

CONSERVATION AND PLANNING REVIEW COMMITTEE

19th June, 2013

Present: Mr D Ellis (Chairman)
Councillor JA Brinsden, Ms C Gwyther, Councillor B Kilmister, Councillor
Mrs A Lee, Councillor PJ Morgan

(NPA Offices, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock: 1.00pm – 2.10pm)

1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th February, 2013 were presented for confirmation and signature.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th February, 2013 be confirmed and signed.

3. Matters arising

None

4. Performance Report for the Year Ending 31st March, 2013

The report of the Business and Performance Manager presented progress during the year for the key actions and success measures set out in the Corporate Strategy Outcomes 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 that were relevant to the Committee. The report also listed actions which measured progress in achievement of the outcomes and this was illustrated by their 'RAG' status, which was Red, Amber or Green depending on progress made.

With regard to Outcome 4c Members enquired on the latest position with regard to Affordable Housing. The Business & Performance Manager advised Members that the Scrutiny Committee had now completed its report on Affordable Housing and that this would be reported to a future National Park Authority meeting.

With regard to Outcome 1d Members enquired as to why the mapping of invasive species was only 70% complete and what would be done with the information once it had been mapped. The Head of Park Direction and Planning advised that Officers were currently working on which species required mapping however it had not yet been decided how the information would be distributed once mapping was complete.

Members congratulated the Business and Performance Manager on the number of areas where good progress had been made.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report be **NOTED**.

5. Performance Report for the Period Ending 31st May 2013

The report of the Business and Performance Manager presented performance to date for the Park Direction Team in accordance with the new Corporate



Strategy for 2013/14 which had been amended to reduce the number of outcomes from 8 to 4. Each of the actions reported on were shown as red, amber or green depending on the level of progress made.

The Business and Performance Manager advised Members that at such an early stage of the financial year most actions would be in the early stages and some may not have commenced.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report be **RECEIVED**.

6. Conservation Area Grants

The Building Conservation Officer reported to Members that all grant allocations for 2012-13 had been completed. All properties had now been inspected and approved by Cadw.

With regard to the 2013-14 allocation Members were advised that since the report was written Cadw had confirmed its contribution to the scheme. Allocations would be made in accordance with existing protocol which had been reviewed by the National Park Authority in December 2012 however the grant criteria had been changed and grants were now likely to be 25% rather than 40%.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule and progress be **NOTED**.

7. Ash Dieback Update

The Woodland Officer reported to Members with an update on Chalara Fraxinea or Ash Dieback in Wales which was a serious fungal disease which affected ash trees. The disease caused leaf loss and crown dieback and usually lead to tree death. She advised Members that a survey in the autumn of 2012 found that Ash Dieback was present at 19 new planting sites in Wales.

Members were advised that there were 17,600 hectares of ash in Wales which actually represented 14% per cent of the broadleaved woodland rather than 6% as stated in the report.

Members enquired as to what advice was given to individual landowners if Ash Dieback became apparent on their properties and the Woodland Officer explained that all cases should be reported to Natural Resources Wales who would provide a Plant Health Notice where a tree was to be felled. An important point for landowners to remember was that a dying tree would shed its branches leading to a significant health and safety risk.

Members were informed that a link would be inserted on the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Website which would link to the relevant pages on the Natural Resources Wales website. The Park's Tree Officer was also running a scheme of tree wardens who acted as the eyes and ears on the ground however so far only two sites in Pembrokeshire had been found to have the disease.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Report be **NOTED**.

