Report of: Chief Executive

Subject: National Park Authority Strategic Grant Letter 2025-26: Reporting Framework (from the Welsh Government)

Decision Required: No – paper provided for information

Recommendation:

The Authority is recommended to note the new Framework for reporting to the Welsh Government on progress made on areas of work included in the National Park Authority Strategic Grant Letter 2025-26.

1. Key Messages

The paper provides Members with information on a new Framework for reporting to the Welsh Government on progress made on areas of work included in the National Park Authority Strategic Grant Letter 2025-26.

2. Background

The Authority receives the majority of its funding from the Welsh Government, with the key requirements from the Welsh Government being outlined in a strategic grant letter. From the period when the Local Government Measure, 2011, was replaced by the Well-being of Future Generations Act, the Authority reported its activity to the Welsh Government through an Annual Report on Delivering our Well-being Objectives. The Welsh Government has decided to bring greater clarity on reporting through agreeing new indicators. The Reporting Guidance is included as Annex A and the Reporting Template included as Annex B.

4. Strategic Policy Context

The Strategic Grant Letter and Reporting Framework outlines how the Authority delivers the priorities of the Welsh Government.

5. Financial Considerations

There are no specific financial considerations from this work, however, by completing the framework the Authority will highlight how it uses its resources to deliver the priorities of the Welsh Government.

6. Risk and Compliance Considerations

The information required will be submitted to the Welsh Government and reported to Members as part of the reporting framework presented at the Audit and Corporate Services Review Committee.

7. Impact on our Public Sector Duties

7.1 Integrated Assessment Completed: No

7.2 Equality, Socio-Economic, Health and Human Rights Impacts

There are not impacts from completing this template.

7.3 Welsh Language Impacts

There are not impacts from completing this template.

7.4 Section 6 Biodiversity Duty and Carbon Emission Impacts

There are not impacts from completing this template.

7.5 Well-being Goals for Wales and 5 Ways of Working (Sustainable Development Principles) Impacts

There are not impacts from completing this template.

8. Conclusion

Members are asked to note the new reporting framework from the Welsh Government.

(For further information please contact Tegryn Jones, tegrynj@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk)

National Park Authority Strategic Grant Letter 2025-26: Reporting Guidance

Reporting Guidance

- 1. NPAs will be asked to provide information against their WG Strategic Priorities.
- 2. Information will be both quantitative and qualitative.
- 3. You should only provide comparative data (%+ or) from previous year where you already hold this data in the same format; otherwise you should treat 2025-26 data as your starting point.
- 4. Information will be provided at intervals throughout the year as follows:
 - i. By end October, Highlights, any projections on performance against indicators, and very brief narrative should be supplied for activities in the first 6 months of the year (April 1 September 30).
 - ii. By end May of the following year, data, narrative, constraints and any long-term trends should be provided against the specified priorities and indicators.
 - iii. Where data is not available this early (for example Local Authority carbon emissions) this should be provided by end September the following year.
- 5. Particularly on supporting priorities, you may feel there is little the NPA can report on. We would prefer a nil return than you seeking to provide a contribution that does not directly meet the priority. A nil return may help build case that further support/investment is need, rather than demonstrating that they are simply failing to deliver. Similarly, a brief narrative on constraints against some of the supporting priorities may help us explain internally why these are not particularly relevant to and/or deliverable by NPAs. Unfortunately, we cannot amend or remove these priorities as they were in the original Term of Government letter.
- 6. A reporting template will be provided in both Welsh and English.

A. ENVIRONMENT

EN1: Actively support WG commitment to achieving zero-carbon economy by working to become carbon neutral by 2030 through everyday work and a range of decarbonisation interventions

Guidance: a)Total Authority emissions should be a single figure per Authority reported to WG at Net Zero Reporting Welsh Public Sector 2023 Carbon Emissions (includes Buildings, Transport, Waste, Supply Chain, Land Use, Renewables). You should include figures that fall into these equivalent categories. To be reported by September of following year

b) Figure should include **direct financial** support for community renewables, community decarbonisation (e.g. match-funding third party renewables projects, grant funding to community bodies for decarbonisation) *To be reported by June of following year*

Bodies can supplement data for a) and b) with qualitative evidence.

