

HEALTH & SAFETY – A STATEMENT OF INTENT FOR ENGLAND**Purpose**

1. This paper presents and seeks approval from the Board to a new Statement of Intent for how we will approach Health and Safety in England.

Background/Introduction

2. Improving Health and Safety (H&S) in forestry has sector wide importance and internally within the Forestry Commission this has been identified as a top organisational priority across all parts of the GB wide organisation.
3. At its February 2015 meeting, when the idea of a H&S Statement of Intent for England was discussed, the Board agreed there should be an England specific statement in the style now presented which gives clear direction to the business units.
4. The Board also agreed that that the launch of the new statement would be associated with the results of the Safety Climate survey and this paper includes proposals for communication.

Key facts

5. In 2014 a Statement of Intent for H&S was published on a cross-border basis. This statement is intended to succinctly and clearly set out the organisations commitment and approach to H&S within the business.
6. The high level statement compliments the more detailed arrangement for H&S set out in H&S Policy Statements which are required of each principal management unit.
7. The FC England Statement of Intent would sit alongside and compliment the cross-border version. The England statement develops the high level principles contained in the cross-border version with specific relevance to the Country circumstance.
8. The version of the statement presented to the Board has been developed with input from the England H&S Group and the penultimate draft has been considered and signed off by both Forest Services Management Board and FE Executive Team.

Resource Implications

9. There are no immediate resource implications associated with decisions sought by this paper, the issues forming part of the ongoing work of the FC England, Area Team and Forest District H&S Groups.

Risk Assessment

10. Failure to provide a clear sense of H&S leadership associated with tangible actions is likely, over time, to lead to failure to meet organisational H&S legal and mandatory requirements and concurrent failure to deliver business outcomes.
11. Current leadership from the cross-border and England level, including the work of the England H&S Group, is helping to mitigate the risk above. Establishing and publicising a H&S Statement of Intent for England is likely to further mitigate this risk especially when in conjunction with ongoing actions.

Equality Analysis

12. Not applicable.

Communications

13. If approved by the Board, the Statement of Intent would be published on the appropriate page of FC intranet.
14. Concurrently with publication the Statement of Intent would be promoted via internal media e.g. Bark, in the context of our ongoing efforts in respect to improving H&S in the organisation and the results of the recent Safety Climate Tool survey.

Recommendation(s)

15. The Board is invited to approve the H&S Statement of Intent and associated publication and communication.

Mike Seddon

Director of Operations

10 July 2015

Status: FULLY OPEN