

**Performance and Compliance Officer**

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**Subject: Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's Partnership Framework Monitoring Report 2023/24**

Purpose of Report

This is a new annual Partnership Framework Monitoring report for Members, providing an overview of key strategic partnerships the Authority is engaged with in support of its wider strategic priorities.

The reporting period covered is 2023/24.

This report does not cover all the Authority's collaborative or partnership work but focuses on our significant partnerships that contribute to delivery of our strategic priorities or where the Authority makes financial contributions in support of a partnership arrangement or is in receipt of funding through a partnership.

A draft Partnership Framework is set out in Appendix 1 of the report. It is proposed that this draft framework is updated following adoption of the Partnership Plan – National Park Management Plan and brought before Members for formal approval.

Financial considerations

Authority makes financial contributions and in-kind contributions to number of partnerships and partnership projects. Officer time is spent on facilitating and participating in partnerships and collaborative action. Partnership working can help leverage in funding via joint project bids.

Financial pressures on the Authority and its partners are creating new challenges and demands in terms of strategic partnerships. This financial climate requires the Authority to consider how to best manage existing partnerships, financial and in-kind contributions and new requests for support or involvement in partnership projects.

Risk considerations

Working in partnership can bring a wide range of benefits, but also produces particular risks and governance issues. To protect the interests both of Authority and Public it is therefore important that:

- we know what our significant partnerships are,
- we understand their purpose and how they contribute to strategic priorities,
- we understand the costs and benefits of working in that way,
- we have assurance that partnerships' governance supports their operation particularly in key areas such as making decisions and accountability.

This report aims to support above considerations.

### Compliance

Collaboration and Integration are two of the five ways of working (sustainable development principles) under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Collaboration is at the heart of the Authority's Well-being Objectives and essential for delivery of the National Park Management Plan.

Some partnerships have statutory status such as the Local Access Forum, Public Services Board and Corporate Joint Committee.

### Equality / Socio-Economic Duties

Partnerships and collaborative working play an important role in supporting the Authority to meet its Equality Objectives, increase access to the Park for those who face additional barriers and supporting wider efforts relating to addressing poverty including child poverty in Pembrokeshire. In entering into partnerships the Authority needs to ensure that it remains compliant with the Public Sector Equality Duty and Socio Economic Duty.

### Section 6 Biodiversity Duty and Decarbonisation

Partnerships and collaborative working play an important role in supporting the Authority to meet its priorities on Conservation and Climate. In entering into partnerships the Authority needs to ensure that it considers how partnerships are contributing to both nature recovery and decarbonisation.

### Welsh Language

Partnerships and collaborative working can play an important role in supporting the Authority to meet its objectives in its Welsh Language Strategy. The review of the National Park Management Plan is providing an opportunity to review and identify new opportunities in terms of partnership working in this area. In entering into partnerships the Authority needs to ensure that it considers how partnerships are contributing to the promotion of the Welsh Language and that we remain compliant with the Welsh Language Standards.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to comment on and note the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's Partnership Framework Monitoring Report 2023/24

# Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority's Partnership Framework Monitoring Report 2023/24

## 1. Introduction

This is a new annual Partnership Framework Monitoring report for Members, providing an overview of key strategic partnerships the Authority is engaged with in support of its wider strategic priorities. The reporting period covered is 2023/24.

This report does not cover all the Authority's collaborative or partnership work but focuses on our significant partnerships that contribute to delivery of our strategic priorities or where the Authority makes financial contributions in support of a partnership arrangement or is in receipt of funding through a partnership.

Updates on status of partnerships within the framework are captured quarterly on the Authority's Performance Reporting System and monitored by the Management Team via partnership framework dashboards.

Collaboration and Integration are two of the five ways of working (sustainable development principles) under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Collaboration is at the heart of the Authority's Well-being Objectives and essential for delivery of the National Park Management Plan. Positive change for complex challenges facing the Park can only be achieved through working together with others and taking a strategic and integrated approach with partners.

Regional developments such as the creation of the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee and Celtic Freeport are growing in importance. The Authority's involvement in strategic regional partnerships provides it with opportunities to shape responses to complex challenges facing the Park in areas such as transport, decarbonisation or land use policy.

Financial pressures on the Authority and its partners are creating new challenges and demands in terms of strategic partnerships. This financial climate requires the Authority to consider how to best manage existing partnerships, financial and in-kind contributions and new requests for support or involvement in partnership projects. This alongside the review of the National Park Management Plan will influence the Authority's future approaches to partnerships.

A draft Partnership Framework is set out in Appendix 1 of the report. It is proposed that this draft framework is updated following adoption of the Partnership Plan – National Park Management Plan and brought before Members for formal approval.

## 2. Partnership Framework Monitoring 2023/24

### 2.1 Conservation – Strategic Partnerships

Conservation Strategic Partnerships the Authority is engaged with should support delivery of:

- Our Conservation Well-being Objective (and associated outcomes): To deliver nature recovery and connectivity at scale, so nature is flourishing in the Park, contributing to the protection of 30% of our land and seas for nature by 2030.
- National Park Management Policy Areas:
  - Policy L1: Conserve and enhance National Park landscapes and seascapes.
  - Policy E1: Protect and improve biodiversity quality, extent and connectivity at scale
  - Policy H1: Conserve and enhance landscapes of particular historic interest, Conservation Areas, scheduled monuments, listed buildings and their settings.
  - Policy N1: Contribute to a low carbon economy for Wales and adapt to climate change.
  - Policy N2: Conserve and enhance water quality and restore water levels and nature flow regimes.
  - Policy N3: Conserve and enhance soils and natural carbon storage
  - Policy N4: Protect air quality.
- Well-being Plan for Pembrokeshire Project - Biodiversity and the Nature Emergency
- Section 6 Biodiversity Duty.

### 2.2 Conservation Partnerships Overview 2023/24

#### a) Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership

**Purpose of Partnership:** Support delivery of Pembrokeshire Nature Recovery Plan. Including the allocation of biodiversity small grants through the partnership.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Conservation Team Leader - Lead Ecologist

**Resources:**

- £7,947.68 annual contribution
- PCNPA Conservation Team Leader/ Lead Ecologist chairs partnership which meets 4 times per year and is on the grant panel.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Officers working on behalf of the partnership have developed, submitted and secured a 2 year revenue and capital programme under Welsh Government's Local Places for Nature Scheme. This funding contributes to

projects, that support delivery of local nature recovery plan. The Authority's conservation activities have been supported through this funding.

- Annual gathering meeting held in May and ongoing participation by Authority officer in steering group.

**Assessment:** Partnership is working well and plays an important role in terms of facilitating nature recovery opportunities in the Park particularly through securing funding for small grants for biodiversity action.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**b) Name of Partnership:** Pembrokeshire Grazing Network

**Purpose of Partnership:** Support co-ordinated approach to grazing activities.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Farming Conservation Officer

**Resources:**

- 12k allocated from biodiversity projects budget

**2023/24 Activities:**

- The Pembrokeshire Grazing network capitalises on established relations between landowners and Graziers to ensure that land is managed for conservation purposes.
- During the year 23/24, 403 hectares were managed by grazing over 67 sites throughout the National Park.
- The Pembrokeshire grazing Network relies heavily on Ponies to deliver targeted grazing but over the past year the network have facilitated goats and Cattle using no fence collars to graze an small number of sites.
- Habitats have included Hay meadow restoration and maintenance as well as Rhos pasture for the benefit of the Marsh fritillary butterfly.
- Although mostly privately owned, a majority have public access through public rights of way or commons with open access.

**Assessment:** The network is an established tool for nature recovery and works well for all parties. Weather and established graziers reducing capacity have an effect on the annual output but are managed accordingly by officers to ensure the success of the Network.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**c) Pembrokeshire Sustainable Agriculture Network - Wildfire Group**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Group works with landowners and communities to help reduce outbreaks of wildfires and through practical land management minimising the potential damage.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Farming Conservation Officer

**Resources:** The group is administered by PLANED. Officer time.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Group attended 3 agricultural shows (Fishguard, Nevern, Pembrokeshire Agricultural Society Show) over the Summer alongside MAWW Fire Farm liaison officer.
- Meetings have looked at fire break infrastructure in Pembrokeshire.
- Group agreed to offer a capital grant for equipment to local graziers' groups.
- Group hosted a Vegetation Fire Foundation and Operator Course, with representatives from Authority, National Trust, Graziers and Fire Service Present. All present gained a Lantra qualification.
- The Authority is also part of the Wales Wildfire Board, a strategic consortium of key agencies across Wales which released a [new charter for minimising the impact of wildfires in Wales](#) at the 2023 Royal Welsh Show.

**Assessment:** Partnership plays an important role in facilitating collaborative approaches to help prevent wildfires in Pembrokeshire.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**d) Biodiversity Deep Dive Designated Landscapes Working Group**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Collaborative working group to respond to recommendations from Welsh Government Biodiversity Deep Dive and steer implementation of the Designated Landscapes Deep Dive action plan. Influencing the future sustainable farming scheme and its impact on Park and Nature Recovery activities.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Head of Nature Recovery

**Resources:** Officer Time

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Ongoing engagement with Welsh Government through group. The working group reports to the Core Biodiversity Deep Dive Group, which reports to the Minister for Climate Change.
- A report from the working group, with recommendations for future work has been submitted to Welsh Government.
- [Meeting notes from the working group](#) are available on the Tirweddau Cymru Landscapes Wales website.

**Assessment:** Work of this group will influence the Authority and wider designated landscapes responses to Recommendation 3 of the Biodiversity Deep Dive 'Unlock the potential of designated landscapes (National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) to deliver more for nature and 30 by 30'.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**e) Responding to Avian Flu – Working with Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) and Other Partners**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Multi Agency response to Avian Flu.


**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Director of Nature Recovery and Tourism

**Resources:** Existing budgets – no additional funding provided to manage local response. Officer time.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- The Avian (Bird) Flu outbreak started much earlier than in 2022 – first reports of dead birds came in early (8th) July 2023. Started with one or two birds in the south of the National Park before both the number of birds and locations increased rapidly. A multi-agency response meeting was pulled together by PCC with the Park Authority represented by Director of Nature Recovery and Tourism and Head of Engagement and Inclusion.
- Primary concerns were public safety as well as the potential impact on the visitor economy. Key communications included a joint press release, signage throughout the National Park, briefings for community councils and media coverage including live reporting via BBC Breakfast.
- Close liaison with Welsh Government and DEFRA – concerns that Avian Flu might spread to local poultry farms (as in 2022).
- Update risk assessments and co-ordinate safety briefings for staff across agencies involved (PCC, PCNPA, RSPB, Wildlife Trust, National Trust, etc).
- Distribute necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to staff (PCNPA Rangers).
- Multi-agency co-ordination of collecting dead birds – associated system of sending birds for testing or disposal – for PCNPA this was carried out by the Ranger Service.
- Twice weekly meetings to ensure that all agencies were up-to-speed on latest developments.