EN2: Proactively facilitate carbon sequestration by supporting woodland creation where appropriate, and peatland restoration at scale through National Peatland Action Programme (NPAP).

Guidance: Figures should include only projects in the National Park where NPA is a lead or significant partner. This could include where the NPA has facilitated, funded or delivered action itself. Note there will not be a scorecard, and there may be environmental reasons (e.g. low level of deep peat) for less focus by some NPAs in some areas). You can also report on other measures where you wish:

- Length (Meters) of Hedgerow planted
- Number of Trees Planted (Note: Standard or in field trees, does not include those planted as part of hedgerows to avoid double counting)
- Area (Hectares) of Meadows planted

EN3: Take action to improve the connectivity, condition, scale/extent and diversity of ecosystems, and maintain and enhance resilient ecological networks, embedding delivery in emerging national targets arising from the 30x30 commitment

Guidance: 'Managed for Biodiversity' should be interpreted as land whose management is primarily dictated by decisions based on ecological rather than commercial or other reasons. Figures should include only projects in the Park where NPA is a lead or significant partner. This could include where the NPA has facilitated, funded or delivered action itself.

a) should primarily include sites where NPA has a management agreement in place <u>but could include Ffermio</u> <u>Bro or other projects</u> providing these are delivered at scale for biodiversity (i.e. rather than single isolated improvements such as fencing).

This indicator will be reviewed and potentially updated when a consistent 30x30 reporting framework is in place pan-Wales which allows NPAs to accurately report.

EN4: Deliver the Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places Nature & Carbon Fund, and other WG schemes to deliver on nature and decarbonisation goals

Guidance: Provide a summary Capital and Revenue figure for your expenditure on Nature Recovery work and Climate Change mitigation/Decarbonisation during the financial year. This should include funding from all sources.

You can also provide outputs and outcomes from key SLSP projects. Note these should be brief and select and not replicate the detailed SLSP reports already provided to DLCA. Given the variety of SLSP projects, we have not proscribed a format, but calculating carbon reduction / biodiversity positive change is welcomed where possible.

EN5 – EN8: Narrative evidence only required. These should be brief highlights only. If you have not delivered specific activity against this priority, please state 'N/A'.

B-PEOPLE AND PLACES

PP1: Contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Farming Scheme and deliver the Ffermio Bro scheme **Guidance:** High level Ffermio Bro outputs only should be reported. Detailed outputs against scheme indicators will be reported within the ongoing management of the scheme.

You can also provide qualitative evidence on any actions taken to support the wider development and implementation of the SFS.

PP2: Work with Housing Authorities, Community Land Trusts and private developers, to develop innovative solutions to acute housing issues and contribute to the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan **Guidance:** Narrative examples, and any relevant outputs you wish to report.

PP3: Working with partners such as Local Authorities and Transport for Wales, implement solutions to pressures of visitors on local infrastructure, including more sustainable transport systems, and communication campaigns to ensure responsible recreation.

Guidance: Narrative examples, and any relevant outputs you wish to report.

PP4: Collaborate with key partners to deliver against Welsh Government priorities for tourism, culture and heritage.

Guidance: Narrative examples, and any relevant outputs you wish to report. This could include visitor numbers to cultural sites you operate and include intangible heritage such as traditional skills, and work on heritage crime. We will also trial % of scheduled ancient monuments in good condition during 2025-26 subject to advice from Cadw.

PP5: Develop policies that ensure the Welsh language can thrive, delivering against *Cymraeg 2050: Our plan for 2021 to 2026*

Guidance: Narrative examples, and any relevant outputs you wish to report.

PP6: Increase opportunities for people in vulnerable or disadvantaged groups and under-represented communities to benefit from the landscapes you manage.

Guidance: This should be defined as individuals, groups or communities you have specifically sought to work with or targeted in some way. This could include school groups that you have targeted for socio-economic or other reasons (rather than general school bookings). You can also report on capital projects you have delivered that are designed to improve access to your National Park for under-represented users such as people with disabilities.

PP7: Increase provision of skills training, apprenticeship and volunteering opportunities.

