

BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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Dear Member

A meeting of the **STRATEGY AND POLICY COMMITTEE** will be held in **THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM, PLAS Y FFYNNON, CAMBRIAN WAY, BRECON** on **20TH JANUARY 2006** at **10.00am** when your attendance is requested.

Yours sincerely

CHRISTOPHER GLEDHILL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Cllr Mrs M Tunnicliffe
Cllr J Morris (Chairman)
Cllr P Ashton
Cllr Mrs K Silk
Cllr E T Morgan
Cllr Mrs M Morris
Cllr K Pathak
Cllr W Powell
Cllr E Williams
Cllr H Morgan
Cllr A Breeze
Cllr A Carrington

Cllr A Baynham
Cllr G Thomas
Cllr P Hopkins
Cllr M Reece
Mr P Seaman
Mrs I Evison
Mrs J Charlton
Mrs M Taylor
Mr J Suter
Mr M Thomas, MBE
Mrs P Thomas
Mr C Young

Fire Evacuation Advice

***In the event of a fire, please exit the building via the main staircase,
and assemble in the car park at Assembly Point 3***

AGENDA

1.0 CORRESPONDENCE

To receive and consider the attached schedule of correspondence and make any recommendations thereon. (Below).

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest from members relating to items on the agenda. Members' attention is drawn to the sheet attached to the attendance sheet and the need to record their declarations.

3.0 MINUTES

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 17th November 2005 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them as a correct record (**Enclosure I**).

4.0 PUBLIC SPEAKING

To give opportunity for members of the public to address the Committee in accordance with the Authority's Public Speaking Scheme.

5.0 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

Christopher Gledhill

Background: Members attended a workshop on 29 November 2005 to review the Corporate Objectives for 2005/06 and draft new or revised objectives for 2006/07. This was an extremely useful meeting, which resulted in some thirty potential objectives.

The Corporate Management Team has subsequently done further work on these to group the objectives. Thirteen objectives were then considered by members at a further workshop on 10 January 2006 and were approved in principle for consideration by the Strategy and Policy Committee. As part of this exercise members were asked to prioritise the objectives.

The final draft objectives (**Enclosure 2**) will be circulated under separate cover for members' consideration and approval. Once approved, these will be considered against available resources at the Corporate Resources Committee on 27 January 2006.

- a) ***Financial, Staffing and Improvement implications: All objectives will be considered against resources, and all will contribute to the improvement of the Authority's services.***
- b) ***Equality Issues: No implications***
- c) ***Sustainability Appraisal: Sustainability is represented in several of the proposed objectives.***
- d) ***Human Rights: No implications***
- e) ***Background Papers: None***

f) Corporate Objective: N/A

Recommendation: *That the draft Corporate Objectives be approved for 2006/07.*

6.0 THE WELSH DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY *Paul Sinnadurai*

6.1 Introduction and Background

This paper provides an annotated summary of the Welsh Declaration on Climate Change and Energy Efficiency. A full version of the declaration is appended at **Enclosure 3**.

The Welsh Assembly Government and the Welsh Local Government Association have been considering how best to tackle the problems of climate change and in particular, the role that local authorities can play. The Welsh Declaration is based upon the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, which was launched in October 2000. This promotes action by signatory local authorities to tackle greenhouse gas emissions in support of the Government's Climate Change Programme, as well as committing them to reducing their own emissions and acting as a catalyst to other local organisations to promote awareness of climate change and reduction in overall emissions.

Although intended to cover Wales as well as England, no Welsh authorities were known to have signed the Declaration by mid 2004 and WLGA modified the original statement to give it more of a Welsh flavour. Several Welsh authorities were consulted on the revised Declaration's contents and their comments incorporated. The redraft was then discussed and finalised with officials at the WAG.

In December 2005 a letter was issued from WAG/WLGA to all Leaders/Chief Executives of local authorities in Wales inviting them to sign-up to the declaration on behalf of their authority. Signing the Welsh Declaration will require a high level of commitment and encourages local authorities to work with local stakeholders to address the causes and effects of climate change. Councils will also need to look at how they can reduce significantly their own greenhouse gas emissions through in-house operations such as energy in buildings, transport and procurement.

