

#### Atodiad 4 – Ymateb Cyngor Gwynedd i'r Ymgynghoriad Statudol

**4. I/we would like to make representation on the following. Please select the option(s) that are most appropriate:**

- ☐ I/We support the current proposal for a new National Park
- ☐ I/We support the principle of a National Park but suggest a boundary change (please provide details below)
- ☐ I/We support the principle of a National Park subject to certain points being appropriately addressed or clarified (please provide details below)
- ☐ I/We object to the proposal for a new National Park
- ☒ I/We remain undecided / don't know

Please provide further details as appropriate:

There is not enough clarity on the issues below for Gwynedd Council to be able to give a specific opinion on the New National Park:

##### The Welsh Language

The proposed area to be included in the new National Park in North West Wales includes parts of Gwynedd that are recognised as one of the strongholds of the Welsh language, where it is used on a daily basis. Incorporating these communities into a new Local Planning Authority comprising several unitary authorities – many of them with lower levels of Welsh language use – could risk weakening the focus on Welsh considerations in planning and policy. This could have a negative impact on the status of the language and everyday use in an area where it is currently thriving.

Although an assessment of the impact of the Welsh language has been carried out, the Council does not consider that the negative impact on the Welsh language can be mitigated in the proposed area which falls within the Gwynedd LPA.

##### Planning

The only fact we have is that the new National Park will be a Local Planning Authority.

No decision has been made as to what type of planning service the new national park will have, so we cannot be certain that there will be no negative impact on existing planning services.

With regard to the LDP, it is incorrect for NRW to state:

"...considers that the risk to LPAs of abandoning existing or developing LDPs is low, particularly where the area being proposed is already an AONB and therefore unlikely to feature heavily in any LDP"

The guidance we have received from the Welsh Government's Planning Division is that no LDP should include parts of a different Local Planning Authority.

The pending decision to designate the new national park or not may have an impact on the Gwynedd LDP's timetable.

#### Funding

Cyngor Gwynedd is glad to receive a letter from the Deputy Minister but it does not provide reassurance.

NRW's response states that the Welsh Government has given assurances that Local Authorities will not be financially disadvantaged but as the Welsh Government is not receiving additional funding for the new national park, there is no information as to where this funding is coming from.

#### Governance

There are no details on how the new National Park will be governed. Details are needed regarding if the Council will be represented or contribute to the Authority or not.

As no sound guidance has been provided on this issue, although we raised the issue in our previous consultation response, Gwynedd Council is unable to comment on this.

#### The Candidate Area

Gwynedd Council is not satisfied with the reason given in NRW's response for including part of Gwynedd in the new National Park.

It was noted that the area of Gwynedd which is included within the current proposed boundaries of Glyndŵr National Park was originally identified by Hobhouse as possible AONB land to be included in Y Berwyn and not to be included in Snowdonia National Park. It is not clear what has changed in the landscape to be included in the new national park.