**Assessment:** Positive partnership working to address impact of Avian Flu on the Park. Collaborative working of this nature will be important going forward in terms of any future outbreaks.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green 

**f) Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority - Joint Planning Ecologist**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Provision of Ecologist Planning expertise for both planning Authorities


**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Development Management Manager

**Resources:** Salary cost of post shared between PCNPA and PCC.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Joint planning ecologist continues to be in place with PCC.
- Service delivery affected by maternity leave, however temporary cover has been appointed so this should help address consultation response demands.

**Assessment:** Effective partnership with Pembrokeshire County Council Planning service providing expertise for both Authorities. Service has been affected by maternity leave, however cover issue has now been addressed.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green 

**g) Relevant Authority Groups for Marine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Supporting conservation work in the Marine Environment. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority is one of the relevant Authorities for the Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation, Cardigan Bay Special Area of Conservation and Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Sites (Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation).

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Management Plan and Marine Officer

**Resources:**

- PCNPA financial contribution 2023/24 Pembrokeshire Marine: £3,387
- PCNPA financial contribution 2023/24 Cardigan Bay: £566
- PCNPA financial contribution 2023/24 Carmarthen Bay: £1,693
- Officer time.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Marine Officer continued to attend Pembrokeshire Marine SAC and for Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Sites meetings.
- Seagrass is included within The Welsh Marine Treasures project of the Natur am Byth! project. This has allowed the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC Officer paid time to continue working on the Dale seagrass restoration trial. The project is also looking at the Pink Sea Fan, Crawfish and the Native Oyster.
- Bid also submitted by the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC Officer to Coastal Challenge Fund (Welsh Government funding) via the Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership for supporting Project Seagrass with additional work at Dale to include reseeding, Castlebeach Bay mapping and visitor buoy, additional engagement with fishers and the community.



**Assessment:** Partnership working through SACs is important as the marine environment is a shared responsibility. Supporting SAC officer enables the partnership to function and develop projects that have positive impact on marine environment.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

### **Impact Case Study: Oyster Restoration Project**

This project aims to restore the once-abundant population of native oysters within the Milford Haven Waterway and, in doing so, improve the condition of the Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC). This work is being carried out in partnership with Bangor University, the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC Officer and Tethys Oysters in Angle Bay, and forms part of the Blue Carbon Strand of the Authority's Wild Coast! Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places funded project. Since the project commenced in November 2023, *Ostrea edulis* broodstock have been collected from Angle Bay and Burton Ferry and transported to Bangor University, with the aim of rearing them and returning them to the Milford Haven Waterway to boost existing populations. It is expected that up to 200,000 native oyster spat may be produced, but numbers could be significantly more. Native British oyster populations have declined dramatically over the decades, because of habitat loss, pollution, over-harvesting and disease. This has significant implications for the health of our marine environment. As well as being filter feeders that actively purify the surrounding water, oysters also store carbon, and their reefs also play an important role in fostering biodiversity by providing food, shelter, and protection for a wide variety of marine life. Currently, there are very few nursery facilities that can provide native oysters for restoration. To date, native oysters introduced to the Waterway have been reared in Morecambe Bay. The status of the Milford Haven Waterway as a *Bonamia* (parasitic disease) area also places additional restrictions on the movement of oysters. There is a view that existing old native oysters may have some resistance to *Bonamia*. This, and the desire to protect the genetic make-up of local populations, which may also provide additional resilience, is why restoration using indigenous stock is so attractive. Following biosecurity protocols and a brief period of quarantine, the first batch of approximately 40 oysters have commenced conditioning to spawn in their temporary nursery. The remaining oysters will be conditioned to spawn in the spring and early summer of 2024.

#### **h) Welsh Government - Wales Coastal and Seas Partnership (formerly WMAAG)**

**Purpose of Partnership:** The partnership of stakeholders is committed to working collaboratively to achieve the shared vision set out in the Welsh National Marine Plan and specifically the [Shared Narrative](#).


**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Management Plan and Marine Officer

**Resources:** Officer Time

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Wales Coastal and Seas Partnership met in October 2023 and February 2024. October meeting included an address from Julie James, Minister for Climate Change.
- Further information on [Wales Coasts and Sea Partnerships progress from October 2022 to September 2023](#) can be found on the Welsh Government's website.

**Assessment:** Partnership provides opportunities for Authority to work with others at national level to improve marine resilience in Wales.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green 

**i) Marine Protected Areas Management Steering Group**

**Purpose of Partnership:** To steer and champion effective Marine Protected Area (MPA) management, raising the profile of MPA management and increasing buy-in from management authorities and wider stakeholders across Wales. The terms of references can be viewed [here](#).


**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Chief Executive

**Resources:** Officer Time

**2023/23 Activities:**

- Action Plan prepared and projects funded across Wales

**Assessment:** Partnership provides an opportunity to engage with Relevant Authorities to guide the management of Marine Protected Areas.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green 

**j) National Coastal Forum (Formerly Cardigan Bay Group/ Advisory Group)**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Supporting conservation work in the Marine Environment


**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Authority Member representative

**Resources:** Member Time.

**2023/23 Activities:**

- No meetings of the forum have been held during the last 12 months.

**Assessment:** No meetings of the forum have been held during the last 12 months. Follow up is needed with lead co-ordinator of forum to see if the Forum is still in place/ active.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Amber 

### k) Cleddau Nutrient Management (Plan) Board

**Purpose of Partnership:** Catchment basis collaboration to produce robustly evidenced Nutrient Management Plans.


**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Director of Placemaking, Decarbonisation and Engagement

**Resources:** Officer time

#### 2023/24 Activities:

- [Progress report](#) provided by Nutrient Management Board Programme Manager to Operational Review Committee on 23 December on Phosphate and work undertaken by the Nutrient Management Boards to improve favourable conditions status of SAC catchments whilst facilitating nutrient neutral development in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

**Assessment:** Nutrient Management Boards are an effective and efficient framework for assisting in meeting the Authority's duties of ensuring development is compliant with the Habitats Regulations, whilst also restoring and maintaining the favourable conservation status of the rivers. The Authority support as a key partner and Member of the relevant Nutrient Management Board (Cleddau) is essential to the successful implementation of Nutrient Management Plan.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green 

### l) Foreshore management partners, including Pembrokeshire Beach Liaison Group

**Purpose of Partnership:** Partnership approach to foreshore management


**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Director of Nature Recovery and Tourism

**Resources:** A lack of staff capacity has impacted on ability to progress this work. Officer Time for involvement with Beach Liaison Group.

#### 2023/24 Activities:

- PCF have been commissioned to carry out foreshore study to assess potential commercial opportunities.
- Head of Engagement and Inclusion continues to chair the Pembrokeshire Beach Liaison Group which meets twice yearly and is a pro-active management group with a focus on ensuring that the criteria for beach awards are met. PCC have led a project to improve beach signage in 24/25 with PCNPA providing design input.

**Assessment:** A lack of staff capacity has impacted on ability to progress partnership working in this area, although Beach Liaison Group work continues to be effective.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Amber 

**m) Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group (MHWESG)**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Collaborative group of industry, statutory authorities and others with an interest in the environmental quality of the Milford Haven waterway.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Management Plan and Marine Officer


**Resources:**

- Officer time
- PCNPA financial contribution 2023/24: £3,000

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Continued Officer attendance at Meetings.
- In 2023 MHWESG contracted the British Geological Society (BGS) to collect multiple cores from areas of soft mud. The BGS are going to use isotope dating techniques to determine when layers of mud in the cores were deposited. As certain contaminants bind themselves to fine mud particles, levels of contaminants associated with the dated layers of mud are also going to be measured by the BGS through a series of laboratory analyses, thus providing a timeline of contaminant data for the Milford Haven Waterway. Further information can be found on [news section](#) of MHWESG website.

**Assessment:** Partnership supports provision of high quality environmental information to enable members of the Group to contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of the marine environment of the Waterway.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green 

**n) Skomer Marine Conservation Zone Advisory Group**

**Purpose of Partnership:** MCZ has an advisory committee which meets annually, made up of individuals and organisations with an interest in the area.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Management Plan and Marine Officer. Authority Member Representative.

**Resources:** Member and Officer Time

**2023/24 Activities:**

- The Authority is represented at both Officer and Member level at the Annual Meeting, with more frequent, informal interactions between Officers of both organisations happening throughout the year.
- At the Annual Meeting in April 2024, the work of the Marine Conservation Zone staff and updates on marine monitoring work for the previous year (April 2023 – April 2024) was presented. The [Annual Report](#) is available on the NRW website.

**Assessment:** Members and Officers continue to contribute to advisory Committee in support of the Skomer Marine Conservation Zone Advisory Group.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**o) Promotion of the NPUK ‘Look Wild’ project**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Wider promotion of the NPUK ‘Look Wild’ project to encourage a broader range of audiences to engage in nature.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Head of Marketing and Communications

**Resources:** Officer Time.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Plans to promote app during spring/ summer 2024/25 over social media channels. Social media engagement in 2023/24 focused on Lost Words exhibition.

**Assessment:** [National Park UK ‘Look Wild’ app](#), continues to provide opportunity to encourage broader range of audiences to engage in nature through supporting micro-volunteering citizen science opportunity.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

## **2.3 Climate – Strategic Partnerships**

Climate Strategic Partnerships the Authority is engaged with should support delivery of:

- Our Climate Well-being Objective (and associated outcomes): To achieve a carbon neutral Authority by 2030 and support the Park to achieve carbon neutrality and adapt to the impact of climate change.
- National Park Management Plan Policy Areas:
  - Policy L1: Conserve and enhance National Park landscapes and seascapes.
  - Policy L2: Protect and enhance dark night skies
  - Policy N1: Contribute to a low carbon economy for Wales and adapt to climate change
  - Policy N2: Conserve and enhance water quality and restore water levels and natural flow regimes
  - Policy N3: Conserve and enhance soils and natural carbon storage
  - Policy N4: Protect air quality
- Well-being Plan for Pembrokeshire Projects:
  - Climate adaptation
  - Decarbonisation and Net Zero

## **2.4 Climate Partnerships Overview 2023/24**

**a) Coastal Bus Service (via Greenways Partnership)**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Increase public transport options for tourists and visitors at Park sites through coastal buses provision


**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Head of Decarbonisation

**Resources:** £67,861- PCNPA contribution towards Poppit Rocket and Celtic Coaster/ funding of 50% of Greenways Officer post in 2023/24. Officer Time for partnership meetings.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Authority continued to provide funding to support work of the partnership.
- Authority officers attend quarterly Greenways Partnership meetings.
- Passenger figures for 2023/24:
  - Celtic Coaster (service 403 for St David’s Peninsula): 28,939
  - Poppit Rocket (service 405 runs via coast between Fishguard and Cardigan) – Fflecsi Service: 5,603
  - Coastal Cruiser (service 387/88 for Angle Peninsula): 6,986
- Partnership has secured for 2024/25 return of two popular bus services to the Pembrokeshire Coast (Further update on services available via following [press release](#) from Pembrokeshire County Council):
  - The Puffin Shuttle (service 400) running between St Davids and Marloes, via Little Haven, Druidstone, St Brides and Martins Haven
  - The Strumble Shuttle (Service 404) runs via the coast road between St Davids and Fishguard, including Abereiddy, Porthgain and Strumble Head.)