The following annotated summary offers examples of how the BBNPA can and is responding to climate change, as well as clarifying what more we might do. The latter is based upon the ANPA Position Statement on Climate Change and also draft climate change conservation principles (also appended at **Enclosure 4**) that were prepared for the November 2004 Strategy and Policy Committee but not yet discussed or adopted.

6.2 Annotated Summary

The declaration welcomes the following opportunities for local authorities (*actions that we can or are taking are in parentheses*):

- encourage local residents and businesses to reduce their energy costs (*we co-ordinate the Brecon Beacons Solar Club, offering grants and advice on renewable energy systems; we support renewable energy and sustainable building initiatives through the SDF*)
- reduce transport congestion (*we support the Beacons Bus, we have developed a Sustainable Cycling Strategy, we are developing a Walking Tourism Strategy, we support pony trekking as a tourism pursuit; we could work more coherently with the local highways authorities and British Waterways on sustainable transport initiatives*)
- improve the local environment (*we have drafted some climate change conservation principles; we have supported the ANPA Position Statement on Climate Change, though we have yet to draw from its intent; we will ensure that climate change is the major environmental policy issue in the revised National Park Management Plan; we have corporate objectives to achieve sustainable integrated management of the Authority's landholdings, which would be for the benefit of local communities as well as for their intrinsic conservation value*)
- deal with fuel poverty within our communities (*we have responded to the WAG's draft "Energy Route Map" and "Environment Strategy for Wales;" we continue to resist as unsustainable the proposed LNG pipeline through the BBNP*)
- Additional powers under the Local Government Act 2000 that will allow us to address the social, economic and environmental well being of our communities (*we have drafted Social Exclusion and Sustainable Development Strategies; these could be made to work effectively in tandem*)
- Opportunity to improve the energy efficiency of our housing stock and public buildings (*we are pursuing Green Dragon accreditation, we are developing a Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan, which include a range of energy-saving and fuel-reducing initiatives; we await the final draft of our Design Guide and final adoption of UDP policies, which, together with best practice validation of planning applications, we will use to stimulate environmentally-sustainable design*).

By signing the declaration a local authority commits itself to several actions including:

- In line with WAG targets to :-
 - deliver a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions

- improve energy efficiency in council buildings and homes
- increase the use of “green” energy from renewable sources
- Encourage and publicise local action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Work with key stakeholders to adaptations to potential effects of climate change on our communities
- Encourage the development of practical, economically viable, sustainable energy
- Encourage production of practical, economically renewable energy including combined heat and electricity from these sources e.g., bio-mass
- Encourage local manufacture of energy efficient equipment for producing heat & power
- Monitor the progress of our plan against the actions needed and publish the results
- Take the necessary action to rectify any deviation from the plan where required.

6.3 What More We Might Do

Absorb the draft climate change conservation principles into the NPMP, perhaps the most important of which being any actions that increase woodland cover, help with the ecological restoration of upland peat bogs or achieve habitat expansion. All this should help to sequester carbon, cool the land surface and provide added opportunity for wildlife and also human activities to flourish.

Members may wish to consider whether to establish a Member Champion for Climate Change, and/or to set up a working group with neighbouring local authorities and other key stakeholders?

Should climate change have a bearing on the sort of projects we participate in or support in future?

- a) **Financial, Staffing and Improvement implications: If we are to respond effectively to climate change, this will be built into the NPMP, which may have resource implications in terms of expertise, partnership working and capital and revenue projects.**
- b) **Equality Issues: There do not appear to be any such issues raised by the declaration.**
- c) **Sustainability Appraisal: Climate change is the biggest issue affecting the environment and the efficacy of all that we seek to achieve.**

- d) **Human Rights:** *There do not appear to be any such issues raised by the declaration.*
- e) **Background Papers:** *See introduction and Enclosures 3 and 4.*
- f) **Corporate Objective:** *1*

Recommendations:

- a) *To note the actions under way already within this Authority to mitigate and adapt to climate change.*
- b) *To sign the Welsh Declaration on Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.*
- c) *To consider what more this Authority can and should be doing to mitigate and adapt to climate change.*

7.0 STATE OF THE PARK REPORT

Ruth Brown

The report is with the Graphic Designer, and is on course for publication in March. The work in progress will be available to members at the meeting.

