

Agenda Item 9

20 November 2009

WNC 30.09

WOODLAND FOR WALES ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Purpose

1. To update the National Committee on the development of the Action Plan for *Woodlands for Wales* and seek agreement to present the plan to the Minister for approval.

Background

2. Since the launch of *Woodlands for Wales* at the end of March this year, we have been developing a plan setting out the initial actions required to implement the strategy in the long-term. The Woodland Strategy Advisory Panel (WSAP) have been very active in helping to develop this Action Plan.

Progress

3. The most recent draft of the 5 year Action Plan is shown in Appendix 1. The Action Plan identifies actions against the 5 themes of *Woodlands for Wales*, together with lead and supporting organisations identified to take the actions forward. Actions have been grouped around outcomes (numbered 1 - 20) within each of the 5 themes. Many of the actions primarily relate to one outcome, but also support several others and this relationship is made clear in the plan. As we intend to publish in electronic format only, the "to get there we shall" for each outcome from the strategy will appear in the final action plan as inserted comments. This will help give clear read across from strategy to action plan.
4. We have met with a number of the proposed lead organisations to seek their agreement to being included in the action plan. These include the Wales Forest Business Partnership, the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales, the Welsh Local Government Association, as well as DESH Planning Division.
5. For a number of actions where FCW is cited as the lead organisation currently, we aim to help build capacity and encourage other organisations to take the lead for specific actions over time. This is a crucial aspect of implementing *Woodlands for Wales* and should enable FCW to gradually take more of an enabling role, as capacity is built.

Next Steps

6. Supporting information is being drafted to be published alongside the Action Plan explaining its format, links with other Welsh Assembly Government strategies and a glossary for acronyms and technical terms. Although a 5 year Plan, progress will be discussed on an annual basis by WSAP, and monitored through both progress of individual actions and the *Woodlands for Wales* indicator set.
7. We are continuing to contact lead organisations to secure their agreement to delivering relevant elements of the strategy.

Financial Implications

8. Costs for design prior to publication will be met via the PPD budget.

Risks

9.

| Risk Component | Risk Type | Impact/ Likelihood Score | Risk Score | Controls |
|---|------------------|---|-----------------------|--|
| Lack of 'buy in' from lead and other supporting organisations | Reputational | 5 / 3 | 15 | Ensure agreement with lead organisations prior to publication |
| Reduction in available resources limiting number of actions delivered by both FCW and other organisations | Reputational | 4 / 4 | 16 | Ongoing dialogue with organisations to monitor progress against actions and aim to minimise any impacts on delivery of the action plan |
| Risk Score 0 – 5 Insignificant / 6 – 10 Low / 11 – 20 Medium / 21 – 25 High | | | | |

Communications

10. The communications plan will ensure that stakeholders, particularly other organisations involved, are aware of the Action Plan and its contents through both direct contact and through relevant specialist and public media.

Recommendations

11. The National Committee is asked to:

- Comment on the current DRAFT;
- Agree that the Action Plan, with any necessary amendments, should be presented to the Minister for approval.

Clive Thomas
Head of Policy and Programme Development
November 2009