

Equality Impact Assessment Summary

<p>Name of policy, function or service</p> <p>Supporting Business Development – The role of Forestry Commission Scotland</p>
<p>Purpose and aim(s) of the policy, function or service</p> <p>The strategic framework provides guidance to Forestry Commission staff and its stakeholders on how the organisation will go about providing support for business development on both the National Forest Estate and to the private sector.</p>
<p>Who will benefit mainly from this policy, function or service?</p> <p>This policy will benefit FCS and FES staff in that it sets out a strategic framework for assessing proposals for business development. As it will be publicly available it will also benefit woodland owners, developers, and other government agencies with their own decision making. By having a clear strategic rationale and focus, resources will be allocated and used more effectively.</p>
<p>Information and Data (evidence) used</p> <p>This policy flows from the Scottish Forestry Strategy which was the subject of extensive public consultation (see http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-6c3d4g). FCS staff at a range of levels, and some external stakeholders were consulted during its development.</p> <p>FES recently conducted a wide level of public consultation on its Framework Strategic Plan, which set out its operating principles, which this strategic framework support (See http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-6pelhd)</p>
<p>Summary of Impact</p> <p>There are no direct or significant adverse impacts on Race, Gender, Disability, Sexual Orientation, Religion or Belief, Age. There are beneficial impacts for all strands of diversity as one of the key objectives for undertaking business development is to address issues of social inclusion, in particular benefits relating to age as there will be a strong focus on bio energy, which will support fuel economy and fuel security issues.</p>
<p>Monitoring/Evaluation</p> <p>The Action Plan will be monitored primarily through the Scottish Forestry Strategy Implementation Plan process (see http://www.forestry.gov.uk/sfs)</p>
<p>Further Information</p> <p>The policy will be reviewed no later than 2013</p>