8.0 NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Ruth Brown

8.1 Public consultation on Vision, Special Qualities and Issues, Summer and Autumn 2005

Consultations were carried out on these matters so as not to lose the opportunity for some of the Park's visitors and residents to contribute at an early stage. A report of the results is at **Enclosure 5**.

These comments will be useful in drafting a list of special qualities and preparing issues and options for consultation with stakeholders and the public during the first three months of 2006.

8.2 First meeting with Land Use Consultants.

The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) has employed LUC to prepare guidance on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of National Park Management Plans, and to guide NPAs through the process at the same time. Members on the NPMP and LDP Steering Group joined officers at a workshop with LUC on 13th December. This covered the SEA of both the NPMP and Local Development Plan, as the two processes will run in parallel at first. A report is attached at **Enclosure 6**.

8.3 Next steps.

At the workshop with LUC, the following links between the NPMP and LDP were suggested:

- the NPMP Vision is for the Park as a whole, but it should cover the LDP too.
- The Baseline report could include the data required for both plans.
- The Scoping Report could cover both documents. It should include indicators to guide NPMP development, which could also be used for the LDP, and the LDPs of the adjacent UAs. However, the LDPs will also need other non-environmental indicators.
- After this point, the timetables of the two plans will diverge.

The following timetable is suggested for the National Park Management Plan and Local Development Plan in 2006:

Jan-March.	Contact stakeholders and partners and involve them in data collection, scoping and issues. Convene the Steering Group.
End March.	Publish the SOPR, and the baseline data and Scoping Report for both plans. Consult widely.
Late summer.	Consult on NPMP issues and LDP delivery agreement (WAG timetable).

- Financial, Staffing and Improvement implications: Staffing and/or financial resources will need to be allocated if the timetable for the two plans is to be kept.***
- Equality Issues: No implications.***
- Sustainability Appraisal: Sustainability and environmental assessment is key to the preparation of both NPMP and LDP.***
- Human Rights: No implications.***
- Background Papers: None.***
- Corporate Objective: 11***

Recommendation: That members views are sort on how to communicate with our different audiences about the National Park Management Plan process.

9.0 JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR MEMBERS

Christopher Gledhill

Members may recall that as part of the Welsh Assembly's Review of Welsh National Park Authorities carried out in 2004, one of the recommendations was that job descriptions be prepared for all members of National Park Authorities. Senior officers in all three Parks have been working on various drafts during the last few months, in consultation with Assembly officers, and a draft is now attached at **Enclosure 7** for members' consideration.

- a) **Financial, Staffing and Improvement implications: An up to date job description will aid recruitment of National Park Authority members.**
- b) **Equality Issues: The Authority and the Welsh Assembly Government encourages applications for National Park membership from all ethnic groups.**
- c) **Sustainability Appraisal: No implications.**
- d) **Human Rights: No implications.**
- e) **Background Papers: None.**
- f) **Corporate Objective: N/A**

Recommendation: *That members' comments on the draft job descriptions for National Park Authority members be forwarded to the Welsh Assembly Government.*

10.0 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Clare Parsons

Sustainable Development is a key cross-cutting theme which influences much of the policy emanating from the Welsh Assembly Government. This was reflected in *The Review of National Park Authorities in Wales 2004*, and again in the *Welsh National Park Authorities – New Policy Statement (draft) 2005*, which updates and replaces previous strategic guidance to the NPAs on the practical implementation of their core functions. This Authority has been directed by WAG in the 2005/6 Grant letter to produce a draft Sustainable Development Strategy by December 2005.