**Assessment:** This is an important partnership that supports public transport access to the Coast and it is positive two services will be returning for 2024/25. It plays an important role in terms of contributing to decarbonisation and regenerative tourism priorities. However, the financial environment for public bodies and wider challenges facing bus provision/ sector means that continued engagement with local partners and Welsh Government is crucial to ensure longevity and continuation of service provision.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Amber (due to financial pressures/ challenges facing bus provision/ sector) 

**b) Transport for Wales – Collaboration to market sustainable transport options**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Increase the scope of our partnership project with Transport for Wales to promote and market sustainable transport.


**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Head of Marketing and Communications

**Resources:** Communications and Graphics’ staff time to support PR/marketing activity linked to the launch of the Carew Castle Express and sustainable transport Coast to Coast editorial.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Visit Wales campaign underway incorporating advertising of Tenby station/PCNP as part of Wales' accessible rail to trail network.
- Further advertising was planned for spring 24 from Visit Wales and Wales Coast Path that will promote sustainable transport to the Coast Path.

**Assessment:** Positive partnership supporting marketing of sustainable transport options for people looking to travel to Pembrokeshire and the Park. Through engaging with Visit Wales opportunity to reach wider audiences via their marketing campaigns. Limited staff capacity in the marketing and communications team has impacted on our ability to deliver in these areas. There is the potential to explore the partnership/collaborations further once we're back to full capacity.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green 

**c) Corporate Joint Committee for South West Wales Sub Groups – Strategic Plan, Energy, Transport, Economic Development**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Input into regional planning, co-ordination and delivery of transport, land use planning, economic development and energy.


**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Director of Placemaking Decarbonisation and Engagement. Authority Member Representation.

**Resources:** Member and Officer Time.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Members and Officers attended relevant Committee sub groups during the year.

**Assessment:** Involvement in Corporate Joint Committee for South West Wales sub groups ensures that the Authority is having a voice at a regional level and able to influence development of regional plans. This is particularly important in terms of areas that impact on wider decarbonisation challenges such as transport and energy. Members are Co-opted (non voting) on some of the Committees sub groups.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green 

**d) UK National Parks Climate and Energy Group – Support Race to Zero Application**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Collaborative opportunities with other National Park Authorities, including supporting Race to Zero application.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Head of Decarbonisation

**Resources:** Officer time.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Attending meetings of the group, working with other National Park Authorities on application for Race to Zero. Plans in development for national communication once application has been made.
- Publication of [Decarbonising the Welsh Designated Landscapes report](#).

**Assessment:** Positive collaborative working to support National Parks to contribute to talking the climate emergency.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**e) Public Services Board Group – Tackling Climate Change and Nature Emergency**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Progress and monitor Public Services Board Well-being Plan projects on Nature, Decarbonisation and Adaptation. Input into the protocol for engaging with communities at risk from climate impacts.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Head of Decarbonisation. Strategic Policy Manager.

**Resources:** Officer Time.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Partnership work with Pembrokeshire County Council to commission bespoke carbon literacy training package which can be used by Public Services Board Members to increase carbon literacy in the county.
- Consultation discussion had with the group in terms of National Park Management Plan.
- Authority's Adapting to Climate Change Delivery Plan takes into account the Pembrokeshire Climate Adaptation Strategy.

**Assessment:** Positive collaborative working to support Pembrokeshire Services Board to deliver local actions in support of the Well-being Plan Climate adaptation and Decarbonisation and Net Zero projects.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**f) WLGA Climate Strategy Panel**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Shared learning and engagement with other local Authorities in support of public sector route map to net zero.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Chief Executive.


**Resources:** Officer Time.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Continued attendance by Chief Executive of meetings and sharing of relevant information with staff to help inform Authority's approach.



**Assessment:** Positive partnership providing expert knowledge sharing that supports the Authority in terms of its decarbonisation work, provides opportunities to learn from local authorities.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green 

**g) SLSP Dark Skies Project Partnership - Led by Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape (AONB) [Time limited partnership project]**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Supporting through SLSP funding lighting schemes and retrofitting projects across the 8 Designated Landscapes.


**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Dark Skies Officer

**Resources:** £38,000 SLSP Funding for PCNPA via partnership project. Officer Time.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Through this collaborative project capital funding has been secured to fund lighting schemes and retrofitting projects in Pembrokeshire Coast National Park alongside other designated landscapes.
- Following a survey in August 2023, sites were identified where improvements could be made to the lighting stock to reduce the incidence of light pollution within the park. A detailed study of those sites (Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi - 3 campuses, The Duke of Edinburgh public house - Newgale, and National Trust Stackpole Centre and cottages) was conducted in November 2023 and reports produced.
- Spending has been allocated to each of the potential retrofit sites. All three campuses of Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi will be undertaken as part of Proiect Nos. Following a fire at the Duke of Edinburgh public house in Newgale it will not be retrofitted, however advice or assistance may be offered in the future if the premises is re-built. The National Trust have agreed to share the cost of retrofitting the external lighting on their properties at the Stackpole Centre, Quay Cottages and the Old Stable flats on the Stackpole estate.

**Assessment:** Collaborative project approach with other designated landscapes has helped secure capital funding for lighting scheme and retrofitting projects in the Park in support of dark skies.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green 

## **2.5 Connection – Strategic Partnerships**

Connection Strategic Partnerships the Authority is engaged with should support delivery of:

- Our Connection Well-being Objective (and associated outcomes): To create a Park that is a natural health service that supports people to be healthier, happier and more connected to the landscape, nature and heritage.
- National Park Management Plan Policy Areas:
  - Policy W1: Provide and promote sustainable outdoor recreation for all.
  - Policy W2: Provide and promote inspiring outdoor learning and personal development opportunities for all.
  - Policy H1: Conserve and enhance landscapes of particular historic interest, Conservation Areas, scheduled monuments, listed buildings and their settings
  - Policy H2: Promote the Welsh language and local dialects and celebrate culture and creativity related to the landscape
- Well-being Plan for Pembrokeshire Projects: Reducing Poverty and Inequalities.

## 2.6 Connection Partnerships Overview 2023/24

### a) Toilet Working Group with PCC and other partners

**Purpose of Partnership:** To develop a strategy to seek grant funding to improve general standards at locations around the coast and to develop an Accessible Coast project, submitting grant funded applications.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Director of Placemaking, Decarbonisation and Engagement

**Resources:** PCNPA has agreed a financial contribution to toilets of £110k per year to support toilets over a 2 year period. Officer time from Director, Head of Decarbonisation and Building Projects Manager being used towards the regular meetings. SLSP funding supporting Traeth Mawr project and Coastal Car Park study.

#### 2023/24 Activities:

- Regular meetings have been established between key officers of the Authority and Pembrokeshire County Council meeting every 2-3 months on this issue. The main area of work to date has been on sharing evidence on sites and identifying what additional baseline information may be required.
- Traeth Mawr is being developed as a test site using SLSP funding. Pembrokeshire County Council officers have helped with the design and specification of a new toilet block and inputted into consideration of options including using solar pv on the roof and including charging for their use.
- PCNPA officers have tendered on Sell 2 Wales for a Coastal Car Park Study using grant funding available to the National Park. This study seeks to identify how pay and display car park locations can provide accessible gateways to the National Park. This study will identify opportunities to enhance inclusivity and accessibility including analysis of potential delivery of improved toilet facilities' and changing places. It is anticipated

that the outcomes of this study will provide a clear evidence base to support further grant funding applications for other sites in the National Park.

- Further information, including background information on need for partnership approach set out in May 2024 NPA report: [PCNPA facilities voluntary payment to PCC regarding public toilets – update on joint working.](#)

**Assessment:** Taking a collaborative approach has helped to develop routes for dialogue between the two Authorities on this matter, providing opportunity to work together to develop strategic approaches to securing grant funding.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**a) Open to All Accelerator Project with Visit Pembrokeshire [Time Limited Partnership Project]**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Shared Prosperity Funded Project to support inclusive tourism offer in Pembrokeshire.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Open to All Project Manager

**Resources:** £392,988.18 from UK Shared Prosperity Fund. In kind match funding through Officer/ Staff time £32,561 (PCNPA) and £26,569 (Visit Pembrokeshire).

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Project set up and recruitment of project officers.
- Open for all Launch event held on the 12 March with 120 attendees and provided inspiring talks, demonstrations and taster sessions. Programme of activities in place and being developed for 2024/25 season.
- Authority Officers are engaging with project, with potential for shared learning that will inform our work once project ends.

**Assessment:** Project is working with tourism industry/ businesses and others to support Pembrokeshire on its journey to be a destination for anyone who faces barriers to travel and tourism and create a more welcoming and inclusive destination. Engagement with tourism businesses and PCNPA officers should leave positive legacy once project ends.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**b) Roots to Recovery Joint Project with MIND Pembrokeshire [Time Limited Partnership Project]**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Working in partnership with MIND Pembrokeshire to support the mental health of local people through a range of outdoor experiences at locations in and around the National Park.


**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Learning and Inclusion Team Leader

**Resources:** Big Lottery People and Places Grant - £340,000, Sept 2021 - March 2025. Partnership with Mind Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire, 3 project staff, 2 based in PCNPA and 1 in Mind. Learning and Inclusion Team Leader provides project management.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Strong collaborative partnership working has developed through this project between Authority officers, MIND Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire staff, project mentors and participants. Through working with MIND and involving participants in project design, Authority staff have been able to gain shared learning and greater understanding of how to design and deliver effective projects.
- Roots to Recovery is a people centred project so participants suggest and choose the activities they would like to do with activities including gentle strolls to beach games, practical conservation work, gardening or exploring the National Park. Participant numbers are always high, and activities are well attended. Each session is planned to achieve all the five ways to wellbeing.
- Participant confidence continues to increase and the [Roots to Recovery Facebook page](#) documents the enjoyment participants are gaining from the group activities
- The engaging programme is designed to allow participants to grow their confidence and skills with over 15 long standing participants becoming Volunteer Mentors.

