

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

---

**SUBJECT: CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE FOR THE AUDIT OF  
PEMBROKESHIRE COAST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY'S ASSESSMENT OF  
2016-17 PERFORMANCE**

**Introduction**

The Wales Audit Office is required, under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure) to give an opinion on whether Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (the Authority) has discharged its duties in respect of improvement reporting and met the requirements of the Measure.

The Auditor General for Wales has recently given his opinion that the Authority has discharged its duties. A copy of the certificate follows this report.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Members are requested to RECEIVE and COMMENT on the Improvement Assessment Letter.**

*(For further information contact Tegryn Jones, Chief Executive on ext 4803)*



**Reference:** 178A2017-18

**Date issued:** October 2017

## Audit of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's Assessment of 2016-17 Performance

### Certificate

I certify that I have audited Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's (the Authority) assessment of its performance in 2016-17 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 sections 15(2), (3), (8) and (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 annually publish an assessment which describes its performance:

- in discharging its duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions;
- in meeting the improvement objectives it has set itself;
- by reference to performance indicators specified by Welsh Ministers, and self-imposed performance indicators; and
- in meeting any performance standards specified by Welsh Ministers, and self-imposed performance standards.

The Measure requires the Authority to publish its assessment before 31 October in the financial year following that to which the information relates, or by any other such date as Welsh Ministers may specify by order.

The Measure requires that the Authority has regard to guidance issued by Welsh Ministers in publishing its assessment.

As the Authority's auditor, I am required under sections 17 and 19 of the Measure to carry out an audit to determine whether the Authority has discharged its duty to publish an assessment of performance, to certify that I have done so, and to report

whether I believe that the Authority has discharged its duties in accordance with statutory requirements set out in section 15 and statutory guidance.

## Scope of the 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. Other assessment work that I will undertake under section 18 of the Measure may examine these issues. My audit of the Authority's assessment of performance, therefore, comprised a review of the Authority's publication to ascertain whether it included elements prescribed in legislation. I also assessed whether the arrangements for publishing the assessment complied with the requirements of the legislation, and that the Authority had regard to statutory guidance in preparing and publishing it.

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.



**Huw Vaughan Thomas**

**Auditor General for Wales**

CC: Mark Drakeford – Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government  
Lesley Griffiths – Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs  
Nick Selwyn, Manager  
Katherine Simmons, Performance Auditor