

Board Paper

14 May 2014

Paper Title	Recreation and Access Strategic Statement 2014/15
Paper Reference:	NRW B B 42.14
Paper Prepared By:	Rhian Jardine Jont Bulbeck Roz Owen

Purpose of Paper:	Decision
Recommendation:	To approve the Recreation and Access Strategic Statement 2014/15 and to approve the process described for strategy development.
Decision Required:	yes

Impact: To note – all headings might not be applicable to the topic	Impact on the Environment: Environmental impacts from recreational access and activities can be both positive and negative. Our work in this area will be planned in ways that maintain and enhance the natural resources they utilise, and will help people understand and care for the environment through appropriate methods. Impact on the Economy: Economic prosperity and employment opportunities for communities and local enterprises are often derived from recreational opportunities in the outdoors, particularly in and around areas that are economically reliant on tourism activity. Impact on Community: Outdoor recreation makes a significant contribution to the health and well-being of the population of Wales. The outdoors can offer opportunities for all sectors of society and appropriate promotion, facilities and access can improve social inclusion Impact on Knowledge: Our delivery of this Statement must be based on robust and
---	--

	coherent evidence – making best use of available evidence and ensuring robust monitoring and evaluation of our activities
--	---

Issue

1. Our move towards natural resource management will require recreation and access user needs and any provision to be considered within a wider management plan: where social, environmental and economic benefits can be considered in the round.
2. The Strategic Statement sets out our high level intent for outdoor recreation and access activity for NRW staff and our stakeholders for the financial year 2014/15.
3. The Statement provides a link between the Corporate and Business Plans and the Directorate Delivery Plans. It is intended to aid each Directorate in planning and implementing recreation and access related activity during 2014/15.
4. The Statement presents our strategic outcomes and objectives along with a framework of guiding principles, and highlights the challenges ahead.
5. This interim Statement will form the basis of the Outdoor Recreation and Access Strategy to be developed during 2014/15 and which will supersede this Statement.

Summary

6. The scope of this Statement is wide – it covers the way in which:
 - We ourselves manage our estate for recreation and access
 - We facilitate use of the estate by others for recreation and access
 - We work with others to facilitate and promote recreation and access across Wales
7. The Statement will both guide the work of NRW during 2014/15 and enable us to talk to and work with stakeholders, partners and the Welsh Government with confidence, sure of our strategic direction.
8. The content of this Statement has been developed using information and ideas gathered during a series of internal workshops in November 2013 and from the external Corporate Plan consultation workshops held with relevant fora, including the National Access Forum for Wales.

Background

9. Please refer to Annex 1: the Outdoor Recreation and Access Strategic Statement

Next Steps

10. If **approval** is given to this Strategic Statement, the process of Strategy development will begin. Please see Annex 2 of this paper for the outline plan for developing the strategy.

Risks

11. Please refer to Appendix 2 of the attached Outdoor Recreation and Access Strategic Statement

Financial Implications

12. The need to assure and maintain our recreational access opportunities and obligations and externally facing programmes at a time of limited resources will require careful planning across Directorates. On our own land the implications of P. ramorum felling have significant effects on our recreational infrastructure.

Communications

13. A full communications plan has not been developed for this internal Statement. Both the National Access Forum for Wales and the chairs of the Local Access Forums have been informed of the broad direction of the Statement and of the next steps and process in developing a full Strategy. A communications plan will be drawn up as part of developing the Strategy, including stakeholder consultations.

Equality impact assessment (EqIA)

14. NRW has statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010. On our own land we are classed as a service provider under this Act.

We have determined that this Strategic Statement does not require an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA); however our Outdoor Recreation and Access Strategy will require a full EqIA.

Index of Annex

15. Annex 1: Outdoor Recreation and Access Strategic Statement DRAFT
Annex 2: Outline Plan for Developing an NRW Recreation & Access Strategy DRAFT