

Equality Impact Assessment Summary

Name of policy, function or service

Community Involvement with Woodlands Policy Position.

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

This policy, written by Forestry Commission Wales (FCW), has been developed on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG). Its purpose is to define WAG's position on community involvement with woodlands in Wales, as a response to their Woodlands for Wales strategy document (2009). It sets out the evidence for action and suggested agenda for action for all organisations, communities, individuals and woodland owners in Wales concerned with community involvement with woodlands.

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

The audiences for this Policy Position are woodland owners and managers, community groups, public, private and third sector organisations with an interest in, or having the potential to have an interest in, community involvement in woodlands, relevant grant giving bodies and other support organisations.

Beneficiaries will be:

- The people of Wales who are currently involved in community woodlands at all levels
- Communities and individuals across Wales through their increased access to and involvement in woodlands
- Private woodland owners and grant providers will benefit through clarification of WAG's aims and objectives for community involvement in woodlands

Information and Data (evidence) used

A full EqIA has been undertaken for the Woodlands for Wales strategy. The results of this can be accessed here: [Woodlands for Wales - WAG Equality Impact Assessment](#).

In addition to the evidence collated in that exercise. New and emerging evidence has been collated from the *Equality Issues in Wales: a research review* undertaken by the Equality and Human Rights Commission in 2009. This review recognises

there are gaps in the E&D evidence for Wales particularly for sexual orientation and to a lesser extent religion. A summary of the evidence for E&D used in the EqIA for *Woodlands for Wales* is reproduced as an appendix to the Community Involvement with Woodlands policy position.

A draft of this policy position was sent out for external consultation to bodies representing the six strands of diversity (as recommended by WAG) and other interested stakeholders across Wales. Any additional evidence collated from this exercise has been incorporated in the policy position. Comments received were considered and where appropriate incorporated in the final policy position.

Summary of Impact

The outcomes of this policy will have positive benefits for the people of Wales including those included in the six diversity strands.

However specific projects which will arise from the agenda for action and the *Woodlands for Wales* action plan may require more focused EqIAs to consider impacts and give opportunities to promote diversity. Local consultations may be appropriate in some instances.

There is limited evidence relating to religion and no evidence relating to sexual orientation in the context of this policy. However in both instances no negative impact is envisaged.

Monitoring/Evaluation

Monitoring will take place through the Woodlands for Wales Action Plan monitoring procedures

FCW will continue to fund public opinion and public access surveys related to forestry and the use of woodlands and forests.

Further Information

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