

REPORT OF BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AND IT MANAGER

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Purpose of the Report

This report seeks approval of the Authority's Environmental Policy.

Introduction

The Environmental Policy has been reviewed in accordance with the standard 3 year review cycle and significantly updated in response to the Welsh Government's climate emergency declaration and subsequent target to achieve a carbon neutral public sector by 2030. The tone of the policy has been strengthened to include clear statements of intent from which an action plan can be developed, implemented and tracked

The purpose of the Environmental Policy is to set out the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's commitment to minimising negative impacts on the environment and to help facilitate enhancements where possible. The policy defines the scope of environmental activities for which the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority has direct control and accountability, and responsibilities identified as within the remit of the Authority through wider collaborative partnerships where actions and results can be monitored and tracked.

A copy of the draft policy was presented and discussed at Leadership Team meeting and went out for consultation with staff during August 22nd and September 6th.

Welsh Language

The Environmental Policy will be translated into Welsh.

Recommendation

Members are asked to consider and approve the Environmental Policy.

(For further information, please contact Debbi Church, Business Improvement and IT Manager)



External and Internal Policy

Review

Version	Effective Date	Document Owner	Review Date Trigger
3	Draft	Business Improvement and IT Manager	Every 3 years. Legislative/organisational changes. Security risk changes.

Target Audience

All staff, Members, volunteers, contractors, consultants or partners of the Authority.

Consultations

Group	Date
Staff Reps	6 September 2019

Approvals

This document requires the following approvals.

Approved by	Name	Date	Signature
Leadership Team			
National Park Authority			

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1. Policy Statement

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority accepts responsibility for the impacts that its operations may have on both the local and global environment. We are fully committed to minimising negative impacts on the environment as a result of our operational activities, embracing proactive practices which contribute to the improved health of the natural environment and encouraging those working with us to do the same.

The Authority's purposes are to conserve the National Park, encourage the public to enjoy and understand it, and foster the social and economic well-being of local communities. We will undertake these duties in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations [Wales] Act 2015 [1] sustainable development principle, which means that we will "act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." This applies in relation to both our wider policies and specific (internal) policies.

To achieve this we will:

Compliance

- Comply with or exceed all statutory environmental regulations.
- Protect our environment through sound management practices and decisions, and require this same compliance of our business partners and contractors.
- Embed the sustainable management of natural resources principles under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 [2] and Sustainable Development principles five ways of Working under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 [1] in how we make decisions and operate.

Carbon Emissions Reduction

- Monitor, reduce and report our energy and water consumption and generate our own renewable and low carbon energy in order to reduce our carbon emissions.
- Cut carbon emissions through effective management of our vehicle fleet and responsible business travel practices. We will foster an environmentally sensitive culture whereby alternative greener transport modes are actively encouraged and the number of face to face meetings is reduced by utilising virtual meeting technologies wherever feasible.
- Contribute to Welsh Government and regional carbon reduction targets and initiatives.
- In conjunction with the Pembrokeshire Services Board (PSB), play a key role in the Becoming a Carbon Neutral County project arising from the Pembrokeshire Well-being Plan 2018. We will work collaboratively towards achieving the goals set out within the Welsh Government's policies and proposals that directly reduce emissions and support the growth of a low

carbon economy, as documented in the Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales Plan [3].

- Work in partnership with others to support and promote sustainable transport options within the Park area.

Waste

- Comply with the Waste Duty of Care Code of Practice [4].
- Develop and promote mechanisms to prevent, reuse, recycle and repair to reduce waste disposal across Authority sites and operations.

Conservation and Building Resilience

- Implement pollution prevention practices.
- Manage our land holdings in such a way as to ensure that the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority is an exemplar for biodiversity management.
- Encourage and promote good environmental practice through our grants, land management agreements and practical site work.

Planning

- Ensure that planning contributes toward the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the National Park, in accordance with national well-being and management of natural resources goals as set out in Planning Policy Wales Edition 10 (December 2018) [5].
- Planning Policy Wales Edition 10 [5] identifies 5 key planning principles for achieving the right development in the right place. The National Park will embed these principles in its planning function, and these are;
 - To grow the economy in a sustainable manner,
 - To make the best use of resources,
 - To facilitate accessible and healthy environments,
 - To create and sustain communities,
 - To maximise environmental protect and limit environmental impact.
- The 'Plan-led' planning system is the most effective way to secure sustainable development and is essential to the delivery of sustainable places. The National Park will ensure that a Local Development Plan is adopted and kept under review in order to set the context for consistent and rational decision-making.

Championing and Working with Others

- Provide appropriate training for staff, volunteers and Members to improve environmental performance.
- Champion an environmentally aware culture across the Pembrokeshire Coast

National Park. Actively encourage authority staff, volunteers, Members, service users, visitors and local communities to identify and engage in positive actions that will help to safeguard the environment for future generations.

- Take an integrated and partnership approach working with Public Services Board and others on joint environmental plans and initiatives.

Climate Change Risk and Adaptation

- In conjunction with the Pembrokeshire Services Board (PSB), participate in the project arising from the Pembrokeshire Well-being Plan 2018, to produce an Environmental and Climate Change Risk Assessment and develop appropriate measures in response. We will endeavour to deliver any mitigating actions identified as an outcome of the assessment which are deemed to be within the remit of the Authority.

