

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT:

PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE FIRST 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.

Corporate Strategy

The new Corporate Strategy sets out the eight corporate outcomes for 2011/12 as follows

Corporate Outcome	Lead Officer
1 - The National Park is conserved for current and future generations	JG
2 - Residents and visitors enjoy and appreciate the National Park	JP
3 - Residents and visitors use opportunities provided to adopt more sustainable lifestyles	MR
4 - Opportunities are provided for local people to live within the National Park	MD
5 - A thriving local economy exists based on the sustainable use of the National Park.	RG
6 - Residents and Visitors from a wide range of backgrounds access opportunities for improved understanding about the National Park.	EJ
7 - Residents and visitors recognise the distinct Pembrokeshire cultures within the National Park	TJ
8 - The Authority is recognised as meeting good practice standards in terms of governance, providing value for money and listening to the views of residents, visitors and partners	AH

This committee will obviously concentrate on outcomes 1 and 4. Outcomes 3, 5 and 8 are also relevant.

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 NPA continues to be active on some 220 sites covering 2,500 hectares. These include NPA-owned sites (including around 300ha woodland), management agreement sites (30 agreements covering around 415ha), Woodland Grant Scheme/Better Woodlands for Wales sites (426ha/160 sites within Pembrokeshire), and Pembrokeshire Grazing Network sites.
b. Assist landowners and farmers to engage in agri-environment schemes, both national and local;	The Conserving the Park project provides advice and practical assistance which complements the current national agri-environment scheme Tir Gofal. The project can also encourage and enable land managers to apply for Tir Gofal; since 2000, more than a dozen NPA management agreement holders have transferred into Tir Gofal.
c. Develop biodiversity corridors;	A protected sites GIS layer commissioned from the West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre in 2010 will be instrumental to getting the most from the corporate target to increase land managed for conservation by 5% (Measure (b.) below), and to foster habitat connectivity. Scope also to contribute to Park purposes and connectivity by extending elements of Conserving the Park outside the Park area.
d. Implement LDP policies;	The Authority adopted the Local Development in September 2010. The Plan became operative on that date. Ongoing discussions with South Hook LNG Terminal Co Ltd to install the necessary infrastructure etc in order to restore grazing for conservation to South Hook S106 area.
e. Prioritise planning enforcement actions;	<p>The Authority has adopted an Enforcement and Compliance Policy which sets the framework for dealing with enforcement matters and aims to deal with the initial complaint within 12 weeks of receipt.</p> <p>A new Principal Planning Officer has also been appointed with responsibility for enforcement to assist this process.</p>

	<p>The implementation of the SWIFT computer system has enabled streamlining of the administrative processes for enforcement to be carried out and which is work in progress.</p> <p>The backlog of enforcement cases has been significantly reduced, with 107 cases outstanding for more than 12 weeks, 78 of these originating before April 2011.</p> <p>So far this year 54% of enforcement cases have been closed within 12 weeks.</p> <p>108 new enforcement cases have been recorded this financial year, with 41 of these already closed in an average of just 26 days. There are 145 cases currently under investigation.</p> <p>It is intended to bring a full report on these matters to members before the end of the year, including a report on further delegation for dealing with enforcement.</p>
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Success Measure	Progress
a. Trends in 'key species' populations are increasing over time;	Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership's <i>State of Wildlife in Pembrokeshire 2011</i> celebrates conservation successes but records declines some of PCNP's signature habitats and species, e.g. traditional grassland and farmland birds, and also of once-common species, e.g. starling. Report lists threats to conservation status, many of which are common across the habitats and species featured in the report.
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);	The target equates to approx 100 hectares over the next 18 months. Meeting October 2011 to decide tactics.
c. At least 33% of housing development and 45% of employment allocation permitted is on previously developed	Between 1 April 2011 and 30 June 2011 4 applications for housing development were approved (each for 1 house), 2 on

land;	PDL (50%). For employment type uses 12 applications were approved, 8 on PDL (67%). ¹
d. Only greenfield and open space which is allocated for development in the LDP is lost to development each year;	Between 1/4/11 and 30/6/11 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).
e. The percentage of listed buildings at risk remains below 7% (currently 6.9) and less than 33% of Scheduled Ancient Monuments are in a worsening condition (36% currently).	Quinquennial survey with 20% of buildings survey annually. Not completed yet.

Outcome 3

Actions	Progress
Promotion of walking & cycling and public transport;	Promotion of, and British Horse Society Award for, trails at Castlemartin and Pantmaenog. Coast Path awarded 3 rd best trail in world by online travel company. See also transport comment below.
Maintain our investment in Greenways & Coastal Buses schemes	£80,000 contribution 2011/12 to bus service provision and promotion and to Greenways Officer post.
Use all available Sustainable Development Fund;	£11,000 re-available due to some underspend; possibility that this will increase before the end of the year.

¹ These figures are reported in terms of numbers of applications (or houses) as the 'red line' identifying the development area of proposals is drawn inconsistently by applicants. For the reuse of farm buildings it is assumed that the buildings are redundant and are therefore included in the previously developed land definition.

