

<b>Name of Committee</b>	Audit and Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date</b>	July 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2021
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<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To update A&SC on progress in line with Corporate Plan and strategic planning actions, policy statements and grants
<b>Single Integrated Assessment</b>	Is an update report for information; therefore no further SIA
<b>List of Enclosures</b>	Enclosure 1: Table 1 Enclosure 2: Table 2
<b>Public Interest Test</b>	Not applicable
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	<b>a) To note the progress reported (Table 1, Table 2).</b>

## **I.1 Introduction or Background**

This report is provided in response to a request in the April 2021 Policy Forum for more information on work being delivered by the Natural Resources Team / Landscape and Nature Recovery Team. On instruction, such reports had been suspended years back due to the volume of information that Members were receiving at that time, e.g., at full Authority meetings to which previous reports were submitted.

Audit and Scrutiny Committee is an appropriate committee to provide targeted updates in line with the annual Corporate Plan / emerging National Park Management Plan, other strategic plans such as the Nature Recovery Action Plan and Rights of Way Improvement Plan, as well as policy statements and active grant funding, for example the Welsh Government's Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places grant.

## **I.2 Proposals**

Given the large volume and wide array of work delivered by the Team, this report provides 'highlights' for 2021-22 in line with the strategic plans and grants (Table 1), rather than a list of everything, as rich and varied though that list is. This work is

delivered alongside other priorities, for example Access and Rights of Way mandatory obligations, and other grant funding from previous years; the delivery for a lot of which is dependent on third party involvement and cooperation. The report's author has always extended an open invitation to Members who might wish to visit the projects to learn more. Given the interregnum since previous reports, some three years, this report also lists the notable outputs from 2020-21 (Table 2).

### **I.3 Implications**

Legislative and policy direction favours and supports the work delivered by the Team: the climate and nature emergencies, Valued and Resilient, the WFG Act 2015, Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places Programme, Ministerial remit letters to National Park Authorities, The Programme for Government, COP 15 (biodiversity) and COP 26 (climate change), recommendations from expert global scientific panels, emerging finance mechanisms and other drivers, which all bring the team's work centre stage for the Authority. Professionally, the team is equal to the task but the volume of work is growing, especially project-related work, and this generates a growing need for more administrative and technical support to deliver.

### **I.4 Risk**

The main risk to project delivery is the high volume of projects, short term delivery timetables, e.g., Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places, the need for more administrative, technical support staff to release specialist staff to deploy their specialisms for the benefit of the Park. Another risk is the time require to get the necessary partnerships established for effective delivery.

### **I.5 Conclusion**

The Team delivers to the Corporate and other strategic plans, policy statements and grants; this report lists the highlights. Officers would welcome visits from Members to see the work first-hand.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

- a) To note the progress reported (Table 1, Table 2).**