

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT:

PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE 4th QUARTER OF THE YEAR 2011/12

Introduction

This performance report presents the progress during the quarter for the key actions and success measures set out in the Corporate Strategy. In many cases there has been limited change from last quarter.

Outcome 1

The actions outlined in the strategy for this outcome and the progress to date is as follows.

Action	Progress
a. Manage our own sites and encourage others to manage for conservation benefit	The newly-formed Direction Team continues to maintain existing relationships with land managers and conservation partners, and to attract new sites into nature conservation management. The Direction Team has passed operational site conservation and stock management to the Delivery Team.
b. Assist landowners and farmers to engage in agri-environment schemes, both national and local;	See action a above
c. Develop biodiversity corridors;	See action a above
d. Implement LDP policies;	The Authority adopted the Local Development Plan in September 2010. The Plan became operative on that date. The NPA and South Hook LNG Terminal Co Ltd are in the process of specifying fencing in order to restore grazing for conservation to South Hook S106 area.
e. Prioritise planning enforcement actions;	The backlog of enforcement cases continues to reduced, with 92 cases outstanding for more than 12 weeks, (down from 96 reported last quarter) with 50 of these originating before April

Action	Progress
	<p>2011(from 59 last quarter).</p> <p>220 new enforcement cases have been recorded this financial year, with 146 of these already closed in an average of just 50 days with 85% closed within 12 weeks. There are a total of 124 cases currently under investigation.</p>

Success Measure	Progress
<p>a. Trends in 'key species' populations are increasing over time;</p>	<p>NPA continues to contribute to monitoring (time-series) and surveillance effort. Work carried out or commissioned by the NPA in 2011-12 includes monitoring of NPA-managed sites and species monitoring (Chough, Peregrine, Shelduck, Kestrel* and Skylark, bat species and grassland fungi species). Elements of these have contributed to academic and nationally-coordinated research.</p> <p>Surveys during 2011 indicated declines in populations of skylark, chough and shelduck, probably due to poor weather conditions during the winter and early spring.</p> <p>*Research on kestrel breeding success and dispersal was financed by the South Hook LNG Terminal Co Ltd's Community Investment Programme.</p>
<p>b. The area of land managed for conservation in partnership with NPA increases by 5% by March 2013 (currently 2,000 hectares on 170 sites);</p>	<p>An additional 67 ha were brought into management through NPA initiatives and a further 207 ha through Coed Cymru.</p>
<p>c. At least 33% of housing development and 45% of employment allocation permitted is on previously developed land;</p>	<p>Year to date totals are 12 applications for 101 dwellings, with 82 (81%) on previously developed land and 67 commercial applications with 40 (60%) on previously developed land.</p>
<p>d. Only greenfield and open space which is allocated for development in the LDP is lost to development each year;</p>	<p>All development proposals on sites not allocated for development were justified as they required a countryside location such as agricultural sheds or were on greenfield land within the Centre boundary below the threshold for allocation (5 residential units).</p>
<p>e. The percentage of listed buildings at</p>	<p>Works completed on buildings at risk</p>

Success Measure	Progress
risk remains below 7% (currently 6.9) and less than 33% of Scheduled Ancient Monuments are in a worsening condition (36% currently).	this year has reduced at risk category to 4% (51 buildings). Survey of SAMs are undertaken by Cadw and are not yet available.

Outcome 3

Actions	Progress
Promotion of walking & cycling and public transport;	<p>The Wales Coast Path was officially opened on 5th May 2012. Most stretches have now been completed and work is underway to create a website, organise launch events and create a public profile (PCNPA is overseeing these marketing elements). The WCP is attracting a considerable level of press attention and the Pembrokeshire section is being regularly highlighted as one of the gems. The media pack behind this promotional activity does focus on walking but also highlights other activities located on and around the coast path so as to appeal to as wide an audience as possible. It is felt that the path will automatically appeal to walkers and that our promotional activity would be better spent on building a relationship between this fantastic recreational opportunity and an audience who wouldn't necessarily class themselves as 'walkers'.</p> <p>The NPA contributes to the Bikemobility project, based in Haverfordwest. The project provides specially-adapted bikes for disabled people, including wheelchair users, of all ages.</p>
Maintain our investment in Greenways & Coastal Buses schemes	As reported in the previous quarter, the NPA has made an £80,000 contribution 2011/12 to bus service provision and promotion and to Greenways Officer post.

Use all available Sustainable Development Fund;	<p>£121,274 of SDF funding was uncommitted for 2011-12, at the end of the year.</p> <p>A number of projects were cancelled or revised following changes to the FITS and RHI funding mechanisms.</p> <p>7 applications worth £122,655 in total were approved by the SDF Panel in February. This leaves approximately £133,733 available for new projects this year.</p>
<p>Deliver WG SD Charter commitments 2011-12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement action coming out environmental audits and independent site assessments • consider NPA buildings for further RE installations 	<p>Llanion HQ Replacement Biomass Boiler installation commences on 1st June</p> <p>Llanion HQ Windows: Phase 1 Secondary Glazing completed Dec 2011. Replacing windows in reception office in progress.</p>
Publish planning guidance for renewable energy proposals and sustainable design	<p>Sustainable design SPG adopted.</p> <p>Consultation on addendum on photovoltaic arrays completed – report to NPA being prepared.</p>
Prepare Sustainability Action Plan	This action has been withdrawn as sustainability actions are picked up through the Corporate Plan itself.
Explore the feasibility of developing renewable energy projects in NPA land	Photovoltaic panels - PCNPA land/buildings appraisal - feasibility report completed. Report to CMT being prepared.