Guidance: This should be for opportunities offered and managed by the NPA, or where the NPA is a key delivery partner in some capacity. Social Action hours are classified as activities that provide individuals or groups (e.g. school children, people on probation) opportunities to experience/gain skills by participating in practical sessions e.g. RoW maintenance and conservation but cannot be classed as apprenticeships or structured volunteering.

PP8-PP10: Narrative evidence only required. These should be brief highlights only. If you have not delivered specific activity against this priority, please state 'N/A'.

GOVERNANCE AND COLLABORATION

GC1: Strive for excellence in governance including the sharing of best practice and training between NPAs and other bodies

Guidance: Summarise steps taken to embed good governance within your organisation.

GC2: Embed diversity and diverse viewpoints within your governance structures and decision-making processes **Guidance**: Summarise steps taken to embed diversity. This is about diverse views helping shape your strategic decision making, so should refer to members, for a and other strategic vehicles which inform the NPA's activity and direction.

GC3: Support Tirweddau Cymru to develop its ambition, embed collaboration at all levels within NPAs and NLs, and proactively develop and deliver new collaborative working opportunities

Guidance: Summarise steps taken to embed collaboration. This should include furthering the aims of Tirweddau Cymru and supporting its ambitions and ways of working, <u>and what the value has been to you in delivering your ambition</u>. It should also include other strategic partnerships being formed, for example through signing MOUs, joint delivery etc.

GC4: Embed the resources created during the NPA Governance Assistance programme, including the Members' Governance Handbook, training Provision and toolkits, in Member induction and development arrangements

Guidance: You should provide both data on member attendance at Governance training and/or engagement with online resources, as well as how you are applying the new Governance handbook within your organisation.

GC5: Share experience and best practice as designation for a new National Park progresses. **Guidance**: Narrative evidence only required. These should be brief highlights only. If you have not delivered specific activity against this priority, please state 'N/A'.

GC6: Proactively contribute to setting local and regional planning policy, including through the CJC structure and through regional and national collaboration to implement the policies in Future Wales **Guidance**: Narrative evidence only required. These should be brief highlights only. If you have not delivered specific activity against this priority, please state 'N/A'.

ANNEX A: Environment

Ref	Core Priorities	6-monthly evidence	Annual Evidence	Indicators (unit) (measurement)
EN1	Actively support WG commitment to achieving zero-carbon economy by working to become carbon neutral by 2030 through everyday work and a range of decarbonisation interventions	Highlights, projections and brief narrative	Data + Narrative, any long-term trends	 Total Authority emissions (kgCO2e) (% -/+ on previous year) £ invested in community decarbonisation projects
EN2	Proactively facilitate carbon sequestration by supporting woodland creation where appropriate, and peatland restoration at scale (e.g. through National Peatland Action Programme (NPAP))	Highlights, projections and brief narrative	Data + Narrative, any long-term trends	 Total Woodland creation (hectares) (% -/+ on previous year). Where possible provide breakdown on NPAs role Woodland restoration (hectares) (% -/+ on previous year) Area of Peat present in Park (n.b. this is for context). Peatland restoration delivered (hectares) (% -/+ on previous year) through NPAP or other work Length (meters) of hedgerow planted Trees planted (excludes hedgerow/woodland planting) Area (hectares) of meadows planted
EN3	Take action to improve the connectivity, condition, scale/extent and diversity of ecosystems, and maintain and enhance resilient ecological networks, embedding delivery in emerging national targets arising from the 30x30 commitment	Highlights, projections and brief narrative	Data + Narrative, any long-term trends	 land managed for biodiversity in partnership with private landowners (hectares) (% -/+ on previous year) land owned or leased by the Authority managed for biodiversity (hectares) (% -/+ on previous year)
EN4	Deliver the Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places Nature & Carbon Fund, and other WG schemes to deliver on nature and decarbonisation goals	Highlights, projections and brief narrative	Data + Narrative, any long-term trends	 Financial investment in Nature & Carbon initiatives in total (% -/+ on previous year) SLSP outputs where relevant
EN5	Supporting Priorities: Support shift away from private car use to more sustainable transport modes for majority of journeys amongst staff, visitors and service users	Brief narrative	Narrative examples, any long-term trends	Narrative examples
EN6	Support PfG commitment to establish targeted scheme to support restoration of seagrass and saltmarsh habitats along coastline, help deliver ambitions of MPA Network Management Framework and contribute to emerging policy on blue carbon.			
EN7	Engage in Local Energy Planning to help bring about the transformation of the energy system needed to reach Net Zero, securing greater benefits for your communities			
EN8	Engaging positively in initiatives to promote reuse and repair, to grow the circular economy, and reduce the harm caused to the environment by single use plastics through discouraging their use wherever possible.			