**Assessment:** Engaging with people who don't currently use the Park, particularly those with poor physical or mental health can be challenging; building trust is very important and working through trusted delivery partners is often the key to successful outcomes. This is clearly demonstrated by the Roots to Recovery project where our partnership with Mind Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire enables participants to gradually build up their engagement, starting with drop-ins at a Mind Resource Centre where they are accessing other mental health services and building up to day-long activities and visits as they get to know and trust the project staff, volunteers and participants. This is a time limited grant funded project, so consideration is needed in terms of how to build on this successful partnership with MIND Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire when project funding ends.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green 

**c) Walking for Well-being Regional Partnership Project [Time Limited Partnership Project]**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Project Lead and holding of funds for three county Walking for Wellbeing Project with range of Partners.


**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Learning and Inclusion Team Leader.

**Resources:** The Project was funded by the Healthy & Active Fund (a partnership between Welsh Government, Sport Wales and Public Health Wales) between 2019 and 2023 (£318,000) and for a shorter period until January 2024 (£60,000) by Natural Resources Wales, Resilient Communities fund.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- This was a time limited partnership project that ended in 2023/24 following end of project funding. The project was active in Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire and delivered through a cross sector partnership including Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, Ceredigion Actif/Ceredigion County Council; Carmarthenshire Fifty Plus Forum (Walking Well Carmarthenshire); Carmarthenshire County Council (Sports Actif), Hywel Dda Public Health Team and Snowdrop Independent Living in Haverfordwest.
- The project set out to empower individuals to become more physically active with a focus on those living sedentary or relatively sedentary lives.
- The work was delivered by 3 County based Co-ordinators, one each for Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire, together with a part-time project administrator. The project was managed by PCNPA's Learning and Inclusion (Discovery) Team Leader.
- The project involved around 200 volunteers and/or walk leaders from other groups and organisations. Walk leader training was delivered internally by the project's co-ordinators based on a model developed by Paths for All (Scotland), whose trainers supported the project in its early stages.
- The walks delivered were designed to be suitable for less mobile/physically active participants and so the majority of walks were between 30 minutes to an hour in duration and focussed on less challenging terrain with minimal gradients.
- Further details are available in the June Operational Review Committee report [West Wales Walking for Wellbeing – Project Report](#) and a project evaluation report has also been completed.

**Assessment:** The project set out to improve the physical and mental health of people by setting up and developing walking groups linked to GP practices or other community settings thereby creating a sustainable model through ownership of the groups. Overall, the project was successful in engaging its target audience of less active individuals. Whilst some of those taking part were 'socially prescribed' to take part in the walking activity, there was limited success in engaging with Primary Health care through GP practices. The majority of referrals and prescribing took place through other health professionals, the community connectors network or through the development of working relationships with specific groups of organisations. There was also a high percentage of self-referrals.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green 

#### d) **Public Services Board Project Group – Reducing poverty and inequalities**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Joint working on Well-being Plan for Pembrokeshire project on reducing poverty and inequalities.


**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Health and Well-being Officer

**Resources:** Officer Time. Additional project funding required to deliver additional activities.

##### **Activities 2023/24:**

- Authority actions feature in the [Pembrokeshire Public Services Board: Tackling Poverty: Our Strategy 2023 Action Plan](#) and Chief Executive attended Poverty Summit on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024.
- A project bid has been submitted looking at supporting families in poverty during the summer.
- Health and Well-being Officer attended child and family poverty survey webinar from Children in Wales in October 2023.
- Health and Well-being Officer has met with a variety of partners where poverty plays a role, following on from Experiences for All report.
- Health and Well-being officer is part of Pembrokeshire poverty, sport and activity group and Pembrokeshire Age friendly community network and strategy group.

**Assessment:** Authority is committed to working with other members of the Public Services Board on addressing issue and impact of Poverty in Pembrokeshire. Additional work in this area for the Authority is likely to be dependent on securing project funding.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green 

#### e) **Visit Wales – Promotion of Years of Trails [Time limited activity]**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Work in partnership with Visit Wales to promote Year of Trails to highlight the benefits of outdoor access and the PCPNT.


**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Head of Marketing and Communications

**Resources:** £2k advertising to date promoting walking/outdoor enjoyment in the National Park, plus Communications and Graphics' staff time to support PR/marketing activity linked to PR associated with Year of Trails.

##### **Activities 2023/24:**

- Editorial included in Coast to Coast for 2024 promoting Year of Trails
- Visit Wales advertorial booked for spring 24 in the Walk magazine promoting the Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail
- Pembrokeshire Coast Path/National Park editorial and advertising booked for wider Visit Wales spring promotion in Family First magazine.

**Assessment:** Participating in Year of the Trails provides good opportunity to market and raise awareness of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail. Limited staff capacity in the marketing and communications team has impacted on our ability to deliver in these areas. There is the potential to explore the partnership/collaborations further once we're back to full capacity.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green 

#### f) Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools

**Purpose of Partnership:** Working with Partners to deliver Outdoor Schools provision for children including training for teachers.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Learning and Inclusion Team Leader

**Resources:** Officer Time – Learning and Inclusion Team Leader as Chair. Officer time – Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools Co-ordinator (4 days/week). The project was funded from external sources including Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Trust, Blue Gem Wind and Wesh Government (earmarked reserves.)

#### 2023/24 Activities:

- PODS co-ordinator continued to visit schools to provide support with school grounds improvements (biodiversity and learning resources) and curriculum planning for outdoor activities.
- Partnership supported a series of activities for schools at St Brides Orchard including celebration of National Apple Day and postponed Wales Outdoor Learning Week event in May. It also hosted a PODS celebration event in September for Pembrokeshire Primary Schools at Scolton Manor. PODS supported two 'day-time/night-time' at Neyland and Johnston Schools. The sessions include a visit to the Preseli Hills during the day and a night-time event held in the school grounds
- Delivery of teacher training sessions for Pembrokeshire teachers.
- PODS is leading on the Roz's Rainbow Woodland project, which seeks to create a dispersed woodland across the grounds of Pembrokeshire Schools in memory of Roz Jervis a former Chief Executive of Hwyl Dda Health Board. In March over 800 trees were planted at a school in St. Davids with a smaller number planted at Milford Haven Secondary School.
- A range of resources and case studies are available on the [Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools website](#).
- Role Pembrokeshire Outdoor School plays in supporting Outdoor Learning in Pembrokeshire was highlighted [in report](#) to Pembrokeshire County Council's Schools and Overview and Scrutiny Committee in April 2023.
- Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools initiative received additional funding from Blue Gem Wind Ltd and other sources to enable the project to continue until March 2025. During the year the Chair of the PODS partnership

wrote to the Director of Education at Pembrokeshire County Council seeking a meeting to discuss ongoing support for Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools

**Assessment:** Pembrokeshire Outdoors Schools is having a positive impact on supporting outdoor learning opportunities in Pembrokeshire. However, uncertainty does remain in terms of long-term funding arrangements for the partnership.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**g) SLSP Designated Landscapes Education Project [Time Limited Partnership Project]**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Working with all Wales designated landscapes on collaborative education resource project funded through SLSP.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Learning and Inclusion Team Leader

**Resources: Officer time:** 1 day week Pembrokeshire Outdoor Schools Co-ordinator, and Education Officer (both funded through the project). 2.5 days month, Learning and Inclusion Team leader. Externally funded through SLSP grant, £100,000 for 2023/24.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Project meetings between 8 designated landscapes leads for the project.
- Consultants have been appointed for the educational resources element and the Digital and Design element. Digital elements will be included as part of the learning resources produced in line with the Curriculum for Wales Digital Competency Framework for learners and ensure that all resources will be accessible as web based resources.
- Consultants have been engaging with representatives from the designated landscapes and teachers.
- Agreement has been reached on a name for the project and resource portal - 'Tirlun' translated as 'landscape(s) is seen as good fit for the work and the content included. Work on some of the key elements of the Tirlun portal was completed in March including the 'key activities' designed to explore core topics associated with the designated landscapes and the introductory sections for each of the 8 landscape areas.

**Assessment:** Collaborative project will provide accessible resources that support learning and promote understanding, appreciation and stewardship of designated landscapes and the wider environment for students across Wales.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**h) Review of our involvement in Health and Well-being Networks and partnerships**



**Purpose of Partnership:** Health and Well-being Officer currently reviewing which networks and partnerships Authority is involved in. Following review, those carried forward or developed will be added to the framework.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Health and Well-being Officer

**Resources:** Officer Time

**Activities 2023/24:**

- Authority has new Health and Well-being Officer in place and Welsh Government's [National framework for social prescribing](#) was launched in January 2024. This has provided a good opportunity to review the Health and Wellbeing networks and partnerships we are involved with.
- Health and Well-being Officer has been invited to attend GP and management meetings to explain to them what social prescribing is.
- Officer engaged with Pembrokeshire Keeping Well Roadshow, Nature Based Health Service Group and Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum Social Prescribing and outdoor providers group.

**Assessment:** The review of Health and Well-being networks we are involved with will help ensure we are engaging with the right stakeholders to support partnership working opportunities on Health and Well-being.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**i) Archaeology Day in partnership with PLANED**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Delivery of Annual Archaeology Day, helping more people to engage with and learn more about Archaeology.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Community Archaeologist

**Resources:**

- Cash cost of £3,267 to deliver event, with £2,433 covered through ticket sales and Authority contribution of £834.
- In addition, staff time to plan and deliver event including community archaeologist, activities and events manager, communication team, volunteering team and volunteers.

**Activities 2023/24:**

- During November, the annual Archaeology Day event took place on 04/11/2023. The feedback received indicates that the event was a success. Over 180 people attended, including six speakers over the day and a range of stall holders. Presentations given on the day were recorded and uploaded to the [Archaeology Day YouTube](#) channel.

**Assessment:** Successful partnership with PLANED providing opportunity for people to engage with and learn more about Archaeology.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**j) Heritage Watch Scheme**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Working collaboratively (with Dyfed Powys Police, Cadw, Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority, Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust) to address Heritage Crime in the Park

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Community Archaeologist

**Resources:**

- Cash cost of £200 to produce leaflets, display boards and attend public events.
- In addition, staff time of community archaeologist to attend events, deliver talks, chair meetings and carry out patrols with support from rangers and graphics.

**Activities 2023/24:**

- Identification of heritage crime incidents and reporting to Dyfed Powys Police and Cadw.
- Heritage Watch Social Media pages continued to be used to highlight issues.
- Authority staff, heritage volunteers and police colleagues carried out patrols during year at sites at risk.
- Wide range of community engagement activities were undertaken during the year to raise awareness of heritage crime. Including community archaeologist joining the Dyfed-Powys Police team at the Eisteddfod yr Urdd event to raise public awareness of heritage crime. A Paws on Patrol event with the Police and Fire Service on the Preseli to encourage dog walkers to report heritage crime as and when identified.
- Online meetings continue between key partners and engagement carried out with wider partners with interest in Heritage Crime across Wales.

