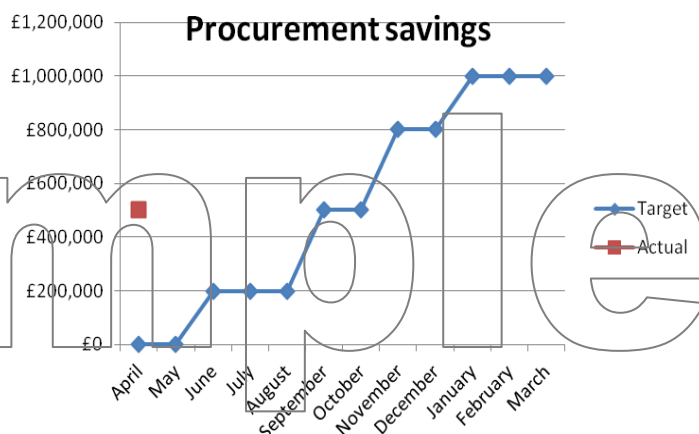


What have our major successes been

Procurement savings: We are aiming to deliver £1,000,000 in procurement savings this year. Savings are already being achieved through the replacement of three legacy contracts with one in certain areas. Most of these savings have been from new contracts procured by our Corporate Assets and Enterprise Directorates.

We are now working to establish a single savings model that will measure both cashable and non cashable savings.



What's not gone as expected

Expenditure: Budget to-date £ xx million, Actual to-date £ xx million, Variance £ xx million

We have an opening budget of £177million. We have agreed an approach to support budget management, and will be supporting both Executive managers and local staff with their budgets. We have established tight controls on any new expenditure. We are speaking with Welsh Government to hopefully secure full use of carried forward Grant in Aid.

Review opening budget position with Executive Directors in May. Under take a detailed forecast exercise in June/July with the aim of realising further savings. Continue monthly review of expenditure with Executive Directors and Leadership Team.

Debt level: We are aiming to achieve a 1.5% debt level. We are currently achieving a 1.67% debt level We are resolving technical debt queries, are using debt recovery procedures, and have introduced a new debt recovery agency. We follow this up with legal procedures where necessary. We have had to resort to legal procedures for four businesses that have not paid their subsistence fees. We are working on reducing our debt levels further still. We will do this by ensuring we continue to use our debt recovery procedures.

Portfolio: Natural Resource based jobs and Enterprise

What have our major successes been

Visitor numbers to key sites: We have been using our website, local media, group visits and leaflets to further promote our key forestry visitor centres and sites. These include Snowdon, Ynys Las, Coed y Brenin, Cadair Idris, Oxwich, Stackpole, Newborough and Newport wetlands. Visitor numbers have increased (to 750,000 visitors) compared the same period in 2012 (400,00 visitors). This may be related to the warm dry weather over the summer.

Coed y Brenin improvements: We are also on schedule with making improvements to the visitor centre at Coed y Brenin; the main structural work for the extension is completed and work is now progressing on the inside fixtures and fittings. The project is running within the allocated budget of £300K. We are planning a re-launch event for Coed y Brenin, inviting high profile mountain bikers, together with members of the local community, and schools from Dolgellau to try out the new facilities. We are also reviewing locations for our existing visitor counters to ensure we are able to collect as much relevant data as possible

What's not gone as expected

Timber to market: We have achieved 97% of our agreed programme. 612,000 m³ has been clearfell (Target is 619,000 m³). 179,000 m³ has been thinning volume (Target is 201,000 m³). These volumes were achieved with a 10 % reduction in expenditure, and a 10% higher income than expected, and was achieved despite felling required as a result of *Phytophthora ramorum* infection.

Dealing with the impact of the *Phytophthora ramorum* infection has meant we are just short of our target, but we will continue to monitor carefully throughout the next year - Ensuring a steady supply of timber is brought to market, and giving confidence to our customers.

Thinning on woodland estate: We aim to thin at least 2,500 hectares of woodland on the Welsh Government estate per year, removing, as a rule of thumb, 67 m³ timber per hectare. Currently this year we are behind schedule, as indicated by our volume figures. We are letting a contract which will survey thinned sites in detail to give a truer picture of the area thinned, rather than using a volume figure and conversion factor. This will also help us improve future long term planning and information for our suppliers and contractors

Dee and Burry Cackle fisheries management plans: We aimed to complete both the Dee and Burry Cackle fisheries management plans this year. A Cackle Management Plan for the Dee Estuary has been completed. We have drafted a Burry Inlet Cackle Management Plan and carried out the public consultation which ended during the Autumn 2012, but do not expect the plan will be completed this year.

Burry Inlet Cockle Management Plan: We are currently considering the responses from the public consultation and also need to complete an assessment in line with the Habitats Directive and be considered by the NRW Legal Team. Following this the Plan will then go to Welsh Government for determination. Indicative timescales indicate this will be a minimum two year process.