

**Woodlands for Wales Policy Positions: Water & Soils
Health & Well-Being**

Purpose

1. To present to the National Committee for comment and approval the final DRAFT of the *Woodlands for Wales* Policy Positions on Health & Well-Being and Water & Soils.

Background

2. Previous papers to both the FCWMB and the National Committee have outlined the process that we are using to develop forestry policy on behalf of WAG and then to translate this policy into FC Wales corporate programmes & guidance.
 3. During 2008, initial examples of both Policy Positions and Corporate Programmes were presented to the FCWMB and the National Committee. Useful feedback was received on each occasion, which has helped to further develop the process and the outputs.
 4. Key aspects of Policy Positions in support of *Woodlands for Wales*:
 - These Positions are a policy tool for setting down the detailed evidence and also to enable some strategic spatial analysis (if applicable) to be done. They are effectively appendices to the strategy itself and help to link to the Action Planning necessary for delivering the strategy
 - They deal with the 'why' and introduce the 'what and how' via the 'Agenda for Action' section. They are a vital component for developing the rationale for FC corporate responses (programmes) to the revised *Woodlands for Wales*. Through the development of the Action Plan for the strategy, we will seek to influence their use in a similar way by other delivery partners. As such, the main audience for Policy Positions is the FC Wales Policy team, as well as a wider policy/strategy/audit stakeholder audience
 - Some WSAP members have input to the specific work on the Policy Positions, whilst the wider process of revising the strategy has informed their development as well
 - As these Policy Positions are in support of the revised *Woodlands for Wales* strategy, they should be presented as such.
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- A number of the Policy Positions, along with the FC Wales Corporate Programmes developed from the 'Agendas for Action', will be of interest externally to stakeholders and will merit the production of a publication. However these publications are separate to both the Policy Positions and the Corporate Programmes
5. The following Policy Positions are all under development and have been scheduled for key governance steps via the FCWMB/NC Forward Look framework:
- Welsh woodlands - their extent, nature and character
 - Water and Soils
 - Biodiversity
 - Landscape, culture and heritage
 - Economic development & enterprise
 - Learning and skills
 - Public & community involvement
 - Health & well-being

Recent progress and Next Steps

6. The Water & Soils Policy Position was sent to 6 policy and research stakeholders based on the EQIA screening. Responses were received from EAW, CCW, FR, Centre for Environment & Hydrology and Technical Services Division of DRA. All comments were supportive and most have been incorporated into this final draft.
7. The Health & Well-Being Policy Position was sent to 56 stakeholders arising from the EQIA screening with an interest in both the policy issues and the 6 strands of diversity. The WAG diversity team were consulted and they confirmed that this approach fulfilled their diversity responsibilities. Responses were received from the Wales Centre for Health, the Institute of Rural Health, the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action, Health Improvement Wales (WAG) and the Department for Environment, Sustainability and Housing (WAG). All comments were supportive and most have been incorporated into this final draft.
8. FCWMB members were invited to make comments on these FINAL DRAFTS and have recommended their approval to the National Committee.

Financial Implications

9. Affordability for FC Wales will manifest itself in two ways. Firstly between programmes ('How much) and secondly through business planning ('When'). Agreeing this resource allocation is the role of the Corporate / Business Plans. However because of our attempts to improve alignment from policy through to delivery, all those involved in setting policy or undertaking the corporate 'translation' need to take into account resource issues.

Risk Analysis

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Risk Component	Risk Type: Economic Reputational Env. & Social	Impact / Likelihood Score	Risk Score	Controls
That we do not achieve better strategic alignment	Reputational	5 / 3	15	Development of effective processes
That the 'outputs' are not useful	Reputational	3 / 4	12	Development of effective processes
That the 'outputs' are not used	Reputational	4 / 4	16	Effective governance & management
Risk Score 0 – 5 Insignificant / 6 – 10 Low / 11 – 20 Medium / 21 – 25 High				

Communications

11. The Policy Positions will be published on the WAG and FC websites and will be used by the Policy team in taking forward with partners many of the tasks identified in the 'Agenda for Action' sections, as well as for continual development of the *Woodlands for Wales* Action Plan.

Recommendation

12. The NC is asked to:

- Comment on the content of the FINAL DRAFT Policy Positions on Water & Soils and Health & Well-being;
- Agree these Policy Positions, with any necessary amendments.

Clive Thomas
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