

REPORT OF BUSINESS & PERFORMANCE MANAGER

SUBJECT: STRATEGIC GRANT LETTER 2013/14

Purpose of Report

This Report is to ask Members to receive the strategic grant letter for the current year.

Introduction/Background

In conjunction with the annual National Park Grant from Welsh Government, the Authority also receives a Strategic Grant Letter which sets out their desired priorities and outcomes.

With a new policy statement expected to be confirmed later this year, the grant letter is less specific than usual, but gives guidance as to the priority areas expected of the National Park Authorities. These include

- Be exemplars of sustainable development, thriving ecosystems, and recreation opportunities
- Increased partnership working
- Working to reduce the impact of poverty
- Increasing access opportunities
- Contributing to the development and implementation of ecosystems
- Effective planning service

A copy of the Strategic Grant Letter is attached.

Financial considerations

Within approved budget

Risk considerations

None

Compliance

None

Human Rights/Equality issues

None

Biodiversity implications/Sustainability appraisal

None

Welsh Language statement

No additional implications.

Recommendation

Members RECEIVE the Strategic Grant Letter for 2013/14.

Background Documents

None

(For further information, please contact Alan Hare)

Author: Alan Hare



Eich cyf/Your ref

Ffin cyf/Our ref

I : Cadeiryddion

Awdurdodau'r tri Pharc

Cenedlaethol

10 Mai 2013

Annwyl

pawb

Dosbarthiad Grant Strategol 2013-14

Mae fy swyddogion eisoes wedi rhoi gwybod i chi am yr adnoddau sy'n cael eu neilltuo gan Lywodraeth Cymru i gefnogi'ch gwaith chi yn 2013 – 2014. Mae yna copi yn ynghlwm yn Atodiad 1. Diben y llythyr hwn yw tynnu sylw at y meysydd y mae Gweinidogion Cymru yn credu y dylech eu targedu fel blaenoriaeth yn ystod y flwyddyn hon.

Dwy'n credu dylai'r Parciau Cenedlaethol fod yn enghreifftiol o ddatblygu cynaliadwy; tirluniau gweithiol a byw gyda economi gwledig dirgrynol, ecosystemau a bioamrywiaeth ffyniannus, ac adnoddau adloniant eang. Fel Awdurdodau Parciau Cenedlaethol rwy'n disgwyl iddi'ch arddangos arweinyddiaeth drwy gyflawni math amodau, a chymryd camau hyderus pan mae'n dod i reoli newid tirwedd gadarnhaol er budd pobol a'r amgylchedd.

Bydd y Datganiad Polisi ar gyfer Tirweddau Gwarchoddedig newydd yn traethu llun clir tros ddyfodol dirwedd ddynodedig yng Nghymru wrth roi datblygu cynaliadwy wrth galon dehongliad cyfoes o bwrpasau a dibenion y dynodiadau yma. Rwy'n falch bod awdurdodau'r parciau hyn wedi dangos brwdfrydedd i fod yn rhan o'r broses o ddatblygu'r Datganiad Polisi a'r amcanion cysylltiedig, a fydd yna gyfle bellach i chi ac unrhyw un a diddordeb i gyfrannu cyn caiff ei gyhoeddi yn hwyrach yn y flwyddyn.

Yn ddiweddar sefydlwyd u Comisiwn ar Lywodraethu a Darparu Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus i ystyried effeithiolrwydd gwasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru a siwt gallant ei gwella. Fe fydd yn asesu sut mae'r trefniadau cyfredol pob gwasanaeth datganoledig yn cyflawni anghenion Cymru nawr ac yn y dyfodol a chynnig model o drefn lywodraethol wasanaeth cyhoeddus a thraddodi i Gymru. Fe fyd hefyd yn cysylltu yn eang ac yn ystyried cydarwaith gyda gwasanaethau ni ddatganolwyd. Bydd gwaith y Comisiwn yn ddefnyddiol drwy roi cydestun ehangach i'r adolygiad, ac felly y bwriad yw aros am yr adroddiad yma cyn rhychwantu'r adolygiad o Awdurdodau Parciau Cenedlaethol.