The attached *BBNPA Sustainable Development Strategy-Draft* and *BBNPA Sustainable Development Action plan draft* (**Enclosures 8 and 9**) have been developed to enable the Authority to further embrace sustainable development to help ensure its vision:

"that the Park's landscape is managed sustainably with widespread appreciation of its special qualities and where local communities benefit from its designation" (Future Directions BBNPA 2004)

The aims of the strategy are:

1. To ensure that the principles of Sustainable Development as applied in the unique situation of a National Park are understood, adopted and practiced in the delivery of strategy, policy and programmes of work by BBNPA members and officers and promoted in all partnership working
 2. To enable BBNPA to adopt the principles of Sustainable Development in all its corporate, administrative and support operations.
- a) ***Financial, Staffing and Improvement implications: Improvements in our work on sustainable development.***
- b) ***Equality Issues: This strategy and action plan include promotion of social sustainability, as one of the core aspects of sustainable development, across the NPA's work.***
- c) ***Sustainability Appraisal: This strategy and action plan are designed to further enable BBNPA to deliver sustainable development.***
- d) ***Human Rights: No implications.***
- e) ***Background Papers: None.***
- f) ***Corporate Objective: TBC with revised corporate objectives.***

Recommendation: This strategy and action plan are put forward for discussion and comment by NPA members. Comments and items for inclusion not put forward at the meeting on 20th January should be forwarded to the lead officer Clare Parsons clare.parsons@breconbeacons.org by 1st February 2006.

11.0 TRANSCO PIPELINE UPDATE

Paul Sinnadurai

Summary of the situation to date

- 11.1 The Authority submitted its response to the National Grid RCIS (Route Corridor Investigation Study) following the EGM on November 29 2005, with a further strategic response sent to the DTI.
- 11.2 Full copies of this Authority's response, together with a set of FAQs, are available on the BBNP website.
- 11.3 The Council for National Parks is making its own representations to the DTI and is being kept abreast of responses made by this Authority.

- 11.4 National Grid Transco has expressed its surprise at the objections lodged by this Authority.
- 11.5 The DTI (in an e-mail to the CNP) has also expressed its surprise, querying why this Authority has objected at this stage: “BBNPA have objected but to what! No application as yet and it is still a possibility the selected route does not go through the BB (DTI 13th December 2005).” It’s very clear why this Authority has objected at this stage. However, this response by the DTI gives a clear indication that nothing is yet decided.
- 11.6 As a landowner affected directly by the preferred pipeline route (Mynydd Myddfai and Mynydd Bach Trecastell), this Authority has received an offer of contract from National Grid’s land agents eServ. Similar contracts will have been received by all other landowners and farmers along the proposed route.
- 11.7 To summarise what is being offered in the contract:
- A Deed of Grant and Letter of Undertaking (rather than compulsory purchase), based upon the National Agreement between NGT, CLA and NFU, sanctioned by the FUW.
 - Payment of £19.13 per metre of easement (permanent easement width of 24.4m, with temporary working strip of 44m for 3 years) crossing BBNPA land
 - For BBNPA this amounts to £72,311.40 subject to certain conditions.
 - If within 6 weeks of the meeting the letter is signed and returned, a further £1.29 per metre is offered. For BBNPA this amounts to an additional £4876.20.
 - All this is guaranteed with a range of undertakings required of both parties.

This offer of contract will need to be considered in full by the NPA. At this stage it may be premature to sign any such contract given that the DTI has yet to receive any application for consent to construct the pipeline, that the Environmental Statement has yet to be submitted with this and as a consequence it has still to be determined where the best route for the pipeline will fall. A full report on this will be taken to the NPA at its next meeting.

- 11.8 To back up the contract offers, NGT hosted meetings with all landowners affected, on 11th January at the White House in Sennybridge, 16th January at the Plough Inn, Rhosmaen Nr Llandeilo and 17th January at the Castle Hotel Llandovery.
- a) **Financial, Staffing and Improvement Implications: This proposal continues and will continue to require a significant amount of officer time.**
- b) **Equality Issues: There may be issues in terms of the public perception of what may be happening, what may or may not have**

been decided and the opportunity for farmers and landowners affected to be represented fairly.

