

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS & PERFORMANCE MANAGER

SUBJECT:

PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 2012

Introduction

This performance report presents the progress during the quarter for the key measures as set out in the Corporate Strategy. The progress on the actions and the current risk relevant risks are produced from the Ffynnon system and are attached.

Measures

Outcome 1 - The National Park is conserved for current and future generations

Success Measure	Progress
a. Trends in 'key species' populations are increasing over time;	The analysis of the various surveys is underway, but initial results indicate another disappointing year due to the poor weather during both spring and summer.
b. The area of land managed for conservation in partnership with NPA increases by 5% by March 2013	Negotiations are underway on a number of sites and the target of 5% should be achieved.
c. A range of State of the Park indicators shows that the rates of decline in biodiversity and other features are diminishing.	Data being collected from several sources for the NPMP review
d. The percentage of listed buildings at risk remains below 5% (currently 4.1%)	Cadw have indicated they will be undertaking this survey - consultants/inspectors to be appointed shortly
e. Less than 33% of Scheduled Ancient Monuments are in a worsening condition (36% currently).	Undertaken by Cadw – no information available at present

Success Measure	Progress
f. At least 33% of housing development and 45% of employment allocation permitted is on previously developed land;	The Local Development Plan Monitoring Report will report on this at formal review period (i.e by the end of the financial year 2014/15). Given the limited supply of land for development in the Plan a longer term analysis is necessary to provide meaningful data.
g. Only greenfield and open space which is allocated for development in the LDP is lost to development each year;	<p>This is a Welsh Government Indicator for Local Development Plan preparation. The trigger used by the Authority is 1 or more inappropriate developments granted permission contrary to recommendation in any one year.</p> <p>During 2011 – 2012 (financial year) 10 applications were approved on greenfield sites and on an open space. 8 were uses such as wind turbines or extensions to the curtilages of dwellings, i.e, uses normally located in countryside locations. One was an extension to an existing clubhouse within a sports field and linked to the use of the field. 1 was for a dwelling in the countryside which was approved contrary to Officer recommendation. Members felt that permission should be granted as the plot was considered to not be in open countryside as the land was not agricultural land and is currently used as recreational space with a garage.</p>

Success Measure	Progress
h. % of approvals with conditions to safeguard biodiversity (SGL)	Within the scope of the Local Development Plan effects to biodiversity occur as the result of the loss of connectivity between habitats e.g. loss of hedgerows, or through the outright loss of habitats due to development pressure. All planning applications are tested for accordance with Local Development Plan Policy 11 'Protection of Biodiversity', between April 1st 2011 and March 31st 2012. No developments have received planning approval that were not compatible with this policy. Additionally, at least 4 developments have been approved that have included biodiversity enhancements beyond any mitigation required as part of planning conditions, demonstrating that the Local Development Plan is making a positive contribution in terms of safeguarding biodiversity.
i. Number of enforcement cases outstanding for more than 12 weeks	86 enforcement cases were outstanding for more than 12 weeks as at 31 st August. 65 of these cases are from 2011 or earlier and may have been closed but not recorded.
j. At least 65% of enforcement matters are closed within 12 weeks	71 enforcement cases have been received since April, with 38 closed, all within 12 weeks. Only 11 of those received this year have not been closed after 12 weeks.

Outcome 3 - Residents and visitors use opportunities provided to adopt more sustainable lifestyles

Success Measure	Progress
a) Planning approvals include sustainable design proposals (from 2012)	Review of permissions granted since the Code for Sustainable Homes requirements were put in place (1st September 2009) shows that all permissions granted by the NPA complied with the Planning Policy Wales requirements (the Annual Monitoring Report for the LDP was published in October 2011).

