

Agenda Items 4/5

20 November 2009

WNC 31.09

**Woodlands for Wales Policy Positions: Education, Learning and Skills Benefits  
Heritage, Landscape and Cultural Value**

**Purpose**

1. To present to the National Committee for comment and approval the final DRAFTs of two of the *Woodlands for Wales* supporting Policy Positions.

**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], and at the September meeting the third position [Community Involvement] was considered and agreed.
3. 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; [**tabled**]
  - Economic development & enterprise;
  - Education, Learning and skills; [**tabled**]
  - Community involvement; [**agreed September 2009**]
  - Health & well-being [**agreed July 2009**]

**Recent progress and Next Steps**

4. The Education, Learning and Skills Policy Position was sent to 25 stakeholder organisations and two forums representing a further 15 organisations, arising from the EqIA screening, with an interest in both the policy issues as well as 15 groups covering the 6 strands of diversity. WSAP members were also consulted, as well as a range of internal members of FCW. Responses were received from the Countryside Council for Wales, Llais y Goedwig, RSPB, Coed Cadw, Coed Lleol, Pembrokeshire County Council (via WLGA) and two WSAP members. All comments were supportive

and most have been incorporated into this final draft. The consultation matrix is available.

5. The Heritage, Landscape and Cultural Value Policy Position was sent to seven stakeholder organisations (Cadw, Countryside Council for Wales, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales and the four Archaeological Trusts of Wales). The Policy Position was discussed as a tabled agenda item at three meetings, and their minuted comments are built into this draft. The EqIA screening is under preparation and if further groups covering the 6 strands of diversity are identified for further input their responses will inform the final Position. WSAP members were also consulted, as well as a range of internal members of FCW and Forest Research. Written responses were received from Cadw, CCW, three WSAP members, one member of FCW staff and one member of FR. Most comments were supportive and have been incorporated into this final draft.
6. FCWMB members were invited to make comments on these FINAL DRAFTs and have recommended approval to the National Committee.

**Financial Implications**

7. 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**

8.

| <b>Risk Component</b>  | <b>Risk Type:<br/>Economic<br/>Reputational<br/>Env. &amp; Social</b> | <b>Impact /<br/>Likelihood<br/>Score</b> | <b>Risk<br/>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**

9. 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**

10. The NC is asked to comment on and agree the content of these FINAL DRAFT Policy Positions.

**Clive Thomas**  
**Policy and Programme Development Team**  
**November 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.