Mewn amser bydd y datganiad polisi yn cael ei fewnosod tu fewn i arweiniant a dull Cynlluniau Rheoli'r Parciau Cenedlaethol. Yn y cyfamser dwy'n disgwyl i chi ddilyn y blaenoriaethau a gytunwyd yn y cynlluniau yna, tra ystyried y llun a chanlyniadau ei fydd yn cynnwys a'r blaenoriaethau penodol a gaiff ei thraethu isod.

Mae'n hynod bwysig, yn yr hinsawdd ariannol anodd sydd ohoni, fod sefydliadau gwahanol yn cydweithio i wneud y mwyaf o'u sgiliau, adnoddau ac arbenigeddau ac i ddatblygu syniadau arloesol. Hoffwn weld lefel newydd o weithio mewn partneriaeth dros y flwyddyn sydd i ddod; nid yn unig rhwng Awdurdod Parciau Cenedlaethol ond hefyd trwy gefnogi'r gwaith integredig ar lefel lleol, rhanbarthol a chenedlaethol i fynd i'r afael â materion gwaelodol fel trechu tlodi a chynyddu cynaliadwyedd. Rwy'n disgwyl i'r Awdurdodau gydweithio mewn ffordd adeiladol gyda'u hawdurdodau lleol ar faterion fel datblygu economaidd, tai, trafnidiaeth, treftadaeth ddiwylliannol ac addysg.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn rhoi pwyslais mawr ar fynd i'r afael â thlodi. Mai yna cyswllt uniongyrchol rhwng ymrwymiad cenedlaethol i gynaliadwyedd, lliniaru tlodi, ymdrin ag achos anghydraddoldeb, cefnogi cymdeithas sifil a phwrpas ac uchelgais y parciau cenedlaethol. Rwy'n awyddus i weld Awdurdodau'r Parciau yn gweithio gyda phartneriaid yn lleihau'r bwlch rhwng teuluoedd sy'n byw ar incwm isel a'r teuluoedd sy'n fwy cefnog o ran iechyd, sgiliau addysg a chanlyniadau economaidd. Mae Awdurdodau'r Parciau eisoes yn weithgar iawn yn hybu cynhwysiant cymdeithasol ond nid da lle gellir gwella a gellir gwneud mwy i annog cymunedau i gyfrannu at brosiectau amgylcheddol mewn ardaloedd o amddifadedd. Drwy wneud hyn, byddwch yn cyfrannu at yr agenda o fynd i'r afael â thlodi yng Nghymru.

Gwella hawliau tramwy cyhoeddus a chynyddu hawliau mynediad, yn enwedig i blant a theuluoedd yw un o brif ymrwymadau Llywodraeth Cymru yn ystod y Cynulliad hwn. Rwy'n disgwyl i Awdurdodau'r Parciau barhau i weithio â'r awdurdodau lleol i ddod o hyd i ffyrdd i wella mynediad at y Parc Cenedlaethol i bob sector yn y gymdeithas a meithrin cysylltiadau â sefydliadau y tu allan i'r Parciau er mwyn cyflawni'r amcan hwn. Hefyd rwy'n awyddus i weld Awdurdodau'r Parciau'n cymryd rhan gadarnhaol yn ein gwaith o ddatblygu mynediad a darparu manau gwyrdd yn unol â darpariaethau Bil yr Amgylchedd.

Mae llawer o gyfoeth ac amrywiaeth treftadaeth ddiwylliannol Cymru i'w gael o fewn ein Parciau Cenedlaethol. Mae gennych chi ran bwysig i'w chwarae wrth warchod yr adnodd hwn a'i drosglwyddo i'r rheini sy'n ymweld â'ch Parc chi. Efallai bod cydweithio mewn partneriaeth â sefydliadau treftadaeth eraill yn un ffordd o gynyddu effaith yn y maes hwn.

Fe hoffwn weld o dan y faner "Cynnal Cymru Fyw" ymagwedd ymglymedig i reolaeth yr amgylchedd naturiol sy'n gwella iechyd ecosystemau. Dylai'r gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud yn y Parciau Cenedlaethol, yn enwedig gan Awdurdodau'r Parciau, cael ei weld yn enghreifftiol drwy edrych dros a gwelliant yr amgylchedd naturiol. Dylai'r Awdurdodau Parciau Cenedlaethol parhau i gymryd rhan fywiog yn cymryd malen egwyddorion "Cynnal Cymru Fyw" a chyfrannu i drafodaethau ynghyn ai ddatblygiad a'i gweithrediad.

