

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT:
STRATEGIC GRANT LETTER - PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE 4th
QUARTER OF THE YEAR 2011/12

Introduction

This report considers performance against the actions specified in the Strategic Grant Letter for the period up to 31st March 2012.

Priority Objectives 2011/12	Lead Officer	Progress
Governance:		
To operate effectively and efficiently and to report on the value of permanent savings and efficiencies secured.	AH	Cash savings of over £160,000 this year to date. Staff cost savings projected to be approximately £85,000 in this financial year and £150,000 next year
Natural beauty:		
Become exemplars on how to integrate biodiversity mitigation, compensation and enhancement into new developments through the planning system, and demonstrate how you are supporting others to effectively use the planning system to safeguard biodiversity.	JG	Advice obtained from West Wales Biodiversity Recording Centre on key sites. Approximately 30% of approved planning applications now have conditions related to biodiversity and landscape. Management Plan and work programme agreed as part of S106 agreement with LNG for nature conservation.
To report on priorities and activities to promote and safeguard the cultural heritage of the Parks.	JG	Archaeology Day at Pembrokeshire College, and public demonstrations at Nevern Castle and Angle. Historic buildings grants fully allocated for 14 properties. Activities. Buildings at risk reduced to 4% of all listed buildings from 7% in 2009/10. Delegation of listed building consents not yet formally

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		confirmed. Artist in residence space fully booked for next 12 months at Oriel y Parc. Percentage of visitors going into the Gallery is increasing gradually at 22% (19% last year).
To develop a robust approach to monitoring the state of the Park.	MR	Included in review of NPMP
Enjoyment and understanding:		
Demonstrate that recreation planning and delivery in National Parks supports outdoor recreation opportunities in ways which promote enjoyment of the Parks' special qualities, protect the environment, and deliver an economic benefit.	CM	Recreation Strategy approved by NPA, and parts being incorporated in Supplementary Planning Guidance. Authority successfully involved in event liaison on Ironman and RedBull major events. Lottery Bid successful for follow up Go4IT scheme. Investigating selective promotion to avoid tourism pressure points. National Trail recently included in top ten world best trails. British Horse Society award for Pantmaenog multi user path.
To utilise the special qualities of the Parks in contributing to life-long learning, and in particular to support opportunities for schools within the Parks to access learning opportunities outside the classroom.	EJ	Increased demand for schools programme. 3 Discovery Rangers delivering outdoor opportunities for children and difficult to reach groups with over 10,000 participants to date. All events at Oriel y Parc, Carew & Castell Henllys outside classroom.
To collaborate with each other and local partners to develop indicators of the impact of tourism and to raise awareness of the special qualities of National Parks with visitors and the tourism sector.	CM	Some initial discussions with Pembrokeshire Tourism & PCC, but limited progress due to staff changes here and at Pembs Tourism. New joint annual survey with PCC underway.
Sustainable communities:		
To demonstrate how plans and programmes contribute to supporting the social and economic well-being of the Park's local communities.	RG	Review of plans was scheduled for 3 rd quarter but not yet commenced due to other work.
To make provision to enable affordable housing , and to collaborate with the local housing authority/ies on delivery of	MD	Local Development Plan policies and Supplementary Planning Guidance in place. Development

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affordable housing targets.		payment introduced 1 st October. 19 permissions granted this year, (12 at Gate House complex, 3 at Blockett Farm, 3 in Nolton, and 1 in Trevine). Discussions underway on other sites including the Cambrian Hotel, Saundersfoot for a further possible 6.
Provide for meaningful participation by children and young people, and other protected groups, in the activities of the Park Authorities.	EJ	Visits to Authority by school groups. Rangers have attended careers events at secondary schools. Increased engagement with schools at Oriel y Parc.
Climate change:		
To collaborate with each other, neighbouring authorities and regional and local partnerships to meet national targets on carbon reduction.	PR	Working with National Trust and Carbon Trust to develop improve efficiency of the NPA buildings. 10% reduction on electricity used at Llanion and 12% overall this year. Supplementary planning Guidance has resulted in conditions for carbon reduction measures on household improvement applications Joint procurement with PCC for green electricity.
Share resources and skills to explore the feasibility of developing renewable energy projects on National Park Authority land in Wales, with a view to coordinating investment across the three National Park Authorities.	AH	Report prepared – no single approach, and potential for joint investment limited by availability of funds, although agreement to share expertise.
Demonstrate that the Park Authority is working to identify the risks posed by climate change and is informing the action being taken to adapt and mitigate through land management.	MR	Biodiversity connectivity map completed to provide the basis for future land management projects. Possible projects being scoped for consideration in budget round.
To continue to deliver, support, and champion sustainable transport provision within and around the Parks for the benefit of visitors and local communities.	SM	PCNPA budget maintained for Greenways transport schemes, although overall usage down slightly on last year. Improved cycle ways and multi-user paths being developed with PCC.

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Planning:		
As a key statutory strategic framework for delivering priorities, each Park to have an adopted Local Development Plan in place in line with each Authority's agreed Delivery Agreement timetable, and once adopted to monitor and report on progress in implementing plan policies.	MD	Completed, monitoring commencing this year.
To demonstrate that each Park is building on improvements in performance made in development management since the Wales Audit Office Parks Review of 2009; in particular to determine planning applications to agreed timetables, reduce the backlog of planning applications, and take action as necessary on the number of planning cases where enforcement action is undertaken.	VH	Staff recruitment completed. Consultants used to help cover temporary staff shortage and long term sickness absence. Backlog of applications has now increased to 72 from 48 last March, following increase in applications. 65% of apps determined in 8 weeks to date, the same as last year. 85% enforcement cases closed within 12 weeks this year. Improved planning information available on website.
Explore, pursue, and report on opportunities for joint working between the Parks and with neighbouring planning authorities, where this enables improvements in the delivery of the planning service.	TJ	Joint training and joint preparation of SPG; discussions underway on building control, sharing expertise and Member training etc with PCC. Secondment of staff from and to PCC in place.

(For further information contact Alan Hare – Head of Business Management on ext 4810)