

Report No. **16/19**
Audit & Corporate Services Review Committee

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: IMPROVEMENT PLAN CERTIFICATE

The Authority received the Improvement Plan Certificate from the Wales Audit Office.

The Certificate confirms that the Authority has discharged its duties in accordance with the requirements of section 15(6) to (9) of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure). A copy is included as Annex A.

Members are asked to note this report

Recommendation: Members are asked to NOTE and COMMENT on this report

(For further information, please contact Tegryn Jones, tegrynj@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk)



Reference: 1426A2019-20

Date issued: July 2019

Audit of Pembrokeshire Coast Park Authority's 2019-20 Improvement Plan

Certificate

I certify that, following publication on 29 April 2019, I have audited Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's Improvement Plan in accordance with section 17 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure) and my Code of Audit Practice.

As a result of my audit, I believe that the Authority has discharged its duties under section 15(6) to (9) of the Measure and has acted in accordance with Welsh Government guidance sufficiently to discharge its duties.

Respective responsibilities of the Authority and the Auditor General

Under the Measure, the Authority is required to prepare and publish an Improvement Plan describing its plans to discharge its duties to:

- make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions;
- make arrangements to secure achievement of its improvement objectives; and
- make arrangements to exercise its functions so that any performance standard specified by Welsh Ministers is met.

The Measure requires the Authority to publish its Improvement Plan as soon as is reasonably practicable after the start of the financial year to which it relates, or after such other date as Welsh Ministers may specify by order.

The Authority is responsible for preparing the Improvement Plan and for the information set out within it. The Measure requires that the Authority has regard to guidance issued by Welsh Ministers in preparing and publishing its plan.

As the Authority's auditor, I am required under sections 17 and 19 of the Measure to carry out an audit of the Improvement Plan, to certify that I have done so, and to report whether I believe that the Authority has discharged its duties to prepare and publish an Improvement Plan in accordance with statutory requirements set out in section 15 and statutory guidance.

Scope of the Improvement Plan audit

For the purposes of my audit work I will accept that, provided an authority meets its statutory requirements, it will also have complied with Welsh Government statutory guidance sufficiently to discharge its duties.

For this audit I am not required to form a view on the completeness or accuracy of information, or whether the Improvement Plan published by the Authority can be achieved. Other assessment work that I will undertake under section 18 of the Measure will examine these issues. My audit of the Authority's Improvement Plan, therefore, comprised a review of the plan to ascertain whether it included elements prescribed in legislation. I also assessed whether the arrangements for publishing the plan complied with the requirements of the legislation, and that the Authority had regard to statutory guidance in preparing and publishing its plan.

The work I have carried out in order to report and make recommendations in accordance with sections 17 and 19 of the Measure cannot solely be relied upon to identify all weaknesses or opportunities for improvement.



**Adrian Crompton
Auditor General for Wales**

CC: Julie James AM – Minister for Housing and Local Government

Nick Selwyn – Manager

Huw Rees – Performance Audit Director