

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PARK DIRECTION

SUBJECT: DRAFT SINGLE INTEGRATED PLAN 2013-2018

Purpose of Report

To seek Members approval for this proposed response to the above consultation. The closing date for responses is the 15th of February 2013. A list of consultation questions has been provided to assist with our response.

Background

It is the view of the Welsh Government that a single integrated plan should replace at least four of the existing statutory plans and strategies (the Community Strategy, the Children and Young People's Plan, the Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy and the Community Safety Partnership Plan (which incorporates the 3 crime and disorder strategies)), thereby reducing complexity and duplication, and freeing up resources. The Welsh Government considers that a single integrated plan should be used to meet the statutory duties in relation to the development of plans and strategies required under the following legislation:

1. Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (Part 2: S's 37-46) – Community strategies;
2. Children Act 2004 (Part 3: S26) – Children and Young People's Plan (which include plans required in accordance with section 2 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 and Part 1 of the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010);
3. National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 (Part 3: S40) – Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategies; and
4. Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Part 1: S6) – Strategies for the reduction of crime and disorder, strategies for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, and strategies for the reduction of re-offending.
5. Children & Families (Wales) Measure 2010 sections 11 & 12 – the duties in respect of local authorities to assess for sufficient play opportunities and to promote and facilitate participation by children in decisions of the authority which might affect them, and to publish and keep up to date information about its arrangements.

Main Points to raise

The main points are:

1. **To clarify the role of the Plan.** Paragraph 2.1 of the Plan refers to the Plan being the overarching Plan for Pembrokeshire whereas the Welsh Government guidance would seem to suggest that it identifies roles and actions under the above legislation. The focus of the actions in the Plan appear to centre around the above legislation and therefore its scope needs to be defined more precisely. If a much wider all encompassing role is envisaged then both the structure of the Local Service Board and the content of the Plan would seem to require reviewing.
2. **To clarify the role of partner organisations.** With additional clarity on the scope of the plan this will help partners, such as the National Park Authority, (which is not on the

Local Service Board) to prioritise interventions in relation to actions relevant to it under the Plan's remit. Partner authorities are asked to look to taking account of the Single Integrated Plan in deciding their corporate objectives.

3. **To advise the Authority can contribute positively** to many of the actions already contained in the Plan because the National Park is the most amazing outdoor resource that can be utilised diversely including for education, health, community cohesion.
4. **The Authority looks forward to the Local Service Board playing a key role in facilitating partnership working under this Plan.** The Plan is reliant on the commitment and participation of other statutory, charitable and privately led services. In order to fill gaps that are likely to be left by the reduction in Pembrokeshire County Council services, the Local Service Board should play a key role in supporting these agencies to:
 - work together to provide these services i.e training, networking opportunities, opportunities for match funding:
 - identify key partners that may be able to offer 'unique or tailored interventions' such as Park Rangers working with probation service, early years practitioners, allied health professionals.

Appendix A contains more detailed comments on the Plan.

Recommendation

Members approve this report and Appendix A as the Authority's response to the Pembrokeshire Single Integrated Plan 2013-2018 Consultation Document.

Background Documents

Single Integrated Plan consultation document

http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/content.asp?nav=101,988,2102&parent_directory_id=646&id=26687&language=646&id=26687&language

Welsh Government Website - Guidance

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/improving/services/publicationevents/publications/sharedpurpdel/?lang=enrpdel/?lang=en>

Consultees: Leadership Group, Park Direction Service, Graham Peak

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Draft Consultation Response to the Pembrokeshire Single Integrated Plan 2013-2018

Introduction

1. The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority welcomes the opportunity of responding to this consultation and contributing towards the development of the Pembrokeshire Single Integrated Plan 2013-2018. While we have contributed towards the development of the Section 5 – Environment, we consider that the Authority can work with partners and contribute towards the delivery of other sections of the plan.

Do you think the Plan correctly identified what the likely challenges will be over the next five years?

2. There are some key areas that could usefully be considered. Please also see comments in the covering report to this Appendix.

Chapter 4 Economy

3. The Plan needs to consider the potential impact of the ongoing economic downturn and consequential difficulties for people defaulting on mortgages and unable to pay rent. This would exacerbate issues such as the lack of affordable house. This may mean that higher numbers of children and families are in 'temporary' or 'vulnerable' housing situations which may lead to more family stress, and associated difficulties.

Chapter 5 Environment & Chapter 6 Health

4. What will be the potential impact on the quality of the environment and on community health and wellbeing if resources to maintain and monitor the environment are hit by cuts? Examples may include:
 - refuse collection
 - reduction in environmental health services leading to lower standards in areas of water quality, cleanliness of public spaces (dog fouling).
5. Also related to this is the potential impact on maintaining high environmental standards for biodiversity in the National Park.

