

mae'n wlad i mi
breathe easier



NATIONAL PARKS WALES
Britain's breathing spaces

communitystrategies@wales.gsi.gov.uk
via email

Your Ref:
Our Ref:

To Whom it May Concern

Re: Delivering a Shared Responsibility, Performance Improvement and Community Planning

The three National Park Authorities in Wales – collaborating as the Welsh Association of National Park Authorities (WANPA) - are grateful for this opportunity to respond to the above consultation.

Background

WANPA is the collaborative body of the three National Park Authorities in Wales, working in partnership to promote the interests of Welsh National Parks and their associated NPAs.

The National Parks have two statutory purposes in the 1995 Environment Act:-

- Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park.
- Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park by the public.

In fulfilling these purposes, the National Park Authority has a duty to :-

- Seek to foster the economic and social well being of the local communities within the National Parks.

Cymdeithas Awdurdodau
Parciau Cenedlaethol Cymru

Welsh Association of
National Park Authorities

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The special qualities of the 3 National Parks are recognised and admired both by local residents and external users and the National Park Authorities are rightly regarded as leaders in landscape management.

Much of the consultation paper is to be welcomed. However, the existing WPI legislation only applies to National Park Authorities in a way “commensurate with the structure, scale and breadth of their operations.” National Park Authorities are not full Unitary Authorities, and do not want to be obliged to act when there’s no need to do so.

Comment regarding Chapter 1

We are unsure what is meant by “accounting publicly for levels of performance and risk, and plans for future improvement, each year.”

As it is set out in the consultation document it is already done in the improvement plans which are meant to be public documents. We would welcome further clarification of this point.

Comment regarding Chapter 2

Essentially the changes proposed in this Chapter would make it mandatory for National Parks to engage with the Community Strategy Planning process within each of their constituent authorities. For the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (with 9 constituent unitary authorities) and Snowdonia National Park Authority (with 2 constituent unitary authorities) this would prove costly, given the size of our operations.

We hope that in the light of our comments above, you will be able to clarify arrangements for the three Welsh National Park Authorities.

If you have any further enquiries regarding our response, please feel free to contact me in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Greg Pycroft
Welsh Policy Officer
Welsh Association of National Park Authorities