Outcome 4 - Opportunities are provided for local people to live within the National Park

Success Measure	Progress
a) The % of planning permissions granted for affordable homes is in line with the Welsh average.	Compared with Wales overall the Authority averages 12% affordable housing out of all new build housing just above mid table. Latest figures available from 2007-2010. These comparative figures relate to Registered Social Landlord developments.
b) Total # of new housing units approved	<p>The Local Development Plan adopted in September 2010 anticipated an overall completion rate of 90 dwellings per annum (affordable and market dwellings) and a completion rate of 28 affordable dwellings (31%). Since 2007 there have been 44 affordable dwellings completed or under construction. Whereas 450 dwellings were anticipated in terms of completions overall (90 multiplied by 5 between 2007 and 2012) the figure experienced was in the region of 50 per annum.</p> <p>In terms of overall completions the downturn reflects the position Wales wide – the current levels only account for around 50% of those seen prior to the downturn. Reference New House Building in Wales, January to March 2012- Welsh Government.</p> <p>The percentage of affordable housing being achieved is 18%. Currently there are permissions in place for 35 affordable dwellings.</p> <p>The Authority is currently populating a new housing land availability database so therefore figures on approvals are not available.</p>
c) % of new housing units which are affordable	See above.
d) % of approvals for housing units which are for affordable homes	See above

Outcome 5 - A thriving local economy exists based on the sustainable use of the National Park.

Success Measure	Progress
a) % planning applications for commercial activities approved	86% of commercially related applications this year have been approved.

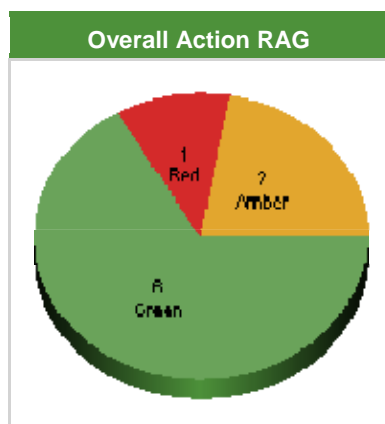
Outcome 8 - The Authority is recognised as meeting good practice standards in terms of governance, providing value for money and listening to the views of residents, visitors and partners

Success Measure	Progress
a) Number of planning applications registered	189 up to 31/8/12
b) The percentage of planning applications determined during the year that were approved.	85% of all applications were approved
c) % planning appeals supporting the NPA decision	Of the 11 appeals determined this year 5 have been dismissed (45%)

(For further information contact Alan Hare –Business & Performance Manager on ext 4810)

Performance Report

Outcome 1 - The National Park is conserved for current and future generations



- ↓ Worsening Trend
- Static Trend
- ↑ Improving Trend

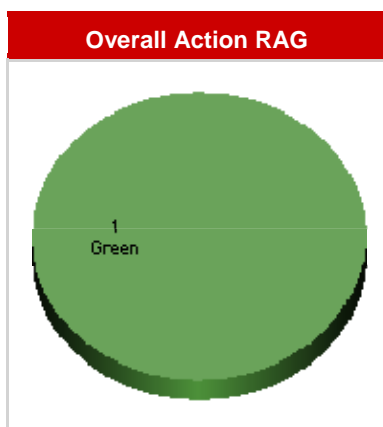
Action	Previous Period August 2012	Current Period September 2012			
	RAG	% Complete	RAG	Trend	Comment
a Manage NPA sites	Amber	30	Amber	→	Re-organisation bedding down. Behind on dealing with bracken. Complicated by staffing issues. Woodland sites on target. Awaiting more detail on completion of work. Also looking at better ways to monitor the achievement of targets on site.
b Assist with agri-environment schemes		50	Green	→	Since April 2012:- We are currently in discussion with an 4 landowners to set up Management Agreement's and 6 owners to set up Management Agreement's once their Tir Gofal agreements expire next year (not interested in Glastir). We liaised with 5 additional owners where the Authority is leading management, but without a Management Agreement. 3 further owners have been visited with advice only provided at this stage. Of all our former sites (ie those signed up pre April 2012) 80% of landowners/landholdings have received at least one site visit since April.
c Identify new areas for conservation		50	Green	→	Since April 2012:- 4 new sites which we are currently in discussion with re: setting up Management Agreement's. Total area of the above = 36 ha 6 new sites which we are in discussion

