

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT:
NATIONAL PARKS WALES ANNUAL MEMBERS' SEMINAR

Purpose of Report

The report seeks to update Members on activities to organise the National Parks Wales Annual Members' Seminar.

Introduction/Background

The Welsh National Park Authorities collaborate as National Parks Wales to contribute to Government policies that may impact upon National Parks. National Parks Wales utilise several different methods to do this:

- responding to relevant Government, Assembly and Parliamentary consultations.
- developing a suite of position statements covering a range of issues affecting National Parks in Wales.
- organising and contributing to seminars which allow National Park Authority staff and Members to share expertise and best practice within sectors relevant to National Parks.

An Annual Members' Seminar is organised under the umbrella of National Parks Wales. The three Welsh National Park Authorities organise the event on rotation and it is the turn of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority to organise the 2012 event.

Date

We have provisionally agreed that the seminar will take place on 8th and 9th October 2012.

Location

On the last two occasions this Authority organised this seminar, in 2006 and 2009, the seminar took place in Cardiff. While this may have supported engagement with Assembly Members, it did little to support the tourism industry in Pembrokeshire. We propose, therefore, to hold the 2012 seminar in Pembrokeshire and are currently exploring suitable locations to host the event.

Content

The theme and content of the seminar will be discussed and agreed with the other two National Park Authorities.

Organisation

This will be undertaken by the Democratic Services Department with support from other departments as required. The Chairman will be consulted if and when Member input is required.

Financial considerations

A sum of £5,000 is allocated from the National Parks Wales budget to cover the cost of the seminar. Any costs over this sum will be re-charged to the three parks, depending on the number of attendees from that Park Authority. However, we will need to cover the staff cost of arranging the event.

Risk considerations

This is an annual event, where there is a low level of risk. Some key areas to consider are ensuring that costs are kept under control and that a programme is developed to attract Members to attend.

Compliance

No issues.

Human Rights/Equality issues

Not relevant.

Biodiversity implications/Sustainability appraisal

It is unlikely that the event will have any adverse impacts.

Welsh Language statement

The event will be organised in accordance with our Welsh Language Scheme.

Conclusion

Members are asked to note the content of the report and are invited to make any suggestions on programme content/location of the event.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to note the content of the report and are invited to make any suggestions on programme content/location of the event.

Background Documents

None

(For further information, please contact the author, Tegryn Jones)