

FC England Applicants Focus Group: Terms of Reference and operation

Terms of Reference ^a

1. To advise FC England on the management and future development of:
 - woodland grant schemes and regulations
 - grants and regulations administration systems in England
 - regional work with the private sector such as outreach and partnerships
2. To advise FC England on the implications for the forestry and woodlands sector of relevant government and EU-driven policy and practice changes

The range of topics will primarily focus upon activities relating to grants, regulations and regional activity but may on occasion cover other related topics

Established: October 2002

Status: Informal Advisory Group

Membership Criteria

In 2002 the main owner/agent/manager representative organisations were invited by FC to nominate up to 2 officers or members to attend each meeting. There was no formal appointment. In 2007 the membership has been broadened to reflect customer and stakeholder interest in forestry policy delivery linked to England's Trees, Woods and Forests (Defra, 2007) and the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13. A full list of current members is shown at the end of this document

Organisations currently represented (2007): ConFor; ICF; FCA; RFS; SWA; RICS; CLA; Shropshire CC/West Midlands Regional Forestry Forum; Community Forests; NFU (vacant position); Wildlife & Countryside Link (WT and RSPB); RPA (observers) and FC England.

Frequency of meetings

Twice a year, with option for specific 'AFG+' meetings where attendance can be expanded through regional nominations for wider consultation exercises

Members expenses and claims

FC pays a day rate plus expenses for those members whose costs of attendance are not supported by their employers.

Meeting papers and minutes:

There is an Applicants Focus Group webpage, which provides information about the group, meeting minutes and associated papers since 2007.

^a The group was originally established primarily to advise FC England on the development, implementation and management of the English Woodland Grant Scheme and new administrative / IT system. Since then the scope has expanded to include other areas of common interest and responsibility, such as Regional Forestry Frameworks, Rural Development Programme for England, Forest Guidelines / UKWAS revision, and the Woodfuel Strategy

Current membership

Community Forests	Paul Nolan
Confederation of Forest Industries	Judith Webb (ConFor) Richard Sochacki (ConFor)
Country Landowner Association	Mike Seville
Forestry Commission	Richard Britton Andrew Smith Steve Hunt Craig Harrison and others as agenda demands
Forestry Contracting Association	Donald Maclean
Institute of Chartered Foresters	Neville Elstone Tim Shardlow
Royal Forestry Society	
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors	John Lockhart (Lockhart Garratt)
Rural Payments Agency	Edd Husband
Shropshire CC / West Midlands Regional Forestry Forum	John Blessington
Small Woods Association	John Morris
Wildlife & Countryside Link	Andy Sharkey (Woodland Trust) Mike Wood

FC England
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