

16 January 2014

REVISION OF FOREST ENTERPRISE FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT**Purpose**

1. To invite the Board to review the Forest Enterprise Framework document to ensure it reflects the current position.

Recommendations

2. That you:

- Agree the proposed amendments outlined in this paper and incorporated into the document at Annex A.

Background

3. Forest Enterprise operates under a devolved mandate given to it by this Committee through the Forest Enterprise Framework Document (Annex A).

4. At its meeting in March 2011, the Committee agreed to extend the life of the Forest Enterprise Framework Document until 31 March 2012 so that an updated framework could take account to the findings of the independent panel. This was shortly after the Independent Panel on Forestry had been established and when it was expected that their report would be published within 6 months.

5. Given the delay in the publication of the final conclusions of the Panel and subsequent development of the Government's response, published in January 2013, it has not been appropriate to progress this work to the 31 March 2012 deadline. More recent developments relating to the future of the public forest estate and the timetable for the creation of a new management organisation has meant that a light touch review is now called for.

Proposed Amendments

6. The following table outlines the amendments proposed to the document, a draft document incorporating all amendments is attached at annex A.

Paragraph	Current	Proposed Change/Comment
2.2	The overall aim of Forestry Commission England is framed by the Strategy for England's Trees Woods and Forests and the associated Delivery Plan which reflects the Government's wider policy aims.	Replace 'Strategy for England's Trees Woods and Forests and the associated Delivery Plan' with 'Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement'.
2.6	The Forestry Commission National Committee for England will, after	Remove reference to Annex A, which was

	consultation with the Agency Chief Executive, set annual targets for the key performance indicators listed in Annex A, measuring the most important outputs generated by the Agency;	deleted at March 2011 review.
3.2	The Forestry Commissioners are statutorily responsible for the stewardship of the public forest estate placed at the disposal by the Minister. Their relevant duties and powers are set out in Annex B.	Amend naming of Annex to A.
Deleted (was 3.3)	The Director General is the Deputy Chairman of the Forestry Commissioners and the senior executive in the Forestry Commission. In addition to his role as a Commissioner, the Director General is the Principal Accounting Officer, formally responsible to Parliament for the financial affairs of the Forestry Commission including the Agency. In practice, the Director General's role in relation to the Agency is delegated to the Director England as Additional Accounting Officer.	Delete entire paragraph relating to Director General. Re-number subsequent paragraphs.
3.4	The Director England is the executive Forestry Commissioner responsible to the Forestry Minister and to the Director General for the work of the Forestry Commission in England.	Replace 'Director General' with 'Commissioners'.
3.4 (bullet 2)	the key programmes where the public forest estate should contribute towards delivering the Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests;	Replace 'Strategy for England's Trees Woods and Forests' and the associated Delivery Plan with 'Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement'.
3.6 (bullet 2)	supporting joined-up strategic working by FC within the Regions;	Replace 'Regions' with 'Areas'.
3.8	The Director General, Director England and Chief Executive are liable to be summoned to appear before the Public Accounts Committee to answer for their respective responsibilities.	Remove 'Director General'
5.4	The Chief Executive has the delegated financial authority set out in Annex C.	Amend naming of Annex to B.
7.1	Many services are shared across Forestry Commission GB in the interests of efficiency and effectiveness.	Replace GB with England and Scotland.
8.2	The Framework Document will be reviewed by the Forestry Commission National Committee for England no later than 31 March 2012.	Replace 2012 with 2015.

Conclusion

- The change in timetable for the creation of the new public forest estate management organisation means that a light touch review of the FE framework agreement is

sufficient at this time. A more significant review will take place as a part of the ongoing work programme of the PFEMO project. More information about the future relationship between the Forestry Commission and PFEMO will be presented to the Committee at an appropriate time.

Executive Office
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