					with re:setting up Management Agreement's once their Tir Gofal agreements expire next year (not interested in Glastir). Total area of the above = 152 ha 5 additional sites where we are leading management, but without a Management Agreement. Total area = 127 ha (the above 2 areas are unusually high due to the inclusion of 2 large sites). 3 further sites visited, advice only at this stage. Area = 15 ha Of the 18 new sites above, all but 2 (ie 88%) are contiguous with existing semi-natural land, thereby reinforcing the wildlife value of both and acting as a wildlife corridor. The 2 sites which do not buffer semi-natural land are (1) medieval fields within a village and (2) an island. Both of these still contribute to the wildlife value of nearby land however. Of all our former sites (ie those signed up pre April 2012) 80% have received at least one site visit since April.
d Map invasive species	Green	50	Green	→	The LBAP steering group has set up a task & finish group to to complete various tasks including reviewing the range and status (where known) of invasive alien species above and below high water mark - a questionnaire has been circulated to gain some understanding of this. Scoping Questionnaire being circulated. There are also several projects underway on the ground at Rosebush - removal of a substantial area of phytophthora infected rhododendron, a community invasives species initiative in the Newport area and rhododendron near Fishguard.
e Implement Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations	Red		Red	→	Letter advising regulations are in place from WG has arrived. Advices obligations do not constitute a significant burden on this Authority. There will be new factors for consideration when carrying out our functions. Guidance is to be published - awaited for further action.
f Implement LDP policies;		50	Green	→	LDP adopted & SPG issued. Policies implemented
g Implement principles outlined in the Strategic Policy Statement			Amber	→	Waiting for information from Welsh Government
h Integrate biodiversity mitigation, etc into new developments through the planning system		50	Green	→	Standard policies and conditioning applied to
I To report on priorities and activities to promote and safeguard the cultural heritage of the Parks.		50	Green	→	Since April 88 event types and activities (some of them repeated) were held at various locations including Castell Henllys, Carew

				<p>Castle, Oriol y Parc, Afordir coastal communities project, Archaeology field walking various locations, Time Team Upton Castle, Bluestones interpretation, 3 day walk and talk through Welsh, Nevern Castle, Carningli, Pentre Ifan and talks and lectures. Review of the Management Plan agreed by the National Park Authority. Will include an Action Plan. Work commenced on the Archaeology, Historic Environment including cultural matters (likely to be a cross cutting theme). Report to Core Group anticipated in February 2013. Management Plan for consultation towards the end of 2013 with final plan adopted March 2014.</p>
--	--	--	--	---

Performance Report

Outcome 3 - Residents and visitors use opportunities provided to adopt more sustainable lifestyles



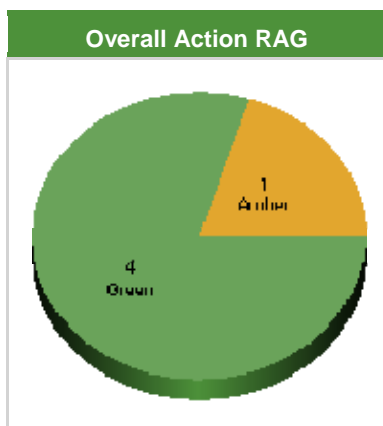
- ↓ Worsening Trend
- Static Trend
- ↑ Improving Trend

Action	Previous Period August 2012	Current Period September 2012			
	RAG	% Complete	RAG	Trend	Comment
g identify the risks posed by climate change		50	Green	→	<p>A workshop between the Welsh National Park Authorities and the Climate Change Branch of the Department of Environment, Sustainability and Housing to discuss implementation of Welsh Government's guidance 'Preparing for a Changing Climate' is scheduled for Autumn 2012. However, the NPA is already contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation on a number of fronts, and within the context of a statement by the three Welsh NPAs in 2009. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPA continues to apply Local Development Plan policies, which include a range of climate change related policies. The Annual Monitoring Report (presented to NPA Committee 26th September 2012) assesses the impact and success of policies, including for example policies for Sustainable Design and Renewable Energy (see also Action 1f). The Local Development Plan Monitoring Report comments on 6 indicators in relation to policies on renewable energy, sustainable design, development in flood areas. 4 indicators suggests that the targets for the Plan are being achieved. 1 indicator in relation to renewable