**Assessment:** Strong partnership that has developed over the years in response to issue of heritage crime. This is demonstrated through joint patrol initiatives and activities around incident reporting.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**k) Pembrokeshire County Council - Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) and Local Access Forum**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Delivery of Rights of Way Improvement Plan and statutory obligations in relation to Local Access Forum. Secretariat for Local Access Partnership passes between PCC and PCNPA.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Access Team Leader. Authority Member representative.

**Resources:** Authority shares secretariat duties for Local Access Forum with Pembrokeshire County Council on a cyclical basis. Currently the term of PCNPA providing secretariat is 2022-2024. Four meetings in this term equates to three days per meeting for Access Team Leader setting agendas/meeting attendance/writing minutes and general admin. PCNPA Public Rights of Way Officer provides representation for PCNPA. Budget of £500 for venue hire/travel expenses.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Pembrokeshire County Council have carried out a mid term review of ROWIP.
- Local Access Forum meetings held in April, July, October 2023 and January 2024.
- The July meeting was a site meeting looking at the creation of new access opportunities in the National Park.

**Assessment:** The Pembrokeshire Local Access Forum is a statutory body advising on the improvement of access to the countryside for recreation and enjoyment. The statutory function of the forum is to advise Pembrokeshire County Council, National Park Authority and Natural Resources Wales on the improvement of public access to the countryside of Pembrokeshire for the purposes of open air recreation and enjoyment. Authority plays an important role in delivery of ROWIP in terms of the Park area.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

## 2.7 Communities – Strategic Partnerships

Communities Strategic Partnerships the Authority is engaged with should support delivery of:

- Our Communities Well-being Objective (and associated outcomes): To create vibrant, sustainable and prosperous communities in the Park that are places people can live, work and enjoy.
- National Park Management Plan Policy Areas:
  - Policy L1: Conserve and enhance National Park landscapes and seascapes.
  - Policy W1: Provide and promote sustainable outdoor recreation for all.
  - Policy W2: Provide and promote inspiring outdoor learning and personal development opportunities for all
  - Policy H2: Promote the Welsh language and local dialects and celebrate culture and creativity related to the landscape.
- Well-being Plan for Pembrokeshire Projects: Strengthening Communities and Reducing Poverty and Inequalities

## 2.7 Communities Partnerships Overview 2023/24

a) **Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum (PCF)/ Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter Group and engagement with other recreation management partners**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Work with internal and external partners and stakeholders to deliver effective recreation management in the Park.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Director of Nature Recovery and Tourism

**Resources:** £15,000 provided to Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum for 2023/24

**2023/24 Activities/ Assessment:**

- Two Outdoor Charter Steering Group Meetings and two Full Outdoor Charter Group Meetings were held in 2023/24.
- Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum provides the lead on both the Outdoor Charter and Marine Code with support from the Authority and other relevant agencies. PCF has been undertaking consultation regarding the effectiveness of both codes and a formal review has led to some minor changes to the Outdoor Charter and Marine Code which will be communicated to key partners ahead of the 2025 summer season.
- There have been ongoing concerns from some members of the Moylgrove community about the potential disturbance recreational activities could cause to marine wildlife. There have been numerous email / phone calls, and meetings with a variety of stakeholders in response to these concerns.
- A best practice training event between the adventure sector and the rescue services (RNLI / Coastguard) was delivered on the 25th of April 2023. This focused on strengthening the ability to communicate safety information effectively in potentially difficult situations and improving handover casualty care between adventure providers and rescue services.
- 4 Environmental Training days held including Rocky Shores (12 attendees), Sand Dune Habitats (12 attendees), Welsh in the Landscape a 'storytelling and sense of place' workshop (14 attendees) and Coastal Flora and Fauna (20 attendees). PCNPA Rangers led several workshops.
- During the 2023/24 financial year, £10,000 of the PCNPA support provided was used as match funding for a wider funding proposal to NRW as a part of the Resilient Communities Fund, securing the 'Ein Dwr / Our Water project', bringing in an additional £68,000 of resource to support the work. The Ein Dwr / Our Water project enabled communities to reconnect with nature and build resilience through supported opportunities in the outdoors by linking a network of delivery organisations with those with less access to the outdoors.

**Assessment:** Financial support for and engagement with Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum is supporting communication and partnership working within the adventure activity sector for the long-term benefit and safeguarding of the Park's Special Qualities.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**b) Castlemartin Ranger/ Seasonal Assistant – MOD / NRW Tripartate partnership funding agreement**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Work with internal and external partners and stakeholders to deliver effective recreation management on the Defence Training Estate in Pembrokeshire, supporting access when military use allows while also safeguarding the conservation features of the sites.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Head of Engagement and Inclusion

**Resources:** PCNPA employs the Ranger team at Castlemartin with a funding contribution of £20,000 from the Defence Infrastructure Organisation's Conservation Stewardship Fund and £10,000 from NRW against total costs of c£38,000.

**Activities 2023/24:**

- Ongoing activities to manage the interface between recreation, nature conservation and military use. The Rangers ensure that recreational activity has minimal impact on cliff nesting birds and other notable species such as seals through seasonal climbing restrictions, management of the public access network and provision of other access opportunities. The Rangers monitor the conservation features of the scheduled sites on the MoD Ranges, liaising with civilian and military user groups and ensuring that sustainable public access is achieved, in balance with military requirements.
- A new tripartate partnership agreement was drafted for sign-off by the funding partners.
- A project to improve yellowhammer feeding habitat on Templeton Range was delivered.
- Ringed plovers bred successfully on Frainslake Beach for the first time in many years with the nesting sites cordoned off by the Ranger to ensure they remained undisturbed.

**Assessment:** Positive partnership to enable access to the Castlemartin Ranges when military use allows while also safeguarding conservation features. The tripartite partnership funding agreement between the Authority, NRW and Defence Infrastructure Organisation is crucial to the delivery of this activity.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**Impact Case Study: The creation of wildflower meadows within Castlemartin Camp**

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) requested that all Camp Training Safety Officers (TSO's) look for grassland areas that could be turned into

wildflower meadows to assist with carbon capture and the provision of food for pollinators. Previously the Castlemartin Ranger and colleagues created a small meadow outside the Camp in 2012 and the Castlemartin Ranger was also involved in the creation of meadows along the Castlemartin Range Trail (CRT) in 2010 along with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. Castlemartin Ranger discussed the proposal with the Training Safety Officer then walked around the Camp looking for suitable meadow areas that would not interfere with security or military training, refuelling or helicopter landing areas. The Castlemartin Ranger suggested 5 areas that could be managed and the TSO spoke with the contractor to ensure the areas would be left to grow and then the vegetation cut and collected. The Castlemartin Ranger wanted the new areas to link with the meadows mentioned above in order to provide a corridor for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. The areas are currently being left to grow and flower and will hopefully be managed as wildflower meadows for years to come. Military Camps are normally kept tidy and all grassland is mown to look like bowling greens so allowing areas to grow 'wild' is a big and encouraging change.

### c) Pembrokeshire Water Safety Forum

**Purpose of Partnership:** Working collaboratively to support visitor safety in the Park

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Head of Engagement and Inclusion

**Resources:** Officer time to attend 4 meetings of the Forum per year, sub-group meetings and occasional presence at events.

#### **2023/24 Activities:**

- PCNPA continues to contribute to the Pembrokeshire Water Safety Forum, co-ordinated and led by the RNLI.
- At the recent March meeting a number of joint actions were agreed including the development of a joint communications strategy for the year with key water safety messages, a focus on improving safety awareness amongst stand-up paddle boarders, sailing/small motorboat users and kayakers, and raising awareness of the dangers associated with rip currents and offshore winds.

**Assessment:** Positive partnership supporting water safety management in the Park. As a coastal National Park issue of water safety is of particular importance when looking at recreation opportunities in blue spaces.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

### d) Visit Pembrokeshire

**Purpose of Partnership:** Strategic Promotion and management of sustainable tourism growth and recreation in the Park through supporting Destination Marketing Organisation for Pembrokeshire.


**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Chief Executive / Director of Nature Recovery and Tourism. Authority Member representative.

**Resources:** In January 2023 Members agreed to change support provided to Visit Pembrokeshire from in-kind contribution to a cash contribution. A cash contribution of £25,000 was agreed for 2023/24. The payment is based on a performance focused agreement where payments are reviewed every six months and linked to reaching membership targets. If these targets are not met, then payment can be withheld.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- The Annual Membership target of 84 new members has been achieved and there is a retention rate of 85% across the year. This is in addition to recruiting 5 new Strategic Partners; LHP Accountants, JCP Solicitors, Castell Howell, Bourne Leisure and Coastal Cottages of Pembrokeshire/Activity Wales Events.
- Activities to support the development of the [Pembrokeshire Destination Management Plan 2024-28](#).
- Funding secured from Shared Prosperity Fund in partnership with PCNPA for Open to All Project.

**Assessment:** The Authority, along with other organisations such as Pembrokeshire County Council, has invested in setting up Visit Pembrokeshire and should continue to support the organisation as it seeks to reach a sustainable business model and support delivery of Pembrokeshire Destination Management Plan.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green 

**e) Sponsorship of Ironman Wales (Agreed for 2022-2026)**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Supporting events in Pembrokeshire.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Chief Executive Officer.

**Resources:** At the NPA 28 July 2021 it was [resolved](#) that the Authority support Ironman Wales for the period of 2022 to 2026 with a contribution of £20,000 per year

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Iron Man participants raising funding for Trust.

**Assessment:** In partnership with Pembrokeshire County Council the Authority has supported Ironman Wales since it was set up. The event provides significant economic benefits to the area and has also encourages a number of local people to improve their health and wellbeing.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**f) Sponsorship of Pembrokeshire County Show**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Supporting events in Pembrokeshire.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Chief Executive Officer.

**Resources:** £5,000

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Pembrokeshire County Show held on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
- Authority's show stand for 2023 provided a variety of information and exhibits on accessing and enjoying the National Park. Activities included candlemaking workshops, river-themed storytelling sessions, art workshops and a wildflower competition. Also represented were the Pembrokeshire Coast Charitable Trust, the Authority's Beach Wheelchair scheme and Friends of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.
- The Community Archaeologist also attended the Pembrokeshire County Show to raise public awareness of heritage crime and the scheme.
- The Authority sponsored the Simmental Championship, with Authority Chair Cllr Di Clements presenting the Champion and Reserve with their rosettes.
- The Authority stand also hosted visits from Welsh Government representatives.

