

# Forestry Commission Equality Impact Assessment Publishing Template

## Name of policy, function or service

Forest of Dean Strategic Plan covering the period 2009-2019

## Purpose and aim(s) of the policy, function or service

The purpose of this plan is to show how the Public Forest Estate in the District will be managed to help fulfil the aims of the Governments policy for Forestry and how FC resources will be directed across the District. In particular the plan shows the deployment of resources in relation to its work to improve the quality of life of those people living, working and visiting the public forest estate within the Forest of Dean Forest District

## Who will benefit mainly from this policy, function or service?

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The beneficiaries are the population of the UK. These are public forests being managed for public benefit. Our timber production from sustainably managed forests benefits the entire population economically and in terms of climate change mitigation. Economic benefit accrues to the people of the region and to local communities through timber production, the value of the forests as tourist destinations and the contribution they make to the environment of the region as a place to live and work. The forests are a regionally significant source of direct and indirect employment. The forests also provide a recreational service both to the people of the region and to local communities, providing opportunities for fresh air, exercise, mental well-being and opportunities for community engagement.

## Information and Data (evidence) used

Population Census 2001, Public Opinion Survey 2009, local visitor surveys, staff records, customer feedback, stakeholder consultation exercise.

## Summary of Impact

Positive or neutral impact across all groups with no significant differential or adverse impact evident on the grounds of diversity.

## Monitoring/Evaluation

Through visitor survey, staff survey, events feedback forms and other feedback from customers via staff, mail, email and website.

**Further Information**

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