				<p>heat generation is not being achieved but this is primarily due to the substantial contribution that biomass was expected to make not being able to be counted in the figures as it generally enjoys permitted development rights. The second indicator related to the implementation of that part of Policy 29 which deals with requiring improvements in the original building where an extension was proposed. Based on the lack of support by Inspectors at appeal, legal advice provided and the implementation of new building regulations this aspect of the policy is no longer being implemented. • The NPA seeks to maintain the adaptive potential of the landscape by reducing impacts on ecosystems. In particular, the NPA continues to operate its conservation land management programme (see also actions 1a, 1b and 1c). • The NPA is a signatory to the Wales Sustainable Development Charter and makes annual commitments to modify our energy footprint. In April 2012 we committed to continue implementing external environmental management audits (undertaken 2011) on the NPA's own estate (e.g. Llanion HQ biomass boiler installed; photovoltaic and replacement solar thermal planned for November). A resurvey and audit of all NPA sites is planned for October 2012. (Display Energy Certificate review takes place annually in December; it is anticipated that energy savings from recent installations will become apparent in the December 2013 certification.) • The Sustainable Development Fund continues to provide essential support to a range of climate change related projects (report due to Audit and Corporate Services Review Committee, 7th November 2012).</p>
--	--	--	--	--

Performance Report

Outcome 4 - Opportunities are provided for local people to live within the National Park



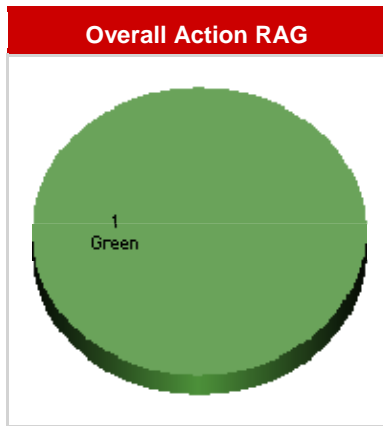
- ↓ Worsening Trend
- Static Trend
- ↑ Improving Trend

Action	Previous Period August 2012	Current Period September 2012			
	RAG	% Complete	RAG	Trend	Comment
a Use Section 106 agreements and planning conditions to ensure delivery	Green	50	Green	→	Work ongoing. Planning conditions imposed and monitored by this Authority. Monitoring of S106 agreements and conditions in relation to affordable housing contributions is carried out by the Monitoring Officer at PCC. Currently 23 permissions being monitored by PCC. Contributions include transport, affordable housing, nature conservation, waste management, public open space, libraries, education.
b Contact owners of land allocated in the Local Development Plan to monitor progress	Green	80	Green	→	Known landowners contacted in 2008 to raise awareness of the need to deliver the sites allocated in the Plan. There are ongoing discussions with landowners and their agents regarding bringing forward sites. See also action in relation to meeting housing associations. A consultant has also been engaged to improve the Authority's information on site delivery. As part of this exercise landowners will again be contacted.
c Review outstanding permissions with housing associations and consider how to activate	Red	50	Green	↑	Cantref and Pembrokeshire Housing Meetings completed. Information shared and action points agreed on bringing sites forward for affordable housing. Next meetings booked for the New Year.

d Investigate selling surplus NPA land that is suitable for affordable housing development		100	Green	➔	Review completed. None of the land is considered appropriate for development. The land is situated in remote locations; the land is used for other purposes, for example amenity space; it is undeveloped land that forms part of the character of the area; the land is subject to deliverability issues as the Local Development Plan's allocated sites which is currently being investigated.
e Monitor supply of affordable housing		50	Amber	➔	Affordable housing delivery and general market housing completions – Welsh Government Indicator (Indicator 22) The annual average completion rate has been in decline in recent years. The overall target to build 1000 general market dwellings in the Plan period, at current rates of completion would not be possible. This is expected to change over the Plan period and reflects the current recession. The decline in completions reflects the position nationally. Affordable housing delivery is consequently down as well. A total of 44 affordable dwellings were completed or under construction in the period 2007 to 2012 whereas a figure of 140 was anticipated. There is currently planning permission granted for a further 35 affordable dwellings. Affordable housing delivery is currently the subject of a Scrutiny Committee Review by the National Park Authority. The outcomes of this work and other actions identified in the Monitoring Report should assist with improving delivery. Delivery of affordable housing in this National Park is above the Welsh average.