Success Measure	Progress
a) Planning approvals include sustainable design proposals (from 2012)	Review of permissions granted since the Code for Sustainable Homes requirements were put in place (1st September 2009) shows that all permissions granted by the NPA complied with the Planning Policy Wales requirements (the Annual Monitoring Report for the LDP was published in October 2011).
b) There is an increasing trend in the number of people walking and cycling regularly (CCW Recreation survey)	CCW recreation resurvey and PCC visitor resurvey are due to report in 2012.
c) The number of people using coastal buses, park and ride and similar schemes increases each	Individual figures for coastal buses not available this year. Total to date is 77,400 compared to 82,395 for 2010/11 full year. Although there will be a small increase from the limited winter

Success Measure	Progress
year (37,600 in 2010);	service it is unlikely to exceed last year's total, although still an increase from 2008/10 figure of 59,010.
d) The amount of power generated by renewable energy schemes in the Park increases each year.	<p>As previously reported, this is problematic to monitor as small-scale schemes are permitted development, and applicants do not currently need to provide information on the renewable energy capacity associated with their planning application.</p> <p>The LDP Annual Monitoring Report will set out the estimated contributions from the various sources of renewable electricity and heat that we have been able to log through planning permissions granted. Since 2006 there have been an estimated 10 refusals of permission (most predating adoption of the LDP) and 94 approvals for various types of renewable energy (i.e. 90% approval rate).</p> <p>The policy context aims to provide a supportive framework for renewable energy generation, subject to environmental or amenity issues. Even without counting generating capacity which is installed as permitted development, the LDP is ahead of target on approved renewable energy schemes. It is behind target on heat generation, but this is due mainly to the exclusion of biomass from the figures (biomass generally enjoys permitted development rights).</p>
e) Our energy consumption is reduced by at least 3% per annum	Llanion building has retained the Band C energy consumption rating for 2011/12, with 10% reduction in electricity use in Llanion and a 12% reduction overall compared to 2010/11.
f) The Sustainable Development Fund grant supports at least one renewable energy project each year	<p>Recent changes to the FITS scheme have resulted in changes to two of the renewable energy projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People's Power Station (Environment Centre Wales) • Wild Fuels (Wildlife Trust South and West Wales) <p>Unfortunately the lack of match funding has meant the Prototype 3 Floating Wind Turbine Platform (Far-Offshore Renewables) will not proceed.</p>

Outcome 4

Action	Progress
a) Approve supplementary planning guidance to promote affordable housing	Adopted March 2011
b) Use Section 106 agreements and planning conditions to ensure delivery;	Ongoing. Affordable housing contribution commenced 1 st October 2011.
c) Contact owners of land allocated in the Local Development Plan to monitor progress	Land ownership search completed.
d) Review outstanding permissions with housing associations and consider how to activate	Meetings with Cantref Housing Association and Pembrokeshire Housing Association in February. Future meetings programmed 6 monthly.
e) Investigate selling surplus NPA land that is suitable for affordable housing development.	Sageston planning application submitted to PCC.

Note: At a previous meeting Members requested an update on the Local Development Plan Monitoring Report and on approval of planning permissions contrary to policy.

This information was contained in the Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2011 which Members considered at the October 2011 National Park Authority meeting. The Report has been submitted to the Welsh Government and the Authority has left it available for comment until the 1st June 2012. The next Report is due in October 2012. Development planning officers will start preparation on the next report in the Summer of 2012 and report to Members before the end of October 2012. In the meantime performance is reported through the various Review Committees.

Success Measure	Progress
a) Planning permission is granted for at least 50 affordable homes each year	19 permissions granted this year, (12 at Gate House complex, 3 at Blockett Farm, 3 in Nolton, and 1 in Trevine). Discussions underway on other sites including the Cambrian Hotel, Saundersfoot for a further possible 6.
b) The percentage of affordable housing approved is delivered in line with the Local Development Plan target.	An estimated 112 dwellings need to have been completed or be under construction by March 2011. The latest figures available show 33 were completed with 4 uncompleted. 36 had permission at 31 December 2011. Affordable housing delivery is behind target but must be seen in the context of

Success Measure	Progress
	<p>slowed completion rate due to the downturn in the economy along with reduced public funding for affordable housing delivery by Registered Social Landlords.</p> <p>When compared with other Local Authorities in Wales the National Park falls in the middle part of the list in terms of the proportion of new housing completed that is affordable (data from StatsWales - 'New Dwellings Completed') and the amount of new affordable housing per head of population (StatsWales - 'Additional affordable housing provision')</p>

Outcome 5

Success Measure	Progress
a) % planning applications for commercial activities approved	Figures for the final quarter not yet analysed, but previous approval rates were in excess of 80%.

Outcome 8

Success Measure	Progress
a) Planning – improve pre-app response times	The Authority aims to reply to pre-application enquiries within 30 working days. During the year 68% of the pre-apps fully recorded within the new system are being replied to in this timeframe (73% reported last quarter). However, due to staff shortages, not all records have been updated.
b) Develop methodology to measure quality and added value in planning service	The Planning Officer's Society Wales (POSW) has been considering methodologies for measuring qualitative data rather than just quantitative, and Bridgend CC has started producing a framework for this. Welsh Government now reviewing planning and possible new measures.

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