People and Place

Ref	Core Priorities:	6-monthly evidence	Annual evidence	Indicators (unit) (measurement)
PP1	Contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Farming Scheme and deliver the Ffermio Bro scheme	Highlights, projections and brief narrative	Data + Narrative, any long-term trends	 Farm holdings supported (numbers) Farmer groups supported (existing/new collaborations) Ecological benefits reported within ecosystem priority Narrative examples
PP2	Work with Housing Authorities, Community Land Trusts and private developers, to develop innovative solutions to acute housing issues and contribute to the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan	Brief narrative	Narrative, long- term trends	Narrative examples
PP3	Working with partners such as Local Authorities and Transport for Wales, implement solutions to pressures of visitors on local infrastructure, including more sustainable transport systems, and communication campaigns to ensure responsible recreation.	Brief narrative	Narrative, long- term trends	Narrative examples
PP4	Collaborate with key partners to deliver against Welsh Government priorities for tourism, culture and heritage.	Brief narrative	Narrative, long- term trends	 % of scheduled ancient monuments in good condition (% -/+ on previous year) % of Rights of Way open (% -/+ on previous year) Km of Rights of way enhanced or created Narrative examples including visitor numbers to cultural sites you operate, intangible heritage such as traditional skills, and work to combat heritage crime
PP5	Develop policies that ensure the Welsh language can thrive, delivering against <i>Cymraeg 2050: Our plan for 2021 to 2026</i>		Narrative, long- term trends	Narrative examples
PP6	Increase opportunities for people in vulnerable or disadvantaged groups and under-represented communities to benefit from the landscapes you manage	Highlights, projections and brief narrative	Data + Narrative, long- term trends	 participants in NPA activities for inclusion, outreach, increasing access (number) (% -/+ on previous year) Projects to remove physical access barriers Narrative examples
PP7	Increase provision of skills training, apprenticeship and volunteering opportunities.	Highlights, projections and brief narrative	Data + Narrative, long- term trends	 Training opportunities (number) (% -/+ on previous year) Apprenticeships (number) (% -/+ on previous year) Volunteer hours (number) (% -/+ on previous year) Social Action hours contributed Narrative examples
PP8	Supporting Priorities: Contribute, where appropriate, to the PfG commitment to establish a Community Food Strategy to encourage the production and supply of locally-sourced food	Brief narrative	Narrative, long- term trends	Narrative examples
PP9	Support the designation of inland bathing waters and deployment of Sustainable Drainage Systems			

PP10	Engage with the development of the proposed all-Wales		
	framework for social prescribing		

Governance and Collaboration

Ref	Core Priorities:	6-monthly	Annual evidence	Indicators (unit) (measurement)
		evidence		
GC1	Strive for excellence in governance including the sharing of	Brief narrative	Narrative examples,	Narrative examples
	best practice and training between NPAs and other bodies		any long-term trends	
GC2	Embed diversity and diverse viewpoints within your	Brief narrative	Narrative examples,	Narrative examples
	governance structures and decision-making processes		any long-term trends	
GC3	Support Tirweddau Cymru to develop its ambition, embed	Brief narrative	Narrative examples,	Narrative examples
	collaboration at all levels within NPAs and NLs, and		any long-term trends	
	proactively develop and deliver new collaborative working			
	opportunities			
GC4	Embed the resources created during the NPA Governance	Data on	Data on engagement	% of members who have attended all four Governance
	Assistance programme, including the Members' Governance	Governance	with Governance	online training sessions or watched the recordings
	Handbook, training Provision and toolkits, in Member	training, Brief	training, Narrative	Narrative examples
	induction and development arrangements	narrative	examples, long-term	
			trends	
GC5	Share experience and best practice as designation for a new	Brief narrative	Narrative examples,	Narrative examples
	National Park progresses.		any long-term trends	
GC6	Supporting Priorities:	Brief narrative	Narrative examples,	Narrative examples
	Proactively contribute to setting local and regional		any long-term trends	
	planning policy, including through the CJC structure and			
	through regional and national collaboration to implement			
	the policies in Future Wales (with particular reference to			
	Policy 9 and the requirement to secure resilient			
	ecological networks and green infrastructure).			

