

## ***Supporting the Forestry Sector through RDPE (2011-2013)***

**NW Briefing to EWGS Workshop**

**28<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

# Agenda

- Context of recent changes - where we are up to in terms of RDPE Delivery;
- Walk through the new delivery elements of RDPE
- Walk through key 'New products' for the forestry sector.

# Transition – the story so far....

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## Transition Timeline

April 2011 – August 2011:

Arranging transfer from RDAs into Defra and bedding in period.

September 2011 – March 2012:

Systematic launch of revised national programme 'products' and creation of a national RDPE Delivery Team.

April 2012 – March 2014:

Delivery through remainder of Programme period.

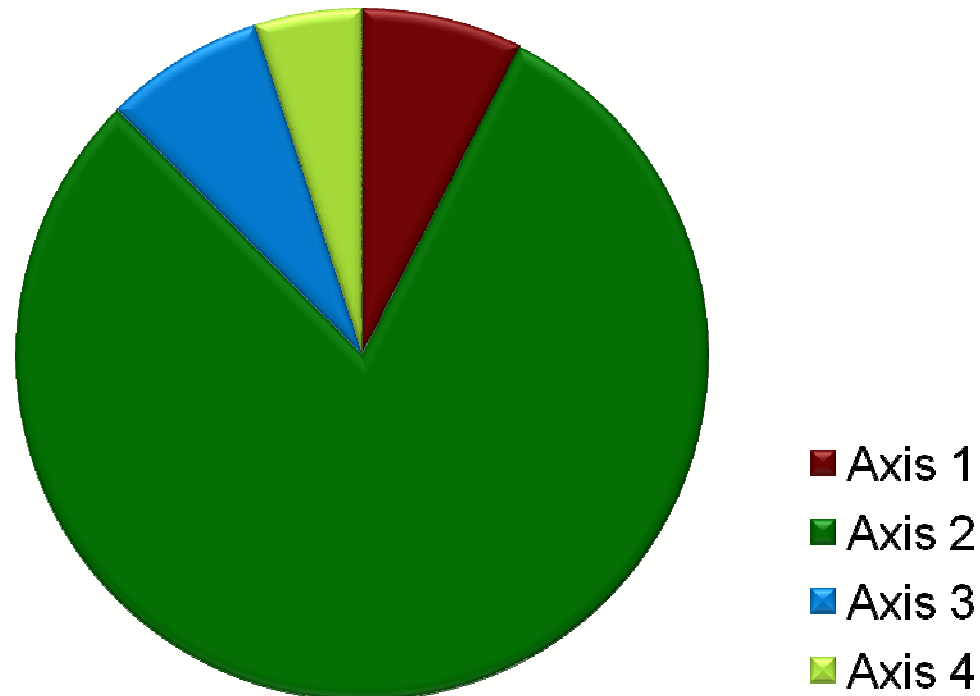
April 2014 – Onward:

Delivery through expected Transition Period into next programme.

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# Context: - Split across the Programme

- Axis 1 – improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector (Defra RDT);
- Axis 2 – improving the environment and the countryside (NE & the FC);
- Axis 3 – Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy (Defra RDT);
- Axis 4 – Leader Approach (delivered using Axis 1 and 3 & managed by Defra RDT)



# Context: Ministerial Priorities for the revised RDPE socio-economic strands



Revision of the programme in part to bring about more national consistency and also to ensuring it responds to key Ministerial priorities. These are:-

- Farming Competiveness,
- Broadband,
- Upland Policy Review,
- Tourism and
- Rural Economy Growth Review

# New Axes 1, 3 Activities

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Launch</b>
Farming and Forestry Improvement Scheme	Farming, Forestry & Horticulture	Nov. 11
Other Grants focused on Economic Improvement	Farming Competitiveness Food and Drink Processing Tourism Forestry Renewable Energy	By early 2012
Skills and Knowledge Transfer	Establishing New National Procurement Framework	By Mid 2012
Supporting the Uplands	10% uplift for businesses operating over 50% of farm business in SDA	Starting with FFIS
Rural Communities Broadband Fund	Support for the 10% of country (rural) with no broadband access	Imminent
Rural Economy Growth Review	Responsive measures that support priorities within on from REGR publication.	Late 2011/ Early 2012

# Farming and Forestry Improvement Scheme (FFIS)

- Scheme Outline
- Basic Guidelines
- Forestry Grants
- Eligible Items
- Contacts



# Forestry and Farming Improvement Scheme



- Grants aimed at improving farm, forestry and horticulture businesses;
- Capital grants from £2.5k to £25k underpinned by evidence of business improvement plan or audit (c £20m available until December 2013);
- Application process to be run in 'rounds' of c 8 weeks' duration, followed by decision-making process period (c 8-10 weeks);
- Up-front indication of eligible items for grant;
- First round to open in 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 2011 – 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012 & *will be an opportunity to learn from experience and fine-tune subsequent rounds*
- Focused on helping target businesses to be more resource efficient; profitable and resilient whilst reducing the impact on the environment.
- Aim is to improve the economic value of forests through the efficiencies of improved processing and adding value.

# Basic Guidelines



- Forms may only be submitted within the application round dates.
- The selection process for FFIS is competitive and applications will be appraised against one another for the funds available.
- This means that there is no guarantee of success and not all projects which are eligible will be awarded a grant.
- You must not commit to buying any equipment which is specifically related to this grant application until an Offer Letter has been received.
- Grant is paid in arrears so you will need to demonstrate that you have the ability to bankroll the whole project until such point as the grant is paid to you.

# FFIS – Forestry Grants



- Items listed in the in forest activities are only available to woodland owners or forestry contractors.
- If you are a woodland owner you must have a current woodland Management Plan for the woodlands that the FC are able to sanction.
- In the case of forestry contractors or if applying for an item listed under the forestry yard based activity, you must demonstrate you are classed as a rural micro business.
- If you are applying for any the forestry items listed which are self propelled e.g. forwarder, self propelled chipper you must demonstrate you have or will undertake the relevant training before we will pay your grant claim.
- Grant funding is not available for the purchase of chainsaws.

# Eligible items (In Forest items)

<p>Timber processors and harvesting heads for primary processing of felled trees</p>	<p>If you are considering applying for funding for these items, the cost of the felling blade and it's drive mechanism will be deducted from the preferred quote as FFIS cannot be used to support the costs associated with the actual felling of the tree.</p>
<p>Forwarders , Tractor mounted forestry grabs/tongs, Forestry Trailers</p>	
<p>Tractor mounted chippers Self propelled chippers Tractor mounted firewood processors</p>	<p>If you are considering applying for funding on any of these items you will need to provide evidence the size of machine is commensurate with the amount of wood you have available to you and evidence you have a market for the wood fuel you are intending to produce.</p>
<p>Mobile Saw Bench</p>	<p>If you are considering applying for funding on this item you will need to provide evidence you have a market for the timber you will produce or service you may</p>

# Eligible items (Yard Based)

Static chippers

Static firewood processors

Static saw benches

If you are considering applying for funding on any of these items you will need to provide:

- evidence the size of machine is commensurate with the amount of wood you have available to you.
- evidence you have a market for the timber you will produce or service you may offer.

# Round 1 window closes on 17<sup>th</sup> January



# Further Information

- Details at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/11/10/pb13678-ffis-guidance>

- Or ‘Google it’:- “FFIS Defra”

- Or Email the NW Team:–

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