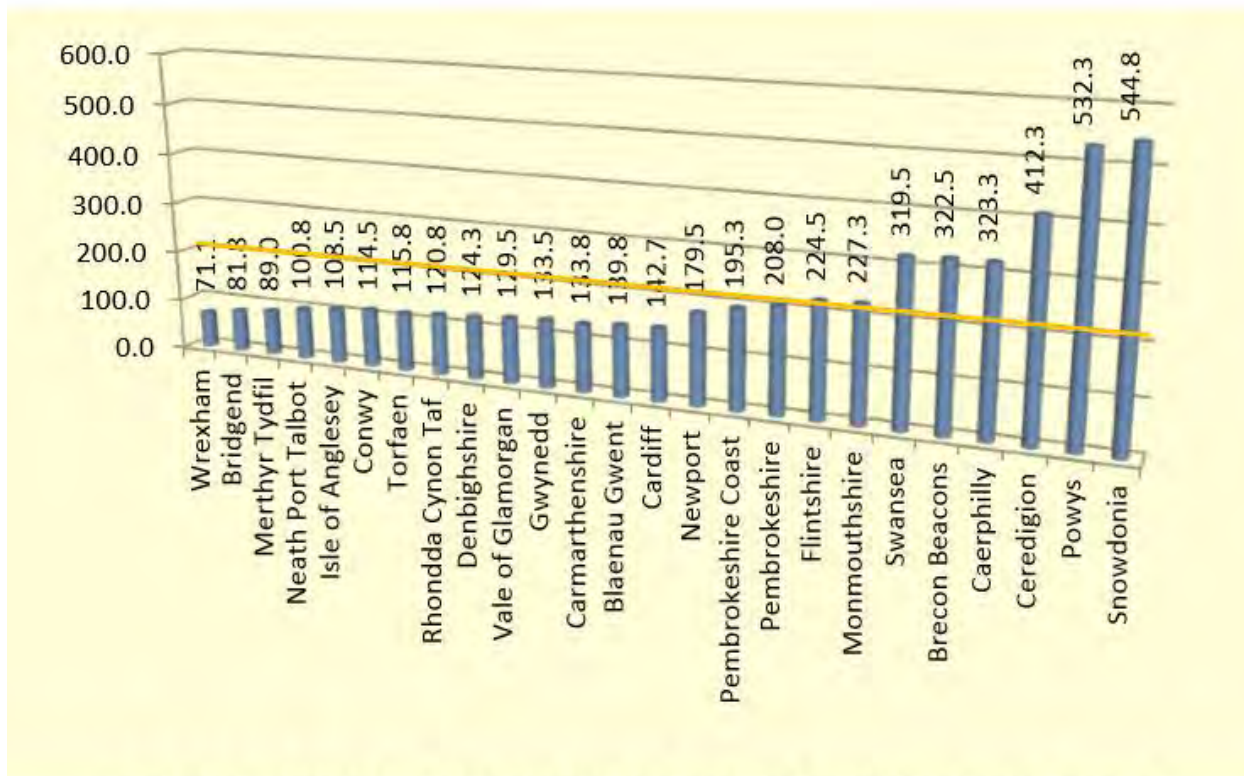


Fig 44 – Average time taken to resolve enforcement cases

Financial

The DM Service operates within an approved budget which is approved annually by National Park Authority

Risk

The Authority fails to maintain performance of DM service and high levels of customer satisfaction. Authority performs poorly when benchmarked against other planning Authorities through the Welsh Government Planning Performance Framework.

Equality Issues and Welsh Language

Delivery of planning service must comply with Equality Act 2010 and Welsh Language Standards.

Biodiversity implications/Sustainability appraisal

The All Wales Planning Annual Performance Report 2016/17 outlines progress against the Welsh Government sustainable development indicators designed to identify how the planning system contributes to the achievement of strategic sustainable development in Wales:

- SD1 Economic Renewal - Economic Development
- SD2 A Low Carbon Economy - Renewable Energy
- SD3 Access to Better Homes – New Homes (including affordable housing)
- SD4 Resilience to Climate Change – Flood Risk
- SD5 Efficient Land Use – Previously Developed Land
- SD6 Open Space – Open Space Lost/Gained
- SD7 Community Infrastructure – Contributions Secured for Community Facilities

The information is collected from Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) following their consideration of planning applications and submitted on a quarterly basis. This is used for cumulative, rather than comparative, analysis.

Partial data was provided by PCNPA.

Conclusion

PCNPA is performing well in terms of efficiency when benchmarked across a number of the key planning performance indicators in this section. Where benchmarked data has highlighted areas for improvement in terms of quality, engagement and enforcement actions have been put in place to address performance in these areas.

Recommendation

That Members note the contents of this report and discuss content of All Wales Planning Annual Performance Report.

Background Documents

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Planning Annual Performance Report (APR) 2016-17:

http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/Files/files/Corporate%20Docs/2017_18%20Corporate%20Docs/APR_Pembrokeshire_Coast_v2_eng.pdf

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