2025-26

WELSH GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: REPORTING TEMPLATE

National Park Authority:	
--------------------------	--

Refer to the separate guidance before completion.

PART A: Environment

Ref	Core Priorities	6-monthly evidence	Annual Evidence	Indicators (unit) (measurement)
EN1	Actively support WG commitment to achieving zero- carbon economy by working to become carbon neutral by 2030 through everyday work and a range of decarbonisation interventions	Highlights, projections and brief narrative	Data provided in September of following year + Narrative, any	Total Authority emissions (kgCO2e) (% -/+ on previous year) [Type here] [Type here] £ invested in community decarbonisation projects [Type here]
EN2	Proactively facilitate carbon sequestration by supporting woodland creation where appropriate, and	Highlights, projections and	long-term trends Data + Narrative, any	Total Woodland creation delivered (hectares) (% -/+ on previous year). Where possible provide breakdown on NPAs role e.g. delivered,
	peatland restoration at scale (e.g. through National Peatland Action Programme (NPAP))	brief narrative	long-term trends	funded, within NPA boundaries. [Type here] [Type here] Woodland restoration delivered (hectares) (% -/+ on previous year) [Type here] [Type here]
				Area of Peat present in Park (n.b. this is for context). [Type here]
				Peatland restoration delivered (hectares) (% -/+ on previous year) through NPAP or other work [Type here] [Type here]
				Length (meters) of hedgerow planted (% -/+ on previous year)[Type here] [Type here]
				Number of trees planted (Note: standard/in-field trees, excludes trees planted in hedgerow or woodland) (% -/+ on previous year)[Type here] [Type here]
				Area (hectares) of meadows planted (% -/+ on previous year) [Type here] [Type here]
EN3	Take action to improve the connectivity, condition, scale/extent and diversity of ecosystems, and maintain and enhance resilient ecological networks, embedding	Highlights, projections and brief narrative	Data + Narrative, any long-term trends	land managed for biodiversity in partnership with private landowners (hectares) (% -/+ on previous year) [Type here] [Type here]
	delivery in emerging national targets arising from the 30x30 commitment			land owned or leased by the Authority managed for biodiversity (hectares) (% -/+ on previous year) [Type here] [Type here]

EN4	Deliver the Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places Nature & Carbon Fund, and other WG schemes to deliver on nature and decarbonisation goals	Highlights, projections and brief narrative	Data + Narrative, any long-term trends	Financial investment in Nature & Carbon initiatives in total (% -/+ on previous year) [Type here] [Type here] SLSP outputs where relevant [Type here]
EN5	Supporting Priorities: Support shift away from private car use to more sustainable transport modes for majority of journeys amongst staff, visitors and service users	Brief narrative	Narrative examples, any long-term trends	Narrative examples [Type here]
EN6	Support PfG commitment to establish targeted scheme to support restoration of seagrass and saltmarsh habitats along coastline, help deliver ambitions of MPA Network Management Framework and contribute to emerging policy on blue carbon.			
EN7	Engage in Local Energy Planning to help bring about the transformation of the energy system needed to reach Net Zero, securing greater benefits for your communities			
EN8	Engaging positively in initiatives to promote reuse and repair, to grow the circular economy, and reduce the harm caused to the environment by single use plastics through discouraging their use wherever possible.			

