Annual Delivery Plan 2005-06

Implementing the Regional Forest Strategy for the North East of England

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This Vision Wheel summarises the heart of the Regional Forest Strategy.

The Objectives in the Wheel form the main headings for the Plan. Under each Objective, the Actions are shown alongside the Outcomes we are seeking to deliver, and then by the main Outputs to which the Actions will contribute.

Annual Delivery Plan 2005-06

Introduction

This document shows how the RFS will be implemented over the coming financial year 2005-06. It builds on the Action Plans in the Regional Forest Strategy and includes some Actions that go beyond