Chapter 5 Environment

6. Road Network: The Plan outlines developing the road network as important for the economy, but what about the maintenance and improvement of the existing road and rail network. Recent rain and bad weather means that the current network is in need of repair.
7. If current network is not adapted to cope with climate change (flooding, high winds and other extreme weather events) it is likely that remote rural communities risk being cut off.

8. The Plan could potentially give more detail on how other transport networks such as public footpaths and bridleways can be developed to support a lower carbon economy but also to assist the 'Active Wales' agenda.
9. Countryside Access: There is little reference to countryside access and associated infrastructure of the public rights of way network. Specific reference is only made to the public rights of way network in chapter 5 Environment, page 26, para 5.2.3, second bullet point. It does seem, however, to be framed in the context of a utilitarian communications infrastructure. Further reference is to be found on p.31 in the measure "public rights of way that are easy to use".
10. Given the absence of the mention of the potential benefits provided by public rights of way in the Health and Economy chapters, it is suggested that a sentence be added highlighting the cross cutting benefits of public rights of way. This sentence could go in the above bullet point on p.26. The sentence could state:

In addition to providing opportunities for sustainable transport on foot and bicycle, the countryside access opportunities afforded by the network of public rights of way have an economic significance for the tourism industry of the county. Public rights of way also provide opportunities for recreation and healthy exercise, contributing to the well being of residents.
11. Climate Change: The Plan has a limited response to climate change and also appears to partly promote the growth of industries linked high carbon activities (petro chemical). The plan could benefit from making a case for a wider range of renewable and non-renewable energy production that will also enhance Pembrokeshire to be locally resilient to wider global trends. The Plan could do more to identify how promoting Pembrokeshire as the UK energy capital will benefit the local community beyond direct employment.
12. Climate change will have an impact upon both the visitor economy as well as that of the local economy. Businesses need to be prepared for climate change but the details of how this will actually be implemented lack detail in the plan.
13. The plan could have better detail on how to help communities cope with 'fuel poverty' in the light of rising fuel prices – i.e insulation and energy reduction and the potential 'retrofitting' older housing stock with such technology/adaptations.
14. The plan could have better detail on how to help local communities cope with rising food prices including support to help households reduce food waste or grow their own.
15. Climate change will have an impact upon peoples' well being – research shows that people who have been flooded or who live in flood vulnerable areas suffer disproportionately from mental health issues such as anxiety and depression.
16. Poor weather may mean that families are less likely to get out to 'let off steam' and may be more likely to suffer from disharmony.
17. The Plan could do more to identify how it will work to ensure that leisure and play facilities are resilient to climate change and this should not mean focusing on under cover activities but should also be promoting activities where people are encouraged to get out, about and active 'whatever the weather'. Such an approach will enhance

the Welsh Government 'play agenda' and will support the development of good outdoor and active play habits in children and families that are proven to have positive impacts upon health.

18. It is possible that the impact of climate change may be detrimental to tourism and consequently the local economy. The plan needs to consider how Pembrokeshire infrastructure can reduce the negative effects of climate change such as: drainage, beach patrols, liaison with local agri-business to reduce 'run off' into local waterways and onto beaches.
19. Support needs to be provided for businesses that can demonstrate their commitment to environmental responsibility and those that demonstrate they are seeking to future proof their business against climate change, i.e, providing all weather activities, reducing carbon emissions, using locally sourced materials etc.

Do you think the priorities and headline actions for each outcome reflect the most important issues for people in Pembrokeshire?

20. The following additional issues could be addressed.

- Responding and supporting an ageing population – better health outcomes for all including the elderly means a more active population.
- Developing a resilient food and energy production network and a wider local economy less reliant on external markets and overseas production.
- Good land use planning is essential to safeguard Pembrokeshire's unique appeal of remoteness, tranquility and beauty.

Do you have any other comments?
--

23. To help develop the actions of the Plan further there are many areas where the Authority is already delivering work or may have the potential to do so. We look forward to working with the various partners when developing the actions.

Please find below some additional points on the wording used in the Plan:

24. In chapter 5 the importance of learning to live sustainably is highlighted. However it is advised at 5.1.1 "...It is widely recognised that a healthy and diverse natural environment is an important contribution to quality of life and is also a key factor in sustaining economic growth". Economic growth in the conventional sense does not respect environmental limits and is, by definition, unsustainable. Something like "in progressing toward a more sustainable economy" would assure that the issue of unsustainable growth will begin to be addressed.
25. This appears to be an aspirational Plan and some of the actions could be improved to reflect this but only if it is realistic to do so e.g.
 - Could any of the actions aim to "exceed Welsh Government targets"?
 - Where the action says "maintain" or "protect" could it also say "... and enhance"

26. On page 29 under the priority “Pembrokeshire will address the challenge of climate change” there is a typo on the 4th headline action “copy” should probably read “cope”. It is suggested that this action reads instead “Create resilient communities able to adapt to the consequences of climate change.”