

**Woodlands for Wales Policy Position: Community Involvement**

**Purpose**

1. To present to the National Committee for comment and approval the final DRAFT of the *Woodlands for Wales* Policy Position on Community Involvement.

**Background**

2. The purpose and process for developing Policy Positions in support of *Woodlands for Wales* has been previously discussed and agreed. Some of the key points are shown at Appendix 1. At the July meeting the National Committee considered and agreed the first two of the 8 planned Positions [Water & Soils and Health & Well-being].
  3. This third Policy Position is for Community Involvement and is framed to set out the aspects of policy relevant for developing programmes specific to when individuals or groups are acting as a 'community' to deliver 'community' benefits from woodlands. The intention is to present this as a distinct sub-set of wider public involvement or engagement programmes for public benefit, which might be broader in scope.
  4. These programme level distinctions will lead to presentational issues. For this reason we are proposing to make clear in external communication that the FC Wales programme 'offer' for 'communities' is distinct e.g. pathfinder projects, firewood contracts etc. A range of external dissemination approaches will be necessary at the programme level to make this clear including the updating of the FC Wales *Working with Communities* publication.
  5. The following Policy Positions are all under development or agreed. The outstanding positions have been scheduled for key governance steps via the FCWMB/NC Forward Look framework:
    - Welsh woodlands - their extent, nature and character;
    - Water and Soils [**agreed July 2009**]
    - Biodiversity;
    - Landscape, culture and heritage;
    - Economic development & enterprise;
    - Learning and skills;
    - Community involvement; [**tabled**]
    - Health & well-being [**agreed July 2009**]
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## **Recent progress and Next Steps**

6. This Policy Position was sent to 46 stakeholders arising from the EqIA screening with an interest in both the policy issues as well as groups covering 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 Countryside Council for Wales, Coed Lleol, Llais y Goedwig and Tir Coed. Most comments were supportive and most have been incorporated into this final draft.
7. FCWMB members were invited to make comments on this FINAL DRAFT and have recommended approval to the National Committee.

## **Financial Implications**

8. Affordability 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**

9.

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

## **Communications**

10. 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**

11.The NC is asked to:

- Comment on and agree the content of this FINAL DRAFT Policy Position.

**Clive Thomas**  
**Policy and Programme Development Team**  
**September 2009**

## Appendix 1

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.
- 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.