Performance Report

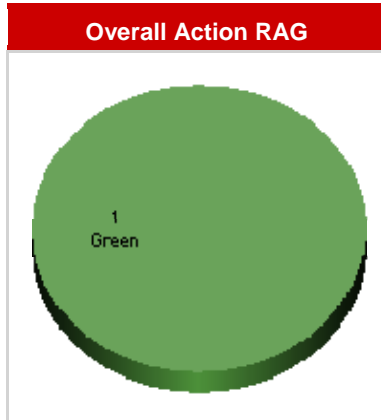
Outcome 5 - A thriving local economy exists based on the sustainable use of the National Park



- ↓ Worsening Trend
- Static Trend
- ↑ Improving Trend

Action	Previ us Period August 2012	Current Period September 2012			
	RAG	% Complete	RAG	Trend	Comment
c Provide evidence to WG on the economic and social importance of the coast, etc.(SGL);		10	Green	→	Tender for research contract issued

Outcome 7 - Residents and visitors recognise the distinct Pembrokeshire cultures within the National Park

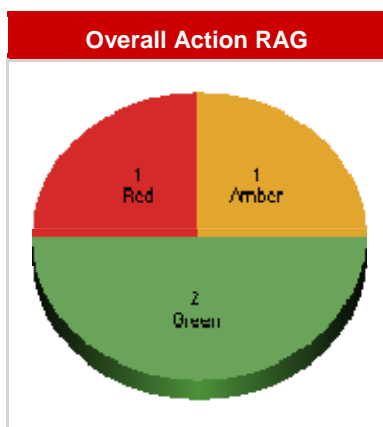


- ↓ Worsening Trend
- Static Trend
- ↑ Improving Trend

Action	Previ us Period August 2012	Current Period September 2012			
	RAG	% Complete	RAG	Trend	Comment
c Promote traditional land management & building techniques		50	Green	→	Provide advice, assistance and grants as opportunities arise

Performance Report

Outcome 8 - The Authority is recognised as meeting good practice standards in terms of governance



- ↓ Worsening Trend
- Static Trend
- ↑ Improving Trend

Action	Previous Period August 2012	Current Period September 2012			
	RAG	% Complete	RAG	Trend	Comment
a Improve the response times for both pre-application enquiries and planning applications (SGL)	Amber	50	Red	↓	Overall 57% in 8 weeks, Pre apps 71% ytd
b Continue to engage with the Welsh Government's Planning Division in relation to the Planning Review of Protected Areas (SGL)	Green	20	Green	→	WG leading - waiting next stage
i Report on the health of Park ecosystems using methodology for state of the park reporting (SGL)	Green	50	Green	→	The NPA monitors change in the National Park in order to know whether nature conservation policies are working and whether they are collectively sufficient to achieve National Park purposes. We build a picture of ecosystem quality using: - data on the condition of designated wildlife sites and features (collated by the Countryside Council for Wales) - trend data relating to existing and future causes of change - impact data relating to the extent and quality of the National Park Authority's land management programme (see also Measures under Outcome 1) An interim review of the National Park Management Plan and progress on its aims including assessments of nature conservation on land and at sea was presented to the National Park Authority on the 28th March 2012.

j Implement principles outlined in the Strategic Policy Statement for Protected Areas in place by the end of 2012. (SGL)	Amber		Amber	→	Waiting for information from Welsh Government
--	-------	--	-------	---	---

Risk Register Conservation & Planning

Period: September 2012

PCNPA RISK REGISTER

Risk	Probability	Impact	Comment
20. Risk of flawed decision on planning application	Unlikely	Severe	Codes of practice in place. Member training under taken
32. Risk of staff shortages in Direction due to special event or significant sickness etc	Unlikely	Moderate	No events identified
35. Risk of lack of capacity/skills of Direction staff for key work	Unlikely	Moderate	Training will be reviewed in mid year individual performance reviews.
39. Risk of poor decision making based on inaccurate GIS data	Possible	Moderate	New GIS officer in post. Review of GIS data quality and processes underway
41. Failure to provide affordable housing opportunities in accord with target	Likely	Moderate	Target of 1000 during LDP period is unlikely to be achieved due to economic climate. 44 units completed against target of 140 since 2007. Permission granted for a further 35 units
42. Risk of unpopular planning decision on high profile development	Likely	Moderate	Monitoring media coverage. Press release may be necessary if amenity site application proceeds
43. Failure to improve performance on speed of determining applications & provide quality service	Possible	Moderate	New planner in post