

# Operational Review Committee

25 September 2024

**Present:** Councillor M Bowen, Councillor T Evans, Mrs J James (as substitute for Dr R Plummer), Councillor SL Hancock MBE, Mr G A Jones, Councillor M Wiggins and Councillor C Williams BEM.

**Also in attendance:** Georgia Jones (Democratic Services Officer), Jessica Morgan (Head of Decarbonisation), Sara Morris (Director of Place and Engagement), Andrew Muskett (Building Projects Manager), and Mair Thomas (Performance and Compliance Officer).

[Councillor M Wiggins joined the meeting before consideration of report 07/24, Well-being Objective Deep Dive/Self-Assessment: Climate]

(Virtual Meeting: 1.00pm – 2:32pm)

## 1. Election of Chair

Councillor S Hancock MBE opened the meeting and reported that only one nomination had been received for the office of Chair: Dr R Plummer.

On the proposal of Councillor S Hancock, seconded by Mrs J James, it was **resolved** that Dr R Plummer be appointed Chair for the ensuing year.

## 2. Election of Deputy Chair

Councillor S Hancock reported that only one nomination had been received for the office of Deputy Chair: Mrs S Hoss.

On the proposal of Councillor C Williams, seconded by Mr GA Jones, it was **resolved** that Mrs S Hoss be appointed Deputy Chair for the ensuing year.

In the absence of Dr R Plummer and Mrs S Hoss, Councillor S Hancock continued to Chair the remainder of the meeting.

## 3. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C George, Mrs S Hoss and Dr R Plummer.

## 4. Disclosures

No disclosures of interest were declared.

## 5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12 June 2024 were presented for confirmation and authentication.



On the proposal of Mr GA Jones, seconded by Councillor C Williams, it was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2024 be confirmed and authenticated.

## **6. Action Log and Matters arising**

In response to a Members' query, the Performance and Compliance Officer confirmed that the requested report on activities and events would be presented as part of the 'Community' themed meeting in March 2025. It was agreed that the action log be amended accordingly to feature this clarification.

**Noted.**

## **7. Well-being Objective: Deep Dive / Self-Assessment: Climate**

The Chair welcomed the Head of Decarbonisation who presented a deep dive report and self-assessment on the well-being objective of Climate. The report outlined that the Climate objective focused on achieving a carbon neutral Authority by 2030 and supporting the Park to achieve carbon neutrality and adapt to the impact of climate change. The report featured details of the outcomes for the objective, a progress assessment, relevant statistics, several case studies, details of challenges and opportunities, details of contributions to cross-cutting outcomes and an overall assessment with next steps.

The report featured details of the Authority's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) and a Member requested a cumulative figure of the total carbon emissions saved across all SDF projects. The Officer acknowledged that this would be a difficult figure to calculate due to the projects starting at different times and the variation in efficiency of the different systems in varying locations. She explained that when projects completed, applicants report on their estimated emission reduction, and this could be collated if required.

It was reported that the Authority faced challenges with reducing emissions from its supply chain, a challenge shared with many public sector organisations, and a Member queried how the Authority struck a balance between supporting local businesses and obtaining the best price. In response, the Officer confirmed that as part of the Authority's new policy, tenders would be assessed based on the 'most advantageous' offering rather than just considering the cost.

**Noted.**

## **8. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (PCNP) Carbon Baseline and Partnership Work Report**

The Head of Decarbonisation presented a report that outlined the work the Authority had undertaken in relation to a Carbon Baseline report for the National Park and work with partnerships to achieve net zero. The report featured background information such as Authority targets, details of a

carbon baseline report for the PCNP, details of relevant activity undertaken and comparison figures.

Members commended Officers for their achievements in the area of decarbonisation and asked whether these examples of good practice were being promoted to the wider public. The Officer responded that although the team actively promoted the work of the Authority to partner organisations, more work could be done to inform the wider public.

**Noted.**

#### **9. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure**

The Head of Decarbonisation presented a report that provided Members with a review of the Authority's EV Charging Infrastructure Project. The report provided background information, details of activity undertaken, relevant statistics, visitor feedback and comparative data.

It was stated that the Authority's EV Charging Infrastructure project was a great example of working collaboratively with partner organisations and a Member queried how much of the Authority's future success in this field was dependent on capital investment. The Officer confirmed that the project was entirely dependent on funding from the Welsh Government.

**Noted.**

#### **10. Wellbeing Objectives Performance Report**

The Chair welcomed the Performance and Compliance Officer who presented the Well-being Objectives Performance Report that detailed progress made against priority indicators/projects/work programmes for the period ending 31 July 2024 and included quarter 1 statistics for some measures. The performance report set out the Authority's performance against its four Well-being Objectives (Conservation, Climate, Connection and Communities) as set out in our Corporate and Resources Plan 2023/24 – 2026/27.

The Officer took the opportunity to highlight 3 incorrect statistics featured in the report. Members were informed that the team had carried out a further investigation of the pollinator and Public Rights of Way (PROW) cutting and maintenance work programme completed tasks as the initial figures appeared to be particularly low. Following the investigation, the Officer reported that errors were identified and that full data from cutting job activities had not been captured when the initial report was published. As a result, the following amended figures were confirmed:

- The number of pollinator/habitat improvement work programme tasks completed by the Countryside Team: 72 (rather than 0)

- The number of PROW Countryside Team work programme cutting and maintenance tasks completed: 513 (rather than 118)
- The number of site Countryside Team work programme maintenance tasks completed: 130 (rather than 95)

It was noted that all centres saw a significant fall in visitor numbers at the end of July, year to date, compared to 2023/24. A Member requested further details regarding the financial impact of the fall in visitors. The Officer agreed to liaise with the Head of Regenerative Tourism to understand the impact on admission and merchandise sales and to relay this information to Members.

It was noted that new potential volunteering opportunities had been identified however there were challenges around limited staff capacity to manage volunteers. A Member asked whether the staff capacity issue had been resolved and the Officer agreed to liaise with the Volunteering Development Officer to find out more information.

**Noted.**