PART B: People and Place

Ref	Core Priorities:	6-monthly evidence	Annual evidence	Possible Indicators (unit) (measurement)
PP1	Contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Farming Scheme and deliver the Ffermio Bro scheme	Highlights, projections and brief narrative	Data + Narrative, any long-term trends	Farm holdings supported (numbers) [Type here] Farmer groups supported (existing or new groups or collaborations) [Type here] Ecological benefits should be reported within EN3 Narrative examples [Type here]
PP2	Work with Housing Authorities, Community Land Trusts and private developers, to develop innovative solutions to acute housing issues and contribute to the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan	Brief narrative	Narrative examples, long-term trends	Narrative examples [Type here]

PP3	Working with partners such as Local Authorities and Transport for Wales, implement solutions to pressures of visitors on local infrastructure, including more sustainable transport systems, and communication campaigns to ensure responsible recreation.	Brief narrative	Narrative examples, long-term trends	Narrative examples [Type here]
PP4	Collaborate with key partners to deliver against Welsh Government priorities for tourism, culture and heritage.	Brief narrative	Narrative examples, long-term trends	% of scheduled ancient monuments in good condition (% -/+ on previous year) [Type here] [Type here] % of Rights of Way open (% -/+ on previous year) [Type here] [Type here] Km of Rights of way enhanced or created [Type here] Narrative examples including visitor numbers to cultural sites you operate, intangible heritage such as traditional skills, and work to combat heritage crime [Type here]
PP5	Develop policies that ensure the Welsh language can thrive, delivering against <i>Cymraeg 2050: Our plan for 2021 to 2026</i>		Narrative examples, long-term trends	Narrative examples [Type here]
PP6	Increase opportunities for people in vulnerable or disadvantaged groups and under-represented communities to benefit from the landscapes you manage	Highlights, projections and brief narrative	Data + Narrative, long- term trends	participants in NPA run/supported activities focused on inclusion, outreach and increasing access for underrepresented groups (number) (% -/+ on previous year) [Type here] [Type here] Projects to remove physical access barriers. [Type here] Narrative examples [Type here]
PP7	Increase provision of skills training, apprenticeship and volunteering opportunities.	Highlights, projections and brief narrative	Data + Narrative, long- term trends	Training opportunities provided (number) (% -/+ on previous year) [Type here] [Type here] Apprenticeships provided (number) (% -/+ on previous year) [Type here] [Type here] Volunteer hours provided (number) (% -/+ on previous year) [Type here] [Type here] Social Action hours contributed [Type here] Narrative examples [Type here]

PP8	Supporting Priorities:	Brief narrative	Narrative examples,	Narrative examples [Type here]
	Contribute, where appropriate, to the PfG commitment		long-term trends	
	to establish a Community Food Strategy to encourage			
	the production and supply of locally-sourced food			
PP9	Support the designation of inland bathing waters and			
	deployment of Sustainable Drainage Systems			
55.46				
PP10	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			
	Wales framework for social prescribing			

PART C: Governance and Collaboration

Ref	Core Priorities:	6-monthly evidence	Annual evidence	Possible Indicators (unit) (measurement)
GC1	Strive for excellence in governance including the sharing of best practice and training between NPAs and other bodies	Brief narrative	Narrative examples, any long-term trends	Narrative examples [Type here]
GC2	Embed diversity and diverse viewpoints within your governance structures and decision-making processes	Brief narrative	Narrative examples, any long-term trends	Narrative examples [Type here]
GC3	Support Tirweddau Cymru to develop its ambition, embed collaboration at all levels within NPAs and NLs, and proactively develop and deliver new collaborative working opportunities	Brief narrative	Narrative examples, any long-term trends	Narrative examples [Type here]
GC4	Embed the resources created during the NPA Governance Assistance programme, including the Members' Governance Handbook, training Provision and toolkits, in Member induction and development arrangements	Data on Governance training, Brief narrative	Data on engagement with Governance training, Narrative examples, long-term trends	% of members who have attended all four Governance online training sessions or watched the recordings [Type here] Narrative examples [Type here]
GC5	Share experience and best practice as designation for a new National Park progresses.	Brief narrative	Narrative examples, any long-term trends	Narrative examples [Type here]
GC6	Supporting Priorities: Proactively contribute to setting local and regional planning policy, including through the CJC structure and through regional and national collaboration to implement the policies in Future Wales (with particular reference to Policy 9 and the requirement to secure resilient ecological networks and green infrastructure).	Brief narrative	Narrative examples, any long-term trends	Narrative examples [Type here]