**Assessment:** Supporting important Pembrokeshire community event and providing opportunity for Authority to raise awareness of its work and engage with public. Authority will use 2024/25 County Show as opportunity to engage with public on its draft National Park Management Plan.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**g) Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Service Level Agreement – Continued partnership and curation of exhibitions

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Head of Regenerative Tourism

**Resources:**

- Exhibitions are resourced by Amgueddfa Cymru as part of the SLA, funding can be sought from various providers to support an exhibition, but PCNPA does not contribute financially.
- PCNPA contribute significant staff time and resources from across the Authority to ensure any exhibition is appropriate and relevant to our values and audiences. This includes the Communications Team, where interpretation for an exhibition is primarily created by the Interpretation



Officer, as well as marketing support from the Head of Communications and Marketing. The team at Oriol y Parc work closely with Amgueddfa Cymru in the curation of an exhibition and the installation, including VSA time and Site Warden support, as well as committing staff resource to ensure each exhibition is supported by appropriate events and merchandising.

- The Engagement and Inclusion Team offer support in terms of learning expertise and ranger led engagement sessions, as well as inclusion sessions with key audiences and groups.
- The Grade A galley in which the exhibitions are housed is environmentally controlled to museum standards, this is resourced and maintained by the Authority.

### **2023/24 Activities:**

- Successful hosting of Geiriau Diflanedig/ Lost Words exhibition with range of supporting community events and activities (see impact case study).
- Planning activities carried out for RNLi's 200 anniversary exhibition. This has included
  - Community engagement activities to inform the exhibition with Visitor Services Manager (VSM) West, Interpretation Officer and Area Ranger holding a successful community story gathering event. 20 people came along to share their stories, memories, photos and related objects, opening up potential avenues for further research. The Interpretation Officer also visited West Wales Maritime Museum and local lifeboat stations to gather stories
  - The VSM and Interpretation Officer visiting Amgueddfa Cymru collections centre to look at potential loan items for the RNLi 200 exhibition.
  - The loan of an Arancia inshore rescue boat has been set up with the St Davids lifeboat station. Preparations for the loan of the jib sail from the Charterhouse lifeboat are underway with West Wales Maritime Heritage Society Museum.
  - The RNLi have developed two installations which will be included in the exhibition – Storm Force Rescue, an interactive game and 200 Voices podcast, an audio unit to listen to stories of kindness and courage.

**Assessment:** Positive work has been carried out with Amgueddfa Cymru to develop engaging exhibitions that align with wider Authority priorities.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

### **Impact Case Study: Geiriau Diflanedig / Lost Words Exhibition**

Through a partnership between Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority and Eryri National Park Authority, the best-selling book the Lost Words was brought to life in exhibitions at Oriol y Parc Gallery in Pembrokeshire and Yr Ysgwrn, Eryri in 2023/24.

The touring exhibition, which is organised by Compton Verney, with Hamish Hamilton and Penguin Books brought together for the first time the original artwork by Jackie Morris alongside the English language poems by Robert Macfarlane and Welsh language poems written by Mererid Hopwood. The exhibition was fully bilingual in Welsh and English languages. The Welsh publication, Geiriau Diflanedig was published by Graffeg in 2019.

The Exhibition has proved popular with gallery visitors increasing by 74.8% from 13,259 in 2022/23 to 23,171 in 2023/24 and improved weekly conversion rate in terms of visitors to the centre who also attend the exhibition.

For The Lost Words exhibition, Oriel y Parc staff connected with schools and community groups in the lead up, as well as throughout the exhibition. They organised a workshop, with local artist Elly Morgan, at Ysgol Penrhyn Dewi to create 'word birds' for display in the visitor centre. Community groups such as PCNPA Pathways volunteers, Roots to Recovery and Value Independence were invited to collaborate on creating activities and nature displays to support the exhibition. The Pathways group made poetry boxes which have been placed around the Park to encourage people to write their own poem to share their experience with passers-by. The Roots to Recovery group made paper leaves and wildflowers for the curated displays of the exhibition. A Signalong resource for the exhibition of the nature words was created which led to walking for wellbeing groups regularly visiting the exhibition following a walk in the area with the words being presented in an accessible way. Value Independence provided feedback on the accessibility of the exhibition, reporting that they enjoyed pausing and listening to the bird song and the paintings made them feel happy. The visit encouraged the group to focus on nature as a theme for their creative artwork and we're looking forward to hosting an exhibition of this work in 2024.

The exhibition has seen an uplift in school visits with the North West Ranger leading booked sessions. Schools took part in activities in the exhibition, in the grounds around the visitor centre and through nature walks and activities around St Davids and to Caerfai and Newgale. Pembrokeshire school visits have been supported by the Education Team securing a travel bursary from Forest Holidays. 11 school sessions have been delivered for 345 pupils. They extended the experience through creative family trails, craft and art workshops, special events with Jackie Morris and Mererid Hopwood and linked with local community festivals (e.g. Land and Sea and Wales Festival of Seaweed in St Davids), as well as retail tie-ins, to draw attention to the positive impact of nature and help visitors create their own memories.

#### **h) Public Services Board Project Group – Strengthening Communities**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Joint working on Well-being Plan for Pembrokeshire project on strengthening communities.


**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Head of Engagement and Inclusion

**Resources:** Authority has had limited engagement with this sub group to date.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- The PSB has three work streams and each one has one or more sub groups. The Communities one includes organisations such as Planed and Pembrokeshire County Council. To date the Authority has not been involved with this subgroup.

**Assessment:** Authority has had limited engagement with this subgroup to date. Further work is needed in 2024/25 to see if it would be beneficial for the Authority to engage with this group. The Head of Engagement and Inclusion has now joined the group.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Amber 

**i) Pembrokeshire College Advisory Forum**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Develop stronger relationships with the college helping shape the future educational opportunities for post-16 learners in the county.


**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Authority Member representatives

**Resources:** Member Time

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Member was unable to attend meetings. A new Member representative was appointed at the AGM in June 2024.
- Outside of the forum, the Authority continued to provide practical sessions for Pembrokeshire College Environmental Conservation course students.
- Staff from across the Authority joined the Authority's HR team in attending a Choose Your Future Career event at Pembrokeshire College in November 2023. The event was attended by Year 10 pupils from all schools in the local area.

**Assessment:** Member was unable to attend meetings. A new Member representative was appointed at the AGM in June 2024.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Amber 

**j) Port of Milford Haven Advisory Committee**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Provides a forum for discussion and interaction between the Port and stakeholders.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Authority Member Representative

**Resources:** Member Time.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Port Advisory Committee meets twice a year with representatives from groups of major stakeholders. Two annual stakeholder meetings are also hosted by the Port Authority.

**Assessment:** Engagement with Port of Milford Haven Advisory Committee and through annual stakeholder meetings, potentially could become more significant due to [Celtic Freeport](#) development. In particular when looking at areas such as skills development and job opportunities.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

#### k) **Saundersfoot Harbour Advisory Forum**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Provides a forum for discussion and interaction between Saundersfoot Harbour and Stakeholders

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Chief Executive Officer. Authority Member Representative

**Resources:** Member and Officer Time

##### **2023/24 Activities:**

- As part of the new Harbour Order 2011, the Trust Port Commissioners formed an Advisory Body with representation from community stakeholders such as the Community Council and Chamber of Tourism, as well as the maritime sector represented by the Royal Yachting Association and commercial fishing fleet. Regional representation is supported from both Pembrokeshire County Council and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, all of which has established a meaningful and highly skilled board in which to give constructive comment to the Trust Port Commissioners concerning all aspects of operation and strategy.

**Assessment:** Provides opportunity for Authority to engage with Saundersfoot Harbour about its operation and strategy.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

#### l) **Youth Committee/ Next Generation Activities with Bannau Brycheiniog NPA, Eryri NPA and Pembrokeshire County Council services: Youth Service Support/ Futureworks**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Joint working and engagement with other young people involved with other National Park Authorities. PCC Youth Service providing expertise to help support Authority's Youth Committee.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Head of Engagement and Inclusion


**Resources: Officer time:** Youth and Inclusion Officer 2 days/month. Learning

and Inclusion Officer 1 day/ month. Funding AMEX (NPUK) £4,500 for collaborative working across the 3 Welsh National Parks youth voice initiatives.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- In April 2023, Pembrokeshire Coast Next Generation ran the first joint youth ranger/warden event with Bannau Brycheiniog Youth Wardens. The event was held at Y Garn Goch, a BBNPA owned area of woodland on the western edge of the National Park.
- In October, Pembrokeshire Coast Next Generation Youth Rangers ran the second joint youth ranger/warden event with Bannau Brycheiniog Youth Wardens. The event was held at Sunnyhill Farm near Jeffreyston, south Pembrokeshire. The group got to practice their coppicing and other woodland management skills despite the wet weather.
- In March Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Youth Wardens hosted the joint Next Generation and BBNPA Youth Wardens Residential partly funded through a grant via NPUK from Amex aimed at developing the skills of the young people involved. In addition to many fun discussions on youth voice and the Youth Manifesto, activities included a beautiful walk through waterfall country, caving, meeting the Bannau Brycheiniog Curlew Officer and a trip to the impressive BBNPA Visitor Centre.
- Engagement activities at Futureworks.

**Assessment:** Positive partnership working to support young people from designated landscapes to engage with one another and have shared learning opportunities.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green 

**m) NPMP Relevant Authority Stakeholders**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Engagement to help develop and deliver National Park Management Plan.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Management Plan and Marine Officer

**Resources:** Officer Time

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Officers engaged with a range of partners and partnerships in February and March 2024 to inform development of the National Park Management Plan for consultation. These included Natural Resources Wales, the Public Services Board (Nature, Decarbonisation and Climate), Next Generation (formerly the Youth Committee), the Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership, the National Park Volunteer Forum, and Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

**Assessment:** Required to engage with relevant Authority Stakeholders as part of NPMP development, provides opportunity to gain buy in for development and delivery of partnership plan.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

n) **Pembrokeshire County Council – Collaboration on planning matters (second homes, holiday lets, affordable housing)**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Joint working on policy developments related to second homes, holiday lets, affordable housing and Local Housing Market Assessment.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Strategic Policy Manager.

**Resources:** Officer time

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Looking to work being done in North Wales regarding the role of Article 4 Directions.
- Collaborating on Local Housing Market Assessment with Pembrokeshire County Council.
- Data sharing agreement in place.
- Regular meetings with PCC's Housing Officers and RSLs.

**Assessment:** Positive collaborative working between the planning authorities in support of addressing issues that impact on affordable housing.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

o) **POSW – Planning Officers Society Wales**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Working with partners and stakeholders to ensure the Welsh planning system delivers sustainable developments and successful outcomes.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Strategic Policy Manager

**Resources:** £800 contribution.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- POSW discussions in the last year have led to the sharing of best practice on introducing non-statutory (cost-recovery) based services to better provide for the level of advice agents and the public are requesting in terms of pre-application advice. The proposal for a new discretionary pre-application service [discussed and approved at February 2024 NPA](#) was a result of the POSW discussions.