<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 biomass boiler replacement: feasibility approved; spec/tender in preparation for Q4 2011. We will apply for Renewable Heat Incentive (tariff support) which if successful could recoup 65K in 6 years.</p> <p>SMT approval to fit secondary glazing to rear of HQ to improve thermal performance and heat retention.</p>
<p>Publish planning guidance for renewable energy proposals and sustainable design</p>	<p>Sustainable design SPG adopted.</p> <p>Renewable Energy - Draft published 2011. Closing date 15th July 2011. Anticipate adoption October 2011. Addendum on photovoltaic arrays proposed for consultation October 2011.</p>
<p>Prepare Sustainability Action Plan</p>	<p>Only limited preparation to date</p>
<p>Explore the feasibility of developing renewable energy projects in NPA land</p>	<p>Feasibility studies for Cilrhedyn and Llanion; other sites are being considered.</p>

Success Measure	Progress
<p>a) Planning approvals include sustainable design proposals (from 2012)</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>b) There is a an increasing trend in the number of people walking and cycling regularly (CCW Recreation survey)</p>	<p>6% annual increase in number of walkers recorded at fixed-point counters. CCW recreation resurvey and PCC visitor resurvey are both scheduled for 2011/12, reporting in 2012.</p>
<p>c) The number of people using coastal buses, park and ride and similar schemes increases each year (37,600 in 2010);</p>	<p>Usage totals not due until the end of the season (after September 2011).</p>
<p>d) The amount of power generated by renewable</p>	<p>Problematic to monitor as small-scale schemes are permitted development, and applicants do</p>

<p>energy schemes in the Park increases each year.</p>	<p>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), coupled with the substantial contribution that biomass is expected to make.</p>
<p>e) Our energy consumption is reduced by at least 3% per annum</p>	<p>5.8% decrease in electricity usage (excludes Oriel y Parc). Oriel y Parc consumption has increased due to equipment management problems, currently being addressed.</p>
<p>f) The Sustainable Development Fund grant supports at least one renewable energy project each year</p>	<p>3 current renewable energy projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People's Power Station (Environment Centre Wales) • Prototype 3 Floating Wind Turbine Platform (Far-Offshore Renewables) • Wild Fuels (Wildlife Trust South and West Wales)

Outcome 4

Action	Progress
<p>a) Approve supplementary planning guidance to promote affordable housing</p>	<p>Adopted March 2011</p>
<p>b) Use Section 106 agreements and planning conditions to ensure delivery;</p>	<p>Ongoing. Affordable housing contribution to commence 1st October 2011.</p>

c) Contact owners of land allocated in the Local Development Plan to monitor progress	Land ownership search underway. Expect mail out by end of September 2011.
d) Review outstanding permissions with housing associations and consider how to activate	Cantref Housing Association meeting completed. Pembrokeshire Housing Association meeting programmed for early September 2011.
e) Investigate selling surplus NPA land that is suitable for affordable housing development.	Programmed for after October 2011.

Success Measure	Progress
a) Planning permission is granted for at least 50 affordable homes each year	In the quarter April to June 2011 0 affordable homes were approved. See comment below.
b) The percentage of affordable housing approved is delivered in line with the Local Development Plan target.	<p>An estimated 112 dwellings need to have been completed or be under construction by March 2011 whereas 33 were completed with 4 u/c and 24 with permission.</p> <p>Affordable housing delivery is behind target but must be seen in the context of slowed completion rate due to the downturn in the economy along with reduced public funding for affordable housing delivery by Registered Social Landlords.</p>

Outcome 5

Success Measure	Progress
a) % planning applications for commercial activities approved	Between 1 April 2011 and 30 June 2011: 58 commercial applications were determined with 47 approved - 81% - in line with overall approval rate.

Outcome 8

Success Measure	Progress
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Success Measure	Progress
a) Planning – improve pre-app response times	<p>The Authority aims to reply to pre-application enquiries within 30 working days. At present 81% of the pre-apps fully recorded within the new system are being replied to in this timeframe.</p> <p>The last year has seen a significant number of staff changes within the DM team which has put pressure on the response time. It is intended to try and reduce the number of more straight forward pre-app enquiries by providing more information on the web-site and in the form of loose leaf flyers that can be sent out. The Development Plans team are also assisting in dealing with pre-application enquiries.</p> <p>Since August 2011 the DM team has a fully operational team of professional planning/enforcement officers and the response time should now be able to be improved.</p>
b) Develop methodology to measure quality and added value in planning service	<p>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. This would be put to the Welsh Government by POSW to add to its work on developing indicators in relation to sustainable development. VH has been tasked with providing some indicators for this methodology with regard to added value in decision making and this work is in progress.</p>

Ffynnon

Over 20 staff have had introductory training on the Ffynnon system with a number starting to use the system to record data. A presentation of Ffynnon will be made at the meeting.

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