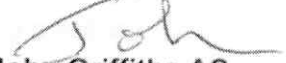
Mae gwasanaeth cynllunio effeithiol, tryloyw a chyson yn allweddol i gael cydbwysedd rhwng anghenion economaidd-gymdeithasol cymunedau lleol, gwarchod y tirwedd a'r amgylchedd naturiol. Mae gwneud penderfyniadau'n unol â pholisi datblygu cyfredol a 'Pholisi Cynllunio Cymru' yn hanfodol ar gyfer gwneud y gwasanaeth rheoli datblygiadau yn wasanaeth agored ac effeithlon, sy'n gwneud penderfyniadau cadarn sy'n gyson â'i gilydd ac sy'n rhoi hyder i fusnesau a chymunedau o fewn ffiniau'r Parciau. Dylai hyn fod yn adlewyrchiad o bwysigrwydd cynllunio yn y broses ehangach o ddatblygu economaidd, darparu tai fforddiadwy a chefnogi bioamrywiaeth.

Rwy'n falch o'r gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud gennych i ddatblygu'ch cynlluniau datblygu lleol, sy'n rhoi fframwaith ar gyfer defnydd tir cynaliadwy ar draws yr Awdurdod. Cyn gynted â bod y cynlluniau'n cael eu rhoi ar waith, mae'n hanfodol eu monitro er mwyn sicrhau eu bod yn aros yn gyfredol ac yn ymateb i'r prif faterion yr ydych chi am fynd i'r afael â hwy.

Rwy'n disgwyl i chi, fel awdurdodau cynllunio lleol eich ardal, ddal ati i wella'ch gwasanaethau cynllunio, gan gynnwys rhoi penderfyniad ar gais cynllunio o fewn yr amserlen sydd wedi ei bennu ar gyfer y cais hwnnw, lleihau unrhyw ôl-groniadau a chymryd y camau gofodi mewn achosion cynllunio pan fo gofyn am hynny.

Yn unol â threfniadau cyfredol, rwy'n disgwyl i chi drefnu bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn cael adroddiadau bras ar sut y mae pethau'n symud yn eu blaen bob chwe mis.

Rwy'n hapus i gymryd lan fy mhortffolio newydd, rwy hefyd wedi cadw cyfrifoldeb am y Parciau Cenedlaethol. Mae diwylliant Cymru wedi ei wreiddio yn ei thirwedd, ac mae Cymry yn aml yn mynegi ei hunaniaeth drwy ei chysylltiadau gyda mannau sy'n bwysig iddynt. Rwy'n edrych ymlaen at gydweithio â chi dros y flwyddyn nesaf.

Yn gywir,


John Griffiths AC

Gweinidog Diwylliant a Chwaraeon

Minister for Culture and Sport

John Griffiths AC /AM
Gweinidog Diwylliant a Chwaraeon
Minister for Culture and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

To : The Chairs of the 3
National Park Authorities

10 May 2013

Dear *Simon*,

Strategic Grant Allocation 2013-14

My officials have already advised you of the resources being made available by the Welsh Government in support of your work in 2013 – 2014. A copy of that advice is attached at Annex 1. The purpose of this letter is to highlight the priority areas on which the Welsh Ministers would wish to see these resources being targeted in the year ahead.

It is my view that the National Parks should be exemplars of sustainable development; living, working landscapes with vibrant rural economies, thriving ecosystems and biodiversity, and extensive recreation opportunities. As the National Park Authorities I expect you to be demonstrating leadership in achieving such conditions, and taking confident strides when it comes to managing positive landscape change for the benefit of people and the environment.

The new Policy Statement for Protected Landscapes will set out a clear vision for the designated landscapes in Wales that puts sustainable development at the heart of a contemporary interpretation of the purposes and duties of these designations. I am pleased that the park authorities have shown an eagerness to be involved in the development of the policy statement and related outcomes, and there will be further opportunity for you, and for other interested parties, to input before it is finalised later this year.

The Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery has recently been established to consider how effective public services are in Wales and how they could be improved. It will make an assessment of how far the current arrangements for all devolved services meet the needs of Wales now and for the future and propose a model of public service governance and delivery for Wales. It will also be engaging widely and considering the interaction with non devolved services. As you know it is my intention to review the governance arrangements for the National Parks to reflect on matters such as the nature of the accountability to Welsh Ministers, the administration of the authorities, and links to other bodies such as Natural Resources Wales. The work of the Commission will overlap this review, and so it is my intention to wait for its report, which should be published by the end of 2013, before scoping the review of National Park Authorities.

In time, the policy statement will become embedded into the guidance and approach to the National Park Management Plans that you are required to produce. In the meantime, I

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expect you to pursue the priorities agreed in those plans, whilst having regard to the vision and outcomes that it will contain, and the specific priorities set out below.

In these difficult financial times, it is extremely important that organisations work together to maximise skills, resources, expertise and develop new and innovative ideas. I would like to see a new level of partnership working achieved during the coming year; not only between the National Park Authorities, but also by supporting integrated working at local, regional and national levels to address fundamental issues such as tackling poverty and increasing sustainability. I expect Park Authorities to work constructively and collaboratively with their constituent local authorities on cross-cutting issues including economic development, housing, transport, cultural heritage and education.

The Welsh Government is placing a strong emphasis on tackling poverty in Wales. There is a direct link between the national commitment to sustainability, the alleviation of poverty, addressing the root causes of inequality, and supporting civil society, and the purpose and ambition for the national parks. I am keen to see Park Authorities working with others on reducing the gaps that exist between families living in low-income households and their more affluent peers in terms of health, education, skills and economic outcomes. The Park Authorities are already very active in promoting social inclusion but I think more could be done to improve community participation in environmental projects in deprived areas. In so doing, you will be making a contribution to tackling the poverty agenda in Wales.

A key commitment for the Welsh Government this Assembly term is to improve public rights of way and widen access opportunities, in particular for children and families. I expect the Park Authorities to continue their work with the constituent local authorities to find ways of increasing access to the National Park for all sectors of society making linkages to organisations outside the Parks to achieve this objective. I am also keen to see the Park Authorities participate positively in our work to develop access and green space provision in the Environment Bill.

National Parks contain much of Wales' rich and varied cultural heritage and you have an important role in protecting this resource and interpreting it for your visitors. Working in partnership with other heritage organisations can be one way to maximise the impact you can make in this area.

I would like to see under the banner "Sustaining a Living Wales" a more integrated approach to managing the natural environment that improves the health of ecosystems. The work carried out in the National Parks, and in particular by the Park Authorities should be seen as exemplar in the care and improvement of the natural environment. The National Park Authorities should continue to take an active role in taking forward the principles behind "Sustaining a Living Wales" and to contribute to the discussions on its development and implementation.

An effective, transparent, consistent and enabling planning service is key to balancing the socio-economic needs of local communities, the protection of landscape, and the natural environment. Taking decisions in accord with an up-to-date development plan and 'Planning Policy Wales', is crucial to making development management an open, efficient service, providing sound, consistent decisions in which business and communities in the Parks can have confidence. This should reflect the important role of planning in securing appropriate economic development, the provision of affordable housing and supporting biodiversity.

I am pleased with the progress made by the Park Authorities in developing your local development plans, which provide a framework for sustainable land use planning across the Park Authority. Once plans are adopted, annual monitoring is essential to ensure they remain up-to-date and responsive to the key issues you are seeking to address.

As local planning authorities for your areas, I expect you to continue to secure improvements in your planning services, including determining planning applications within the specified timescales, reducing any backlogs, and taking action on planning cases where enforcement action is necessary.

In line with the current arrangements, I expect you to arrange for the Welsh Government to receive brief six monthly reports on progress.

I am pleased that in taking up my new portfolio, I have retained responsibility for the National Parks. Welsh culture in particular is rooted in its landscape, and Welsh people often express their identity through their connection with places that are important to them. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Yours,


John Griffiths AM

**Gweinidog Diwylliant a Chwaraeon
Minister for Culture and Sport**