**Assessment:** Positive partnership providing expert knowledge sharing that supports the Authority in terms of planning policy and service delivery.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

## 2.8 Partnerships supporting Corporate Activities or Cross Cutting Outcomes

The Authority is also involved with a number of strategic partnerships which support broader corporate activities or cross cutting outcomes.

## 2.9 Corporate Partnerships Overview 2023/24

### a) Tirweddau Cymru/ Landscape Wales Partnership and three Strategic Landscape Co-ordinators

**Purpose of Partnership:** Partnership of the designated landscapes supporting joint working to address key shared challenges, including action on the climate change and nature emergencies. Strategic advisors have developed action plans that will impact and contribute to the Authority's work.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Chief Executive

**Resources:** Authority hosts Tirweddau Cymru Coordinator and Administrator, and one of the Strategic Advisors.

#### 2023/24 Activities:

- Organising and delivering the annual Tirweddau Cymru Seminar, bring together landscape staff from across Wales and the UK to Bangor in May 2024
- Providing [response to Welsh Government Consultation on Sustainable Farming Scheme for Wales](#) on behalf of the designated landscapes of Wales.
- Co-ordinating the Biodiversity Deep Dive Designated Landscapes Working Group. The principal purpose of the group is to take forward and implement the action plan developed by the Designated Landscapes, NRW and Welsh Government. The Designated Landscapes Working Group reports to the Core Biodiversity Deep Dive Group, which reports to the Minister for Climate Change.
- Co-ordinating Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places Capital Funding Programme, funded by the Welsh Government. Including supporting three collaborative projects across the eight designated landscapes, funded through Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places Fund:
  - [All Wales Dark Skies Project](#)
  - [Landscape linked educational resources for Wales](#)
  - [Traditional field boundaries programme for Welsh Designated Landscapes](#)
- Publication of [Decarbonising the Welsh Designated Landscapes report](#).
- Authority officers have been engaging with Strategic Inclusion, Diversity and Governance Excellence Strategic Lead to inform our inclusion and outreach activities and development of future projects. Strategic Inclusion,

Diversity and Governance Excellence Strategic Lead is also supporting delivery of Open to All Accelerator Project with Visit Pembrokeshire.

**Assessment:** Partnerships is supporting collaborative working and projects with other designated landscapes and helping provide a voice for designated landscapes at a national level. Strategic Inclusion, Diversity and Governance Excellence Strategic Lead is supporting Authority to further develop its inclusion work and develop new connections.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

#### b) Pembrokeshire Public Services Board (PSB)

**Purpose of Partnership:** Working together with other members of PSB to improve well-being in Pembrokeshire by thinking more about the longer-term; working better with people, communities and each other; and looking to prevent problems before they happen.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Chief Executive Officer

**Resources:** Officer Time

##### **2023/24 Activities:**

- Chief Executive continues to represent Authority on Public Services Board.
- [Agenda's and Minutes for Pembrokeshire Public Services Board](#) for 2023/24 are available on Pembrokeshire County Council website.
- Authority actions feature in the [Pembrokeshire Public Services Board: Tackling Poverty: Our Strategy 2023 Action Plan](#) and Chief Executive attended Poverty Summit on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**Assessment:** Involvement in Public Services Board provides collaborative opportunities to work with other public bodies and partners to contribute to delivery of the Pembrokeshire Well-being Plan and wider Authority Well-being Objectives on Conservation, Climate, Connection and Communities.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

#### c) South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee

**Purpose of Partnership:** Regional working to improve the regional planning, co-ordination of delivery of transport, land use planning, economic development and energy.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Authority Chair. Chief Executive

**Resources:** Member and Officer time

##### **2023/24 Activities:**

- [Agenda's and Minutes for South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee](#) for 2023/24 are available on Neath Port Talbot Council Website.



- Audit Wales produced [report on Corporate Joint Committees progress](#) in November 2023 and issued [letter](#) to South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee providing commentary on the CJC's progress.

**Assessment:** Involvement in Corporate Joint Committee for South West Wales ensures that the Authority is having a voice at a regional level and able to influence development of regional plans. This is particularly important in terms of land use policy, however it is also important for other areas that impact on Park such as transport.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

d) **WLGA – Council, Executive Board, Joint Council for Wales, Rural Forum and WG Partnership Council for Wales.**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Joint working opportunities with other Local Authorities

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Authority Member representatives or Chair of National Parks Wales.

**Resources:** Member Time.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- WLGA Council has met only twice. Meetings are attended by the Chair of the Authority. The Authority is an Associate Member and has no vote.
- The Council receives updates at a strategic level on the work of the Association.
- The Chair of National Parks Wales represents the three Welsh National Parks on the WLGA Executive Council.

**Assessment 2023/24:** Ensures National Park Authority continues to be informed of WLGA strategic level work.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

e) **National Parks Wales**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Joint working opportunities with other National Park Authorities in Wales.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Chief Executive

**Resources:** During the year the Authority contributed £5k to support the work of National Parks Wales.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Authority continues to engage with the other two Welsh National Park Authority's through National Park Wales
- Sponsorship of the Royal Welsh Show
- National Parks Wales seminar held in Bannau Brycheiniog

**Assessment 2023/24:** Facilitates joint working between the three National Park Authorities in Wales.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**f) National Parks Wales UK Chairs Forum**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Joint working opportunities with other National Park Authorities in them UK

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Authority Chair

**Resources:** No direct costs however, the Authority buys into two partnership elements – Communications and Member Development.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Annual meeting held in September 2024.

**Assessment 2023/24:** Positive partnership as provides opportunity for Authority Chair to engage with other National Park Authority Chairs.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**g) Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Trust**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Memorandum of Understanding. Open up new funding opportunities for the Authority.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** External Funding Manager. Members represented on the Trust Board.

**Resources:**

- PCNPA funding for PCNPT: £67,693
- Amount in total raised in 2023/2024: £79,433
- Amount given to the Authority for specific projects: £87,010 (these include Outdoor Schools, Gwreiddiau Roots, Digital Interpretation etc.)
- PCNPT Force for Nature mini grant scheme provided £18,920 to local projects.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Secured £20,000 for the Roots/ Gwreiddiau Project from South Hook LNG and for Beach Wheelchairs from Valero. A grant from the Hedley Trust of £3500 was secured for the beach wheelchair project.
- The NextEnergy grant of £1500 for PODs was successful as was the Heritage Fund Nature Networks application.
- Puffin Party initiative raised £2,220
- Force for Naure Mini Grant Scheme launched and has supported nine local projects.
- Corporate Breakfast Networking event held for businesses in June 2023.

- Launch of the Birds and Bees Campaign
- Iron Man participants raising funding for Trust.

**Assessment 2023/24:** Trust has been able to access and secure grants and raise funds through campaigns that support Authority projects and activities.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

#### h) National Parks Partnership

**Purpose of Partnership:** Partnership across the 15 UK National Park Authorities to generate income.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Chief Executive

**Resource:** £10k per year, however, over during 2023/24 the Authority has received £80,000 through the partnership.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- Forest Holidays funding was secured via the partnership for the Authority. This has supported travel costs for schools to access the Lost Words exhibition.
- Funding secured through the partnership to purchase an accessible electric minibus.

**Assessment 2023/24:** Due to funding received from DEFRA, the partnership has significantly expanded its work and we hope that this will generate significant funding opportunities in the future.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

#### i) UK National Parks Charitable Foundation

**Purpose of Partnership:** Partnership across the 15 UK National Park Authorities to generate income

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** Chief Executive, who also Chairs the Board of Trustees

**Resource:** No financial contribution apart from officer time, however, over the past year the Authority has received £4,750 through the partnership.

**2023/24 Activities:**

- AMEX funding secured via National Parks Charitable Foundation of £4,500 for collaborative working across the 3 Welsh National Parks youth voice initiatives.

**Assessment 2023/24:** The Foundation works closely with National Parks Partnership and has benefited from the increased staff capacity noted above.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

**j) Cymru WARP (Warning, Advice, Reporting Partnership)**

**Purpose of Partnership:** Opportunity to share information on threats, incidents and solutions with other public bodies as regards ICT.

**PCNPA Lead Officer:** IT Team Leader

**Resource:** Officer Time

**2023/24 Activities:**

- WARP meeting attended on 14/12/2023. Attack status was deemed high, due to geo political risks with increased risk of phishing attacks. Presentation provided by Egress regarding software to mitigate email attacks, Authority has now engaged with Egress in relation to their Defend product.
- Ongoing monitoring by IT of WARP e-mail alerts in support of managing cyber security risks.

**Assessment 2023/24:** Positive partnership providing expert knowledge sharing that supports the Authority in actions to manage cyber security threats.

**RAG Status 2023/24:** Green ●

## Appendix 1: Draft PCNPA Partnership Framework

### 1. Purpose of the Framework

Working in partnership can bring a wide range of benefits, but also produces particular risks and governance issues. To protect the interests both of Authority and Public it is therefore important that:

- we know what our significant partnerships are,
- we understand their purpose and how they contribute to strategic priorities,
- we understand the costs and benefits of working in that way,
- and we have assurance that partnerships' governance supports their operation particularly in key areas such as making decisions and accountability.

The framework recognises that there is great variety in the scale and nature of the Authority's partnerships, but provides a standardise approach by which accountability can be strengthened, risks managed, and working arrangements rationalised.

### 2. Strategic Priorities

Strategic partnerships we are part of should contribute to the following strategic areas:

#### a) [National Park Management Plan](#) – Partnership Plan

Every five years the Authority is required to produce a National Park Management Plan which sets out how it would like to see the National Park managed, not just by the Authority itself, but by the other agencies and organisations whose activities might impact on the Park. Our current National Park Management Plan pursues National Park purposes through partnership action across five complementary themes [Note: Following will be updated when new National Park Management Plan is approved]:

- A national asset – A landscape for life and livelihoods
- Landscapes for everyone – Well-being, enjoyment and discovery
- A resilient Park – Protecting and restoring biodiversity
- A place of culture – Celebrating heritage
- Global responsibility – Managing natural resources sustainably

Strong strategic partnership working is central to being able to deliver against policy and impacts within the National Park Management Plan.

#### b) [Authority's Well-being Objectives](#)

The Authority is required to set Well-being Objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Strategic partnerships can support the Authority to delivery its Well-being Objectives and associated outcomes.

The Authority's four Well-being Objectives are

- Conservation: To deliver nature recovery and connectivity at scale, so nature is flourishing in the Park, contributing to the protection of 30% of our land and seas for nature by 2030.
- Climate: To achieve a carbon neutral Authority by 2030 and support the Park to achieve carbon neutrality and adapt to the impact of climate change.
- Connection: To create a Park that is a natural health service that supports people to be healthier, happier and more connected to the landscape, nature and heritage.
- Communities: To create vibrant, sustainable and prosperous communities in the Park that are places people can live, work and enjoy.

c) [Well-being Plan for Pembrokeshire](#)

The Well-being Plan for Pembrokeshire sets out how the Public Services Board will work together to improve well-being of people and communities in Pembrokeshire, now and in the future. The Well-being Plan represents the additional value that can be delivered through working innovatively and collaboratively as partners. Under the current well-being plan there are 5 priority project plan areas:

- Reducing Poverty and Inequalities
- Strengthening Communities
- Biodiversity and the Nature Emergency
- Climate adaptation
- Decarbonisation and Net Zero

d) Joint working with regional partners or other designated landscapes

### 3. Ways of Working – Integration and Collaboration

Integration (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) and 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) are two of the five ways of working under the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The Authority needs to ensure it has integrated these approaches effectively in how it operates.

The Authority also needs to consider how its engagement with partnerships support and/ or comply with the following duties, standards and policy areas:

- Park Purposes
- Sustainable Development Principles – 5 Ways of Working
- Public Sector Equality Duty and Socio-Economic Duty
- Supporting reduction in Child Poverty
- Welsh Language Standards and promoting the Welsh Language
- Section 6 Biodiversity Duty and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
- 30×30 target of protecting 30% of our land and seas for nature by 2030
- Routemap for decarbonisation across the Welsh Public Sector by 2030 and Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget
- Socially Responsible Procurement Duty and Social Partnership Duty
- Wider compliance areas such as health and safety, data protection and finance.

#### **4. What is a Partnership?**

The term partnership is used when two or more organisations agree to work collectively to achieve an objective or goal. They may create new structures of processes to achieve their goal, may plan and implement a jointly agreed project or service; may jointly provide or share staff or resources and may agree to share risks and rewards.

#### **5. Strategic Partnerships**

To be considered ‘significant’ partnerships should have either:

- a) Strategic importance – the partnership being critical to the delivery of key Authority objectives or statutory obligations, or is a fundamental component of Authority's priorities and functions and the Authority's reputation could be damaged by the Authority's failure to deliver.
- b) Financial responsibility – Authority is contributing funds, significant officer time or receiving funds as part of the partnership.

#### **6. Benefits and Risks of Partnership Working**

Partnerships vary in size, service area, membership and function, funding, legal status and structure. They may be affected by the same pressures and challenges as the Authority. These include external factors such as funding reduction, national changes in policy and legislative changes, or internal factors such as reducing staff resource, service level reviews and organisational restructures. Partnerships can provide an effective way of meeting these challenges but also carry risks because working across organisational boundaries and cultures can add complexity and ambiguity and reduce accountability. It's important to acknowledge both the benefits

and risks when establishing and reviewing partnerships to ensure they remain the most effective way of achieving the desired aim:

### **Potential Benefits**

- a) Better co-ordination and integration in the delivery of services
- b) Greater understanding of challenges and greater capacity to plan and develop solutions
- c) Pooling of expertise and resources
- d) Flexibility and innovation; learning from each other to produce better policy and stronger delivery than when working alone
- e) Effective communication and engagement to achieve outcomes
- f) More efficient and effective use of resources (money, people, assets, data) to deliver value for money.

### **Potential Risks**

- a) Lacking clarity of purpose, of partner expectations or of partner responsibilities
- b) Setting unrealistic goals or expectations, or being unaware of the extent of financial or legal implications
- c) Financial or time commitments outweighing potential benefits or gains
- d) Differing cultures, policies and behaviours leading to conflict, distrust, manipulation or domination
- e) Inadequate governance and scrutiny over planning, decision-making, management of resources, risk or performance
- f) Lack of public transparency and/or perceived lack of democratic accountability.
- g) Mixed or confusing messaging to audiences

## **7. Is a Partnership Needed?**

Partnerships will not always be the best way in which to achieve a particular goal or deliver a service. The first consideration must be whether the establishment of a partnership is mandatory (statutory) or discretionary. Where the partnership is discretionary (voluntary) it is important to assess whether a partnership is necessary or whether the same objective could be achieved more efficiently and effectively by the Authority working alone. To help make that assessment the following should be considered:

- a) Can the objectives, outcomes and benefits of the partnership be clearly expressed and linked to Authority strategies and priorities?
- b) Will the benefits of the partnership outweigh the costs when compared to other arrangements, including issues such as co-ordination of activity and resources?
- c) What is the resource impact and who will meet the costs of delivery, and of strategic and operational management?
- d) Can the partnership provide ongoing and robust compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements?



- e) Are there alternative delivery arrangements that could be considered?
- f) Is there a shared vision and purpose across the partners, or is it dominated by one partner?
- g) Are there a clear set of jointly agreed goals with respective values, capabilities and capacity of partners understood by all?

## 8. Principles

Having established that a partnership is appropriate the following key principles should be considered – not all will necessarily apply to every partnership, but their relevance should be considered and a proportionate approach applied.

- a) Shared understanding – partners should formally agree and record how the partnership operates. This will include: structure, purpose and aims, activities, roles and responsibilities, membership, regulatory framework, dispute resolution, timeframe for operation and exit strategy. Relevance to the agreed purpose should be maintained during the lifespan of the partnership.
- b) Accountability – partnerships should account for their actions through reporting, meetings, oversight and scrutiny of performance and regulatory compliance, openness and engagement, and complaints and redress processes.
- c) Decision-making – there should be clearly allocated roles, responsibilities and accountabilities, open and transparent processes such as records of delegated authority and decisions taken, and effective scrutiny.
- d) Value for money – costs and benefits should be understood and monitored to ensure that the partnership continues to provide value for money over alternative arrangements.
- e) Corporate governance processes – To ensure high quality cost effective operation to meet agreed priorities, proportionate processes should be in place for managing issues such as risk, performance, finance, information governance and data protection. These should be periodically reviewed during the lifespan of the partnership.
- f) Standards – high standards of conduct and leadership of the partnership should be agreed to ensure the needs of all partners are met, conflicts of interest can be identified and managed, differences are respected, disputes may be resolved quickly and effectively and public confidence in the way in which the partnership operates can be maintained.

## 9. Link Officers

Link officers provide the key point of contact between the Authority and a partnership. They are responsible for:

- a) ensuring that corporately the Authority is informed of partnership activity and progress;
- b) ensuring that appropriate governance arrangements, memorandums of understanding and agreements are in place

- c) notifying Management Team and Senior Management Team of any concerns relating to a key strategic partnership.

Authority Members' representation of the Authority on external groups is agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

## **10. Practice**

Below is guidance on how these principles can be put into practice either in the formation of a new partnership or when evaluating the effectiveness of an existing partnership.

### **10.1 Purpose, Structure and Membership**

#### **Good Governance**

- a) Aims, objectives, outputs and outcomes are agreed and communicated
- b) Membership is aligned to objectives to provide relevant interests experience and expertise
- c) There is an appropriate board and committee structure with clearly defined remits
- d) Personal interests of members do not impact on decisions.

#### **Good Practice**

Establish a partnership agreement which includes:

- a) Key messages and an agreed description of what the partnership is trying to achieve (purpose and deliverables)
- b) Roles and responsibilities
- c) Structure chart
- d) Partnership board and committee criteria
- e) Declaration of personal and pecuniary interest and requirement to withdraw from meetings/decisions
- f) Exit strategy for partners and the partnership
- g) Data sharing and data protection arrangements.

### **10.2 Accountability and decision-making**

#### **Good Governance**

- a) Good leadership promotes supportive culture and behaviour
- b) Roles, responsibilities and accountabilities are understood
- c) Decision-making is open and transparent
- d) Reporting to officers and/or Members supports scrutiny of decisions and activity

#### **Good Practice**

- a) Responsibilities for decisions are agreed and recorded
- b) Minutes of meetings record decisions, agreed action and relevant related discussion.

- c) There is regular reporting within existing scrutiny structures
- d) A communication strategy sets out internal and external communication processes, including how external stakeholders may engage with the partnership, spokesperson designation and process for approval of press statements.

### **10.3 Monitoring and review**

#### **Good Governance**

- a) There is regular review and evaluation of membership, policies, performance and risk
- b) Awareness is maintained of what is working and what is not, and action is taken to address issues
- c) There are strategies for change and exit.
- d) Disputes between partners are addressed effectively

#### **Good Practice**

- a) The partnership is regularly reviewed to ensure it remains fit for purpose and aligned to Authority objectives and priorities
- b) There are clearly defined indicators of performance to monitor delivery of the partnership objectives
- c) Performance and risk are actively monitored, managed and reported
- d) Processes are in place to resolve disputes, for partners to exit (or join) the partnership, and for its termination
- e) Consideration is given to internal and external audit requirements
- f) Processes are in place for dealing with external complaints and compliments

### **10.4 Financial management**

#### **Good Governance**

- a) The partnership is resourced to deliver its aims and objectives
- b) Responsibility for financial decisions is clear
- c) The partnership can show that it manages funding appropriately to add value efficiently and effectively

#### **Good Practice**

- a) The accountable body for funding is identified
- b) Financial and business plans show clearly how funding and resources will be used to deliver objectives
- c) Financial accounting budgeting and reporting arrangements are in place and subject to appropriate external scrutiny
- d) Processes are in place by which financial, legal and other technical advice may be provided to the partnership

### **10.5 Meetings**

## **Good Governance**

- a) Meetings operate efficiently and are of sufficient frequency to facilitate business
- b) The chair ensures meetings address the agenda, promotes contributions from all and ensures decisions are open and transparent
- c) Attendees bring expertise, knowledge and experience relevant to the objectives of the partnership and have the necessary authority to make decisions

## **Good Practice**

- a) Partnership terms of reference specify arrangements for meetings to include quorum, voting, representation and deputising, declarations of interest and arrangements for extraordinary meetings or other procedures for decision-making
- b) Agendas and minutes are produced to specified times, and arrangements for wider access (transparency) are clear
- c) Decisions, action points and accountable leads are clearly identified within the minutes
- d) Arrangements for a secretariat and resources to support it are in place if required

## **11. Monitoring of Partnerships**

Updates on status of Partnerships are captured quarterly on the Authority's Performance Reporting Framework and monitored by the Management Team via Partnership Framework Dashboard.

Strategic Partnerships should be reviewed annually as part of budget and corporate planning priority setting. Management Team should review the list of partnership and identify if we need to disengage from a partnership or engage with a new partnership.

Link Officers should notify Management Team and Senior Management Team of any concerns relating to a key strategic partnership.

Concerns about a strategic partnership should be brought to the attention of Members through the Audit and Corporate Services Committee and added to risk register if significant risks identified for the Authority.

Annually a Partnership Framework monitoring report will be presented to Members through National Park Authority Meeting.