

Forestry Commission Equality Impact Assessment Publishing Template

Step 10

Name of policy, function or service

This impact assessment refers to the Forestry Commission East Midlands's Regional Business plan covering the financial year 2009/10 and is a Partial Impact Assessment.

Purpose and aim(s) of the policy, function or service

The purpose of this plan is to show how FC resources will be directed across the Region and what results (financial or otherwise)/targets are expected to be achieved during the year. In particular the plan shows the deployment of resources and grant aid in relation to its work to improve the quality of life of those people living, working and visiting the woodlands and forests within the East Midlands Region.

Who will benefit mainly from this policy, function or service?

The beneficiaries of the work of the Region are many and varied. We work in partnership with a variety of organisations and bodies from a Regional and sub regional level, right down to very local communities.

We have identified key stakeholders for each area of our work:

- Policy development and delivery – Local government, local government departments, Forest Enterprise, industry partners, customers, land owners, contractors, neighbours through to local communities and the public in general;
- Grant delivery - Land owners, contractors, neighbours through to local communities and the public in general. Outcomes will be measured using a variety of means, ranging from EWGS grant uptake through to the inclusion of FC forestry policies in Regional strategic plans and down to Land management – Land owners, estate managers;

- Environment – Conservation ENGO's such as RSPB, Woodland Trust and Wildlife Trusts;
- Social engagement – Primary Care Trusts, representative bodies, local authority social services and local community groups.

These stakeholders represent and cover local government, Forest Enterprise, industry partners, customers, land owners, contractors, neighbours through to local communities and the public in general within the Region, which cover the counties of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Rutland.

Information and Data (evidence) used

A considerable amount of evidence and data has been collated across all the areas of business in previous years. Reference quantitative/qualitative data relating to the delivery of RDPE/EWGS grants, EWGS/ETWF and their predecessors, Keeper of Time, RFF, Quality of Place targets, SSSI policy, Woodfuel strategy/delivery plan and various PSA targets.

We do however recognise that our evidence from Regional/local communities, currently under-represented in our contacts profile, including from across the six strands, is not as complete as it could be and we are working both nationally and with local stakeholder representatives to improve our knowledge and understanding in these areas.

Summary of Impact

This assessment concludes that the Regional Business plan has either a positive or neutral impact within all the areas of business. That said any potential negative impacts subsequently identified from any activity will be assessed on an issue-by-issue basis. Across the six strands impact will be low.

Monitoring/Evaluation

Delivery of the plan will be reviewed and amended as required on a quarterly basis. A new business plan will be produced and agreed by March 2010.

Feedback from relevant groups will be collated during the year relating to the various projects/issues taken forward during the year.

These results will be used to inform and refine the development process of future business plans

Further Information

Lead contact for this plan is David Bole. Contact details are 01623 821433 or david.bole@forestry.gsi.gov.uk