

Report of Democratic Services Manager

Subject:
Meetings of the National Park Authority and Development Management Committee

Purpose of Report

Members are asked to consider the location of meetings of the Authority and DM Committee while the Green Room is being redeveloped.

Introduction/Background

Following the resolution by the Authority at its meeting in March 2024 that Officers carry out a value engineering/redesign exercise to simplify the proposals for redevelopment of the Green Room in line with available budget, it is anticipated that work could begin in Autumn 2024 and provision needs to be made for meetings of the Authority while building work is undertaken (estimated to be 9-12 months). Currently, meetings of the Authority and the Development Management Committee are held as multi-location meetings (Green Room and online), with the remainder of meetings being held online only.

Members will recall that at the March meeting it was reported that possible options for alternative venues had been explored and these were limited. Currently bookings have been made at Oriely Parc from September 2024 through to June 2025 with the exception of 16th October when Oriely Parc is unavailable. However, as discussed previously, the Discovery Room at Oriely Parc is smaller than the Green Meeting Room and there would be additional travel costs for holding meetings there. The alternative solution is to revert to holding all meetings online for the duration of the work, an option that would be cost neutral as the technology is already in place to host meetings in this way. A room could be made available at Llanion for anyone without access to, or who is not confident in using a computer to join the meeting virtually (for example public speakers at Development Management Committee).

The importance of providing Members with the opportunity to meet together is recognised and with this in mind, workshops could be arranged as in-person sessions if the online option is taken forward.

Comparisons

Bannau Brycheiniog NPA hold all their meetings online whilst Eryri NPA meetings are Hybrid.

Compliance

Section 47 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires the Authority to enable persons who are not physically in the same place to attend its meetings, i.e. to provide for multi-location meetings.

Biodiversity implications/Sustainability appraisal

Holding meetings online contributes to the Authority's objective to become carbon neutral by 2030.

Welsh Language considerations

The Authority is currently piloting bilingual meetings of the National Park Authority. This provision would be unaffected by the recommendations in this report.

Recommendation:

That meetings of the Authority and Development Management Committee are held online only while the Green Room is being redeveloped.

Background Documents

[14/22 NPA Meetings: Venue Options during Meeting Room Redevelopment](#)

13/24 - Green Room Redevelopment – Update and options

(For further information, please contact Caroline Llewellyn, Democratic Services Manager carolinel@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk)

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