

If responding on behalf of an organisation please give its name

Rural Development Initiatives Limited

Does the draft document 'Towards a New Public Forest Estate management body' adequately reflect the conclusions of the government 'Government Forestry & Woodlands Policy Statement'? - If so in what way?

Yes, in general it does. The concept of holding the nations woodlands in trust is a good one.

What further development is needed for the Management organisation?

I do think the name of the new trust needs to be more carefully thought through. Public Forests England seems to be the most appropriate from the list provided in the document but Public Forest Estate fitted the bill quite well.

If not, what are your views on the proposed mission and objectives for the new organisation (see Annex A of the draft document)? - What are your views on the significant assets and disposals arrangements set out in the document?

Under environmental objectives, it might be useful to include 'improve' as well as 'protect, manage and conserve'

What are your views on how the new organisation could improve the financial sustainability of the Estate?

Maximising the income potential from growing timber by appropriate marketing and crop improvements through good silviculture. Increase income from public access (car parks, forest rides, visitor concessions and events). Taxpayers also need to play their part here and understand the significance of public forests and their provision for society and accept the need to provide funding for their upkeep.

What are your views on the significant assets and disposals arrangements set out in the document? - Views on assets and disposals arrangements?

I see no problem with allowing the new trust to undertake acquisitions and disposals as long as it's in the clear interest of the taxpayer.

It will be necessary to give the new body a new name because Forestry Commission is established in law as a cross-border body. Do you have any ideas on a suitable name? - Suitable new name or organisation?

Public Forests England is about the best I've seen. Public Forest Estate fitted the bill but if we now need country specific names.....!

What are your views on the arrangements proposed for the new organisation's accountability to Parliament? - Views on organisation's accountability to parliament?

I agree that the new trust should be accountable to Parliament as it's looking after the public forest estate however, I would be wary of too many reporting 'layers' and would question the need for Guardians as well as an executive/non-executive board and the need to report to Parliament. What about reporting to an existing all party committee?

What are your views on the proposed Board's remit, size and composition? - Views on Board's remit, size and composition?

See comment 9.

What are your views on the Guardians' remit, role, numbers and composition? - Views on Guardians' remit, role, numbers and composition?

See comment 9.

What are the most important things to put in a public charter for the new organisation? - Most important things for public charter?

Not Answered

Do you have any general comments that you believe would be of assistance in creating the new organisation? - General comments on new organisation?

Not Answered

The forestry functions review concluded that the current arrangements 'complicate governance and obscure a clearer "line of sight" between forestry and woodland policy and delivery'. What do you think should be done to address this?

Not Answered

What more do you think should be done to improve the efficiency with which government's forestry functions are delivered? - What can be done to improve efficiency?

Not Answered

Would you like to make any other comments about the conclusions of the review of forestry functions in England, including on any impacts of the creation of the Public Forest Estate management body? - Other comments?

Not Answered

Would you like to make any other comments at this early stage about how setting up the Public Forest Estate management body and advancing the conclusions of the review of forestry functions in England might affect: - Cross-boarder functions?

Not Answered

Would you like to make any other comments at this early stage about how setting up the Public Forest Estate management body and advancing the conclusions of the review of forestry functions in England might affect: - Shared services?

Not Answered

Would you like to make any other comments at this early stage about how setting up the Public Forest Estate management body and advancing the conclusions of the review of forestry functions in England might affect: - England's National Office

Not Answered

Would you like to make any other comments about any aspect of this work? - General comments?

Not Answered

Response ID
ANON-69TR-9X9M-C