

Valleys Regional Park Draft updated delivery plan Updated to reflect the impact of COVID-19 June 2019

Purpose of this paper

This version of the VRP delivery plan proposes revisions to that published in the 2019 Valleys Taskforce delivery plan to reflect lessons learned by the VRP team in their first six months in post and the current impact of COVID-19. The plan is presented to the Board for approval but remains under review as the guidance in relation to the lockdown changes.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to approve the updated plan and note the need for ongoing review.

Valleys Regional Park			
Action	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
Creation of a dedicated, skilled team hosted with strong links to Welsh Government and Valleys	An appropriately skilled support team is in place to deliver the Valleys Regional Park vision and build partnership working across all sectors and with communities.	Lead and Theme Convenor roles in place.	Welsh Government; Natural Resources



<p>Regional Park partners, to support the development and implementation of the Valleys Regional Park</p>		<p>Business and compliance and Support Roles will be reviewed and recruited to reflect the plans post COVID-19.</p>	<p>Wales; local authorities; Third Sector; Health Boards; Public Health Wales.</p>
<p>Development of Valleys Regional Park Theme one: Landscape, Culture and Identity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with partners, deliver 11 Discovery Gateway sites across the Valleys. - Identify potential discovery trails to link with the Discovery Gateways. 	<p>Discovery Gateways are exemplar flagship sites that showcase the Valleys.</p> <p>Better cooperation and coordination across Valleys authorities and other partners through cross-promotion, signposting, and best practice exchange to promote themselves and the wider region's cultural and natural assets.</p> <p>Discovery Gateways function as partnership sites where communities and local businesses are better linked to support health and well-being and the foundational economy.</p> <p>Greater interest in and knowledge of the Valleys natural and cultural heritage and pan-Valleys attractions amongst visitors and local people. Enhanced sustainable tourism providing an economic boost.</p> <p>A positive narrative of the Valleys to help change negative internal and external perceptions.</p> <p>Valleys Regional Park is helping deliver operational aspects of the Area Statements and Public Service Boards Well-being Plans. Improved ecosystems and ecosystem services in the Valleys.</p>	<p>June 2020 - Social Media presence sharing VRP events and opportunities.</p> <p>As appropriate post COVID-19 – Community events held at each of the Discovery Gateway sites to share development plans and discuss the wider Valleys Regional Park ambitions.</p> <p>July 2020 - First phase Valleys Regional Park website launched.</p> <p>April 2020 – Discovery Gateways will be closely working with Natural Resources Wales on their emerging themes and opportunities for delivery of the WG's Environment Act and Natural Resource Policy through the medium of Area Statements and Public Service Board Wellbeing plans.</p> <p>April 2020 – first phase of Discovery Gateway development completed [Action – discuss and confirm re-planning approach with WG team].</p>	<p>Welsh Government; local authorities; Natural Resources Wales; third sector; Visit Wales; Love the Valleys; Health Boards; Public Health Wales.</p>



	<p>More people are familiar with the Valleys landscape and heritage through formal events and increased informal access and usage. The Valleys' landscapes and associated heritage and culture enjoy a higher national and international profile through the Valleys Regional Park and linking to the Wales Way.</p>	<p>January 2021 – Discovery Gateway co-operation and co-ordination plan in place reflecting the Discovery Gateway Criteria [6 month COVID-19 delay]</p> <p>March 2021 – Valleys Regional Park events programme in place across the Discovery Gateways (working closely with Visit Wales and local authority tourism officers) [not possible for 2020 due to COVID-19].</p> <p>March 2021 – Discovery Gateway action plans detailing how they contribute to Area Statements and their Local Wellbeing plan objectives in place [still achievable].</p> <p>March 2021 - Further website enhancements made with version 2 website launched.</p> <p>March 2021 - Second Phase Discovery Gateway development completed [Action – discuss and confirm re-planning approach with WG team].</p> <p>March 2021 – VRP will have established a partnership with National Forest for Wales team in WG to facilitate delivery in the Valleys.</p>	
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<p>Development of Valleys Regional Park Theme two: Recreation and Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Link opportunities through Valleys Regional Park development with the Metro to promote the Valleys Regional 	<p>The Valleys are host to a wide selection of sustainable outdoor activities used by communities and visitors.</p> <p>The Valleys is home to a series of well-used iconic trails for walking and cycling, such as the Taff Trail, connecting Cardiff to the Brecon Beacons, and the Celtic Trail.</p> <p>The Valleys Regional Park Influences the development of relevant health policy and programmes to underpin well-being.</p>	<p>December 2019 - The Valleys Regional Park team is working with policy professionals in Welsh Government, Public Health Wales and others to inform and influence policy development and funding in relation to wellbeing activities [in place and ongoing].</p> <p>April/May 2020 - work with Local Authority partners to ensure VRP is embedded in their COVID Recovery Planning [new].</p>	<p>Welsh Government; local authorities; Transport for Wales; Health Boards; Public Health Wales; Third sector; Natural Resources Wales; Visit Wales;</p>