Procurement

- In accordance with the Authority's Sustainable Purchasing Policy, purchase sustainable products wherever feasible to favour products and services which are less harmful to the environment, and require this same aspiration of our business partners, contractors and businesses operating as a concession on an Authority site.

Monitoring

- Update and maintain the Environmental Management System (EMS) and framework, monitor progress towards achieving our environmental performance goals and commit to continual improvement of both the EMS and its results.

2. Purpose and Scope

2.1 The purpose of this policy is to set out Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's commitment to making sustainable decisions and choices, minimising negative impacts on the environment and embracing proactive practices which contribute to the improved health of the natural environment. It sets out our commitment to ensuring we comply with the statutory sustainable development principles under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 [1], the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources principles under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 [2]; and in supporting the reduction of waste and greenhouse gas emissions in Wales.

2.2 This policy defines the scope of environmental activities for which the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority has direct control and

accountability, and responsibilities identified as within the remit of the Authority through wider collaborative partnerships.

3. Definitions

Definitions of the terms used in this policy:

Sustainable Development

3.1 Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2018 [1] “sustainable development” means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

3.2 Sustainable management of natural resources is defined in the Environment (Wales) Act [2] as: “using natural resources in a way and at a rate that maintains and enhances the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide. In doing so, meeting the needs of present generations of people without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, and contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations Act [1].”

4. Legal Context

4.1 Legislation relevant to this policy includes:

- a) The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 [1]
- b) Environment (Wales) Act 2016 [2]
- c) Waste (Wales) Measure 2010
- d) The Environment Protection Act 1990 – Waste Duty of Care Code of Practice [4]
- e) The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011
- f) Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005
- g) Waste Framework (Directive 2008/98/EC)
- h) Waste electrical and electronic equipment (2002/96/EC)
- i) Habitats Directive
- j) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- k) Planning Policy Wales Edition 10 [5]

- l) The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017

4.2 International Agreements relevant to this policy include:

- a) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- b) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- c) UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

5. Sustainable Development Principles and 5 Ways of Working

5.1 The well-being duty under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 [1] requires the Authority to carry out sustainable development. In doing so it must set and publish Well-being Objectives that are designed to maximise its contribution to achieving each of the well-being goals, and take all reasonable steps (in exercising its functions) to meet those objectives.

5.2 This means that the Authority must work to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Authority's Well-being Objectives are set out in the Authority's corporate and resources plan which also sets out the actions we will take to meet these objectives.

5.5 The Well-being of Future Generations Act [1] puts in place a 'sustainable development principle' and all public bodies in Wales are expected to set out how they will meet their duty under the Act. This means the Authority must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own need. This includes making sure that when the Authority makes decisions it takes into account the impact they could have on people living their lives in Wales in the future.

5.6 There are 5 things that public bodies need to think about to show that they have applied the sustainable development principle:

Long Term	The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.
Prevention	How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.
Integrated	Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.
Collaboration	Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.

Involvement	The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.
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6. Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR)

6.1 The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 [2] identifies nine simple principles of sustainable management of natural resources which need to underpin the way the Authority works. These are:

Adaptive Management	Manage adaptively by planning, monitoring, reviewing and where appropriate, changing action.
Scale	Consider the appropriate spatial scale for action.
Collaboration and Engagement	Promote and engage in collaboration and cooperation.
Public Participation	Make appropriate arrangements for public participation in decision-making.
Evidence	Take account of all relevant evidence, and gather evidence in respect of uncertainties.
Multiple Benefits	Take account of the benefits and intrinsic value of natural resources and ecosystems.
Long term	Take account of the short, medium and long term consequences of actions.
Prevention	Take action to prevent significant damage to ecosystems.
Building Resilience	Take account of the resilience of ecosystems, in particular the following aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Diversity between and within ecosystems, b) The connections between and within ecosystems, c) The scale of ecosystems, d) The condition of ecosystems (including their structure and functioning); e) The adaptability of ecosystems.

6.2 The Authority is also required under The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 [2] to take account of the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty under the Act.

7. Responsibilities

7.1 The Chief Executive, Senior Management Team and Leadership Team are responsible for implementing this Policy and ensuring that positive environmental culture, practices and principles are mainstreamed throughout the Authority.

7.2 All managers are responsible for ensuring the implementation of the policy in the day to day delivery of services. Managers must ensure that those they manage are aware and adhere to the Policy.

7.3 All staff, Members and volunteers have a duty to uphold the Environmental Policy by:

- a) Acting and behaving at all times in a way that supports the areas identified within the policy statement section,
- b) Complying with relevant environmental regulations and bringing any non-compliance concerns to the attention of their line manager or through other reporting mechanisms.

8. Monitoring

8.1 To ensure the effective implementation of this policy the Authority will update and maintain the Environmental Management System (EMS) and framework, monitor progress towards achieving our environmental performance goals and commit to continual improvement of both the EMS and its results.

9. Reference

1	The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/2/contents/enacted
2	The Environment (Wales) Act 2016	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/3/contents/enacted
3	Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales Plan	https://gweddill.gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/190321-prosperity-for-all-a-low-carbon-wales-en.pdf
4	The Waste Duty of Care Code of Practice	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759083/waste-code-practice-2018.pdf
5	Planning Policy Wales Edition 10	https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-12/planning-policy-wales-edition-10.pdf

10. Version History

Version	Effective Date	Summary of Changes
V3		Policy updated to reflect current legislation requirements together with the Authority's statements of intent.