

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**

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**SUBJECT:**  
**STRATEGIC GRANT LETTER - PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE 2nd**  
**QUARTER OF THE YEAR 2011/12**

Introduction

This report considers performance against the actions specified in the Strategic Grant Letter for the period up to 30 September 2011.

<b>Priority Objectives 2011/12</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>Governance:</b>		
To operate effectively and efficiently and to report on the value of permanent savings and efficiencies secured.	AH	Cost savings of over £26,000 this year to date. Staff cost savings projected to be approximately £92,000 in this financial year and £132,000 next year
<b>Natural beauty:</b>		
Become exemplars on how to integrate biodiversity mitigation, compensation and enhancement into new developments through the planning system, and demonstrate how you are supporting others to effectively use the planning system to safeguard biodiversity.	JG	Advice obtained from West Wales Biodiversity Recording Centre on key sites. Approximately 30% of approved planning applications now have conditions related to biodiversity and landscape S106 agreement being negotiated with LNG for nature conservation.
To report on priorities and activities to promote and safeguard the cultural heritage of the Parks.	JG	Archaeology Day at Pembrokeshire College, and public demonstrations at Nevern Castle and Angle. Historic buildings grants fully allocated for 8 properties. Activities. Buildings at risk register review underway. Delegation of listed building consents being considered by Cadw Artist in residence space fully

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		booked for next 12 months at Oriol y Parc. Percentage of visitors going into the Gallery is increasing gradually at 22% (19% last year).
To develop a robust approach to monitoring the state of the Park.	MR	Included in review of NPMP due by Dec 2011
<b>Enjoyment and understanding:</b>		
Demonstrate that recreation planning and delivery in National Parks supports outdoor recreation opportunities in ways which promote enjoyment of the Parks' special qualities, protect the environment, and deliver an economic benefit.	CM	Recreation Strategy approved by NPA, and parts being incorporated in Supplementary Planning Guidance. Authority successfully involved in event liaison on Ironman and RedBull major events. Lottery Bid submitted for follow up Go4IT scheme. Investigating selective promotion to avoid tourism pressure points National Trail recently included in top ten world best trails. British Horse Society award for Pantmaenog multi user path.
To utilise the special qualities of the Parks in contributing to life-long learning, and in particular to support opportunities for schools within the Parks to access learning opportunities outside the classroom.	EJ	Increased demand for schools programme. 3 Discovery Rangers delivering outdoor opportunities for children and difficult to reach groups. All events at Oriol y Parc, Carew & Castell Henllys outside classroom.
To collaborate with each other and local partners to develop indicators of the impact of tourism and to raise awareness of the special qualities of National Parks with visitors and the tourism sector.	CM	Some initial discussions with Pembrokeshire Tourism & PCC. New joint annual survey agreed. Some indicators being developed by BBNP although not many relevant to this area.
<b>Sustainable communities:</b>		
To demonstrate how plans and programmes contribute to supporting the <b>social and economic well-being</b> of the Park's local communities.	RG	Review of plans scheduled for 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter
To make provision to enable <b>affordable housing</b> , and to collaborate with the local housing authority/ies on delivery of affordable housing targets.	MD	Local Development Plan policies and Supplementary Planning Guidance in place. Development payment introduced 1 <sup>st</sup> October.  12 permissions granted (Gate

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		House complex). 4 applications pending (3 at Blockett Farm and 1 in Trevine) plus commuted sums at each of these.
Provide for meaningful <b>participation</b> by children and young people, and other protected groups, in the activities of the Park Authorities.	EJ	Consultation project on Corporate Strategy with Preseli School 'A' level class. Visit to Authority by school groups. Rangers have attended careers events at secondary schools. 17 students spent a total of 84 days on work experience with the Authority during the 2010/11 academic year.
<b>Climate change:</b>		
To collaborate with each other, neighbouring authorities and regional and local partnerships to meet national targets on carbon reduction.	PR	Working with National Trust and Carbon Trust to develop improve efficiency of the NPA buildings. Supplementary planning Guidance has resulted in conditions for carbon reduction measures on household improvement applications Joint procurement with PCC for green electricity.
Share resources and skills to explore the feasibility of developing renewable energy projects on National Park Authority land in Wales, with a view to coordinating investment across the three National Park Authorities.	AH	Initial exchange of ideas underway. Meeting scheduled for later this month.
Demonstrate that the Park Authority is working to identify the risks posed by climate change and is informing the action being taken to adapt and mitigate through land management.	MR	Biodiversity connectivity map completed to provide the basis for future land management projects. Possible projects being scoped for consideration in budget round.
To continue to deliver, support, and champion <b>sustainable transport</b> provision within and around the Parks for the benefit of visitors and local communities.	SM	PCNPA budget maintained for Greenways transport schemes, with initial figures showing an increase in passenger numbers in 2011. Improved cycle ways and multi-user paths being developed with PCC.
<b>Planning:</b>		
As a key statutory strategic framework for delivering priorities, each Park to have an adopted Local Development	MD	Completed, monitoring commencing this year.

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Plan in place in line with each Authority's agreed Delivery Agreement timetable, and once adopted to monitor and report on progress in implementing plan policies.		
To demonstrate that each Park is building on improvements in performance made in development management since the Wales Audit Office Parks Review of 2009; in particular to determine planning applications to agreed timetables, reduce the backlog of planning applications, and take action as necessary on the number of planning cases where enforcement action is undertaken.	VH	Staff recruitment completed. Consultants used to help cover temporary staff shortage and long term sickness absence. Performance has reduced during period of staff retirements. Backlog of applications now 35, 65% apps determined in 8 weeks to date 85% enforcement cases closed within 12 weeks so far this year. Improved planning information available on website being tested.
Explore, pursue, and report on opportunities for joint working between the Parks and with neighbouring planning authorities, where this enables improvements in the delivery of the planning service.	TJ	Joint training and joint preparation of SPG; discussions underway on building control, sharing expertise and Member training etc with PCC.

*(For further information contact Alan Hare – Head of Business Management on ext 4810)*