<p>Park and support Active Travel (walking and cycling) opportunities to contribute to enhanced well-being in the Valleys.</p> <p>- Work across Welsh Government and partners to promote access to the countryside to develop opportunities to increase green social prescribing.</p>	<p>The Valleys are at the forefront of working with its environmental assets to support improved health and well-being.</p> <p>The Valleys Regional Park has raised the profile of opportunities through increased outdoor activity amongst health professionals and communities. Green social-prescribing initiatives have encouraged more people to venture out, to supporting improved health and well-being.</p> <p>Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) in the valleys to support projects that enhance green infrastructure in housing estates.</p>	<p>June 2020 - Close work with WG in relation to delivery of Healthy Weight Healthy Wales strategy – developing a pilot project for children and young people that encourages physical activity within a Discovery Gateway [New]</p> <p>August 2020 - Outdoor activities, trails and appropriate outdoor and heritage tourism attractions are promoted through the Valleys Regional Park website and social media [short delay 2 months due to COVID-19].</p> <p>July 2020 – The Transport for Wales ‘Adopt a Station’ scheme will be promoted through VRP activity and VRP partners. [3 month delay to align with website].</p> <p>June 2020 - Complete a mapping exercise to identify existing wellbeing networks across all Valleys Health Board areas as one milestone (June) [updated to reflect use of existing networks rather than create something new].</p> <p>July 2020 - Produce a gap analysis that discusses whether there is a need for VRP to establish and co-ordinate an overarching network [new].</p> <p>May 2020 - Embed VRP in the work with the All Wales Social Prescribing Network and Research School. A VRP rep will join the Realist Review Group [new].</p>	<p>Registered Social Landlords.</p> <p>Ramblers Cymru</p> <p>Park Run</p> <p>Run Wales</p> <p>Sport Wales</p>
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<p>Development of landscape based projects suitable for community members working through mental health issues</p>		<p>September 2020 – Joint VRP/PHW A joint Workshop with relevant partners such as Public Health Wales involving Registered Social Landlords within the VRP area [updated to reflect joint working with PHW].</p> <p>Ongoing - VRP will work with organisations such as Sustrans and Ramblers Cymru where needed in relation to the development of Transport for Wales Station Travel Plans (STPs) that will include walking and cycling [new].</p> <p>May 2020 - onwards Work closely with Ramblers Cymru family walking officer to assist them to produce family focussed walking routes based around the Discovery Gateways [new].</p> <p>Sept 2020 – Delivery of a pilot couch to 5k/junior park run at one of the Discovery Gateways. This will serve as a potential referral pathway for GP Social Prescribing – in particular targeted at children and young people in order to add a referral pathway for the Child and Adolescent mental health team (tier 0/1 waiting lists in the chosen locality) and also contribute to the first 2 year delivery plan in Healthy Weight Healthy Wales strategy [new].</p> <p>April to June 2020 - Working closely with the Guardians Scheme to develop a suite</p>	
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		<p>of projects that can be promoted as social prescribing referral pathways with GP surgeries in the DG areas [new].</p> <p>August 2020 - Delivery of pilot landscape based social prescribing project (COVID restrictions permitting) [new].</p> <p>December 2020 - Evaluation of the pilot and dissemination of the findings to inform the procurement of phase 2 of the Guardian Scheme (IF RDP funding is secured) [new].</p> <p>Work with GP Clusters, Discovery Gateways and Guardians Scheme to roll out comprehensive programme of landscape projects from January 2021 [new].</p>	
<p>Development of Valleys Regional Park Theme three: Communities and Enterprise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish and maintain a peer-to-peer support network to ensure there is strong and effective community involvement in meeting the aims and objectives of the Valleys Regional Park. 	<p>Community groups across the Valleys and Wales have developed expertise and skills in implementing their projects and initiatives through better working and enhanced funding.</p> <p>Community groups deliver their projects effectively through enhanced Valleys Regional Park partner support around issues including land ownership and leasing and funding.</p> <p>Communities are integral to the Valleys Regional Park development with enhanced capacity and confidence amongst community groups and organisations across the Valleys.</p>	<p>From June 2020 – database of outdoor wellbeing activities available on the VRP website via Dewis Cymru [availability of activities will depend on lockdown restrictions].</p> <p>From June 2020 – information on grants and finance options for community groups and social businesses available on VRP website using existing resources https://funding.cymru [reflecting changes to priorities].</p> <p>From July 2020 – work with businesses and voluntary groups to improve population</p>	<p>Welsh Government; local authorities; Community Groups; Natural Resources Wales; third sector.</p>



<p>- Explore development of potential foundational economy opportunities related to energy and the environment. Where appropriate, provide support to community organisations to encourage the development of locally-owned community renewable energy schemes in the Valleys.</p>		<p>of Dewis Cymru database (focus on outdoor wellbeing activities).</p> <p>August 2020 – establish a network for social businesses that are working with natural assets.</p> <p>From September 2020 – enhanced promotion of volunteer opportunities and training opportunities (landscape/outdoor activities).</p>	
<p>Establish guidance and support that brings together information on funding sources and opportunities that can be accessed to support the delivery of the Valleys Regional Park vision and outcomes.</p>	<p>Partners, communities and other stakeholders are fully aware of the funding available and supported through the bidding/funding process.</p>	<p>December 2019 – The Valleys Regional Park team will work with Welsh Government departments to reflect the desired outcomes in relation to funding programmes (Visit Wales, Healthy and Active, Active Travel and Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing), and have input in evaluating future bids [in place and ongoing].</p> <p>June 2020 – The VRP team will ensure they are aware of the latest funding streams available and the support on offer and will work as a conduit between the</p>	<p>Welsh Government; local authorities; funding organisations; third sector; private sector.</p>



		relevant organisations and the Valleys Communities to ensure a comprehensive support package for those communities	
Secure long term future of the Valleys Regional Park.	A funding structure is in place to support the development of the VRP in the medium to long term with the appropriate governance. Policies are in place to support the long term ambition maintaining and improving the landscape across the Valleys	<p>May 2020 – Full Business Plans for medium term funding developed for consideration by Welsh Government through the European Structural Fund and Rural Development Programme.</p> <p>Ongoing – The VRP team and partnership will continue to work with Welsh Government to consider options around the development of a long term, sustainable operating model for VRP. This will include delivery structure, governance and funding. It will also explore the need and potential for an appropriate land designation for the Valleys.</p>	Welsh Government; local authorities; Natural Resources Wales; third sector; Private Sector.