

If responding on behalf of an organisation please give its name

Tyne and Wear Joint Local Access Forum

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?

No

What further development is needed for the Management organisation?

Does not clearly address how it will

Develop, in collaboration with stakeholders, initial plans for the new Public Forest Estate

management body

Agree with partners across the sector how to accelerate the rate of woodland creation and

increase the amount of woodland brought into active management

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?

Missing

To ensure the long term viability of the Forest Estate not just the associated land holdings

To grow and develop both the size and range of our forests.

To protect our ancient wood lands

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

Expand the structural use of timber in the UK.

Commit to long-term investment in the forest, not short term economic goals

Grow more of our own timber and import less

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

The most significant assets are clearly the wood lands and they should be most clearly protected however its not at all clear that the arm's length voluntary advisory guardians can full fill that role.

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?

Not necessary. Why change the name-as primary legislation is needed anyway, just change the name of the other bit to Forest Services or something. It will cost peanuts,(e.g. largely paper logos) but changing Forestry Commission on forests (thousands of sign boards) will cost millions

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

As suggested it in effect becomes a department of Defra not the panels vision of a new body directly accountable to us the public

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

What is needed is a management Board with a balance that ensures it is the forests that come first in all their deliberations – it must not be vulnerable to party political or single interest takeover. The Secretary of State should most certainly have a voice appoint the chair indeed But the seats must be appointed in such a way that the spread of people represent everyone with an interest in our national forests, and whilst individually representing different interests, as a Board to work for the forests as a whole, not departmental / party interests.

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

As suggested they have a very limited advisory role with no real power, no real links to any national power bases or representativeness of key interest groups. It is not clear how/ when they would be made aware ` the environmental condition of the

estate` or the progress or other wise of the work of forestry development ,of promotion or use.

Their precise role in a key task – oversight of significant acquisitions and disposals, is not defined in the document and given their exclusion from the management of the organization it is difficult to see what `Guardian` power they would have.

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

Public accountability and long term vision and goals.. Woods and Forests take very much longer to develop that any one or two government cycles

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

There must be much stronger direct links to the users – commercial – sporting – wild life- social – visual - and urban of our forests.

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?

Long-term aims that look 40 / 50 years ahead that have been developed publicly (even if this in its self takes time) and clearly promoted short term objectives

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?

Removal of short term switches between government to government.

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?

Only the clear aim of the advisory panel was for a strong independent organization. The suggested structure looks like a department of Defra all be it at a short arm's length.

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?

Cross boarder links a clearly important since people , wild life and vegetation do not respect our borders. The aim must be since forest are not short term is to some wide long-term agreement across the UK of where / when we are going.

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?

No comment

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

No comment

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

We have a tremendous assent in OUR forests, and the Forestry Commission did a very good job especially in recent years bring together vastly different interests / users of our forests from wild life concerns , mountain bikers , walkers painters , commercial sales of wood, and showing that with good management all could happily coexist in our woods - Given good long term vision and strong independent management this can continue.

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