- c) **Sustainability Appraisal:** *This is a significant challenge to the National Park designation, which so far has not weighed heavily in consideration of schemes of this size.*
- d) **Human Rights:** *There may be issues in terms of the public perception of what may be happening, what may or may not have been decided and the opportunity for farmers and landowners affected to be represented fairly.*
- e) **Background Paper:** *No further papers to date.*
- f) **Corporate Objective:** *In relation to achieving this Authority's functions, several corporate objectives may be hindered including 1, 2, 4 and 5.*

Recommendations:

- a) *To receive this information.*
- b) *To consider the offer of contract received at a convenient time.*

12.0 HOUSING IN THE NATIONAL PARK Christopher Gledhill

- 12.1 **Purpose of the report.** To give consideration to how the housing strategy in the emerging UDP could be managed to benefit the communities and local housing needs across the National Park.
- 12.2 **Background.** The Public Inquiry for the UDP was closed by the Planning Inspector on 14th December 2005. It is hoped that the report, detailing recommendations, will be available in late February/early March 2006. As a result of the consultation process, the Inquiry and increasing profile of local housing needs, there has been a heightened awareness from individuals and local communities as to where the houses, as set out in the UDP through policies and the allocation of sites, may be built.
- 12.3 **Unitary Development Plan.** At the start of the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) process in 2001, members agreed that the UDP should make provision for some 2040 extra dwellings to be built in the National Park during the 15 year Plan period from 2001 to 2016. This housing requirement figure was calculated by equating the number of dwellings required with the number of expected households and taking into account planning permissions and building completion rates. To April 2005 some 650 dwellings have already been granted planning permission, leaving a remaining allowance of approximately 1400 housing units. (Of this figure allocated sites will contribute approximately 570 units, the remainder coming from windfall, small sites and conversions)

The housing needs studies, already conducted by the rural housing enabler, have demonstrated the scale of the problems of affordable housing across a number of communities within the National Park. Further, as part of the UDP Inquiry, two topic papers were produced on a housing strategy (Core Document reference CD10) and affordable housing (Core Document reference CD13). The purpose of the topic paper on a housing strategy was to set out the approach to the provision of housing in the emerging UDP. Within this topic paper details are given on the provision of housing in the National Park, the legislative background supporting our policies and setting the housing need requirements in relation to the wider context of spatial strategy and planning. The UDP's spatial strategy seeks to address the provision of housing in the National Park whilst taking into consideration the issues and concerns raised by the communities and consultees. This needs to be balanced with the need to take into account the uniqueness of the National Park's environmental pre-eminence and the social and economic well being of the area – sustainable development.

The UDP development strategy is set out in four steps:

- Strategy Step 1: A consideration of the landscape, biodiversity and other environmental designations which cover the national park.
- Strategy Step 2: A calculation and interpretation of population change to provide an estimation of future social and economic needs.
- Strategy Step 3: A consideration of the implications of integrated transport and the establishment of a road hierarchy.
- Strategy Step 4: A sustainable distribution of the development allocation.

Copies of the UDP and the Topic Papers will be available at the meeting.

- 12.4 Local Development Plan. As members will be aware, the Authority has now turned its attention to the delivery of the Local Development Plan (LDP). A housing strategy will need to be considered for the LDP with the intention of building on the strengths of the policies set out in the UDP.

This approach will allow us to do further research on meeting local communities' social and economic needs within the context of the National Park's designated landscape, which forms the fundamental basis to all our strategies and policies. Further, it would allow us to continue to develop a sustainable approach to the areas evolving development needs ; to continue to work in partnership with the unitary authorities, community councils and the rural housing enabler to ensure that we deliver a well managed and appropriately facilitated delivery of the housing allocation and needs within the National Park.

- a) **Financial, Staffing and Improvement Implications: Funding already identified in the budget for 2005/06 and 2006/07**
- b) **Equality Issues: None**
- c) **Sustainability Appraisal: Part of SEA/ISA**
- d) **Human Rights: No implications**
- e) **Background Papers: UDP, background papers and topic papers**
- f) **Corporate Objective: 8**

Recommendation: *That the report be noted.*

13.0 UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Helen Noble

13.1 Introduction

- 13.1.1 Members will recall that the Unitary Development Plan Public Inquiry commenced on Tuesday 18 October 2005 for a three week period. The Planning Inspector at the end of that period did not close the Inquiry as there were some outstanding issues, including further site visits, written representations and responding to enquiries raised during the Inquiry. A closing date for the Inquiry was given for Tuesday 14 December 2005.
- 13.1.2 The date allowed the outstanding work to be finalised and on the 14 December 2005 the Planning Inspector officially closed the Inquiry, stating that she was satisfied that all outstanding issues had been resolved. The Inspector reported that she envisaged that the report with recommendations would be available at the end of February\beginning of March 2006.
- 13.1.3 The Inquiry represents the major element of producing land use policies for the National Park. However, there are a number of key phases of work still to progress before the Authority can look to adopting the UDP by the end of 2006.
- 13.1.4 Once the Inspectors Report, which includes the Inspectors recommendations, is received the Authority has to make it available for public inspection within eight weeks. Copies of the Report have to be deposited at the locations where the Plan was deposited e.g. at Libraries, Information Centres etc.

13.1.5 The Authority is required to consider the report and decide what action to take on each of the reports recommendations. The Authority is required to prepare a statement of their decision on each recommendation and to give full reasons for not accepting any recommendation made by the Inspector. The Authority's statement of decisions has to be made available for public inspection at the same time as any modifications it proposes to the plan. There are a number of scenarios that could follow on from this:

- i) If the Inspectors Report recommends no modifications which materially affect the content of the deposited plan and the Authority agrees with this and does not propose any further changes to the Plan it can give notice of its intention to adopt the Plan and then adopt it after 28 days.
- ii) If the Inspectors report recommends material modifications to the Plan, but the Authority does not propose to accept them anyone may object to that decision during the six weeks from the notice of intention to adopt.
- iii) If the Authority as a result of the Inspectors Report proposes modifications material to the Plan, it must prepare a list of the proposed modifications and the reasons for making them then publish a notice in relevant local newspapers for two successive weeks, announcing its intention to modify the plan. The modifications must be placed on deposit for six weeks and comments invited. The authority must consider all the objections and decide whether it is necessary to hold a further Inquiry, usually where new, previously unconsidered issues have been raised.

13.2 Local Development Plan

13.2.1 Whilst work continues on the UDP, the Authority now needs to turn its attention to the Local Development Plan (LDP). By its nature, the process attached to the LDP will be more resource intensive due to its need to consult from the outset. The Authority has to produce a timetable for the introduction of the LDP and a consultation plan – the Community Involvement Strategy. Combined, these two elements are known as the Delivery Agreement. The Delivery Agreement has to be with the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) within six months of the receipt of the Inspector's Report on the UDP.

13.2.2 Further guidance will be issued by WAG on producing the LDP hopefully in January 2006. However, within the present guidance, WAG has noted that resources will play a key role in the production of the LDP and has stated that consideration should be given at the earliest opportunity to ensure that adequate resources are made available. As members will be aware the Strategy and Policy unit has continued to maintain a high level of output on minimum resources. The additionality of the LDP, whilst still completing the UDP and the Authority's desire to produce a series of SPGs will certainly challenge the unit over the short to medium term future.

13.3 Resources

13.3.1 With these challenges ahead, officers took the opportunity to meet with colleagues at the WAG offices in Cardiff on 15 December 2005. The agenda for the meeting looked at resourcing the LDP, timing issues – implementation of the LDP in comparison with the completion of the UDP, appropriate use of the Planning Grant, discussing combining the LDP and NPMP processes and building relationships to help the Authority at the different stages of the LDP. The meeting was very productive and colleagues at WAG were very supportive of the proposals and assured officers that they would be available, with a flexible approach, throughout the LDP process and that communications between WAG and the Authority was the key.

13.3.2 With reference to the potential for resourcing the LDP process, WAG has advised that it would be appropriate to use the Planning Grant monies to resource the LDP. The LDP process is seen as a crucial tool in delivering a professional planning service.

13.4 Conclusion

13.4.1 Members will be pleased about the conclusion of the UDP Public Inquiry. However, there is still work to be undertaken for the successful adoption of the UDP by December 2006, which may involve a further consultation process with the public.

13.4.2 The LDP has also commenced with work beginning on the Delivery Agreement – the preparation of the timetable and Community Involvement Strategy. However consideration is required on our ability to meet our statutory obligations within our current resources and to meet the requirements of the Authority to produce a series of SPGs during 2006/07.

Members' views are sought.

a) ***Financial, Staffing and Improvement implications: Staffing and/or financial resources will need to be allocated if the timetable for the two plans is to be kept.***

b) ***Equality Issues: No implications.***

c) ***Sustainability Appraisal: Sustainability and environmental assessment is key to the preparation of both NPMP and LDP.***

d) ***Human Rights: No implications.***

e) ***Background Papers: None.***

f) ***Corporate Objective: 8.***

Recommendations: That the report be noted.

14.0 WANPA BUSINESS PLAN

Christopher Gledhill

14.1 Purpose of Report: To seek views/comments on the proposed changes to the Business Plan 2004-2006 (**attached at Enclosure 10**) and to seek a steer from members on the future direction of WANPA

14.2 Background

The existing Business Plan was approved by WANPA Executive on the 4th November 2004. The Executive acknowledged that changes within ANPA and emerging strategic policy initiatives by WAG would require us to re-visit the Business Plan during 2005.

At the WANPA Executive meeting in Norwich in September it was agreed that a revised draft Business Plan should be submitted for discussion.

14.3 Changes

Changes have been made to the text in Sections 1 and 2. The changes do not alter the substance of the Plan.

The Action Plan requires a comprehensive re-think. We have too many objectives and the actions and outcomes are unclear. Some of the targets appear arbitrary. The Appendices will require updating with the new UK ANPA constitution, budget for 2005/6 and work progress for 2005/6 inserted.

At this stage members views and thoughts on several strategic issues are invited to enable the the three Chief Executives to draft a fully revised Business Plan.

14.4 Next Steps

The following strategic decisions require debate/discussion at member level:

- a)** How should we in future organise, fund and manage ourselves as an Association?
- b)** Who are our key partners and how should we involve them at NPO and Executive level?
- c)** What relationship/arrangement should we have with other protected landscapes in Wales?
- d)** To what extent and in which areas should we work collectively as three National Parks? Is it possible to set limits or thresholds?
- e)** Should we/to what extent should we strive to obtain greater autonomy as an Association from England/UK?
- f)** How do we/should we meet the challenge in Making the Connections?

- g)** Is the current arrangement where each year we have a Welsh Members Seminar, a UK Members Seminar and Conference, sustainable/desirable with the new ANPA federal structure?
- h)** What are the main operational and policy issues that the NPOs should focus on during the next 12 months?

Member input will enable us to draft a fully revised Business Plan for consideration by the Executive in January.

- a)** ***Financial, Staffing and Improvement implications: Some of the issues in (a) to (h) above will have financial implications eg. Member attendance at conferences and seminars***
- b)** ***Equality Issues: No implications.***
- c)** ***Sustainability Appraisal: WANPA represents the three NPAs who all regard sustainability as a high priority***
- d)** ***Human Rights: No implications.***
- e)** ***Background Papers: None.***
- f)** ***Corporate Objective: All***

Recommendation: Members' views and comments are invited in respect of paragraph 4.1 above.

15.0 OTHER BUSINESS

Such other business as is, in the opinion of the Chairman of such urgency as to warrant consideration.

SCHEDULE OF CORRESPONDENCE

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. Such other correspondence as, in the opinion of the Chairman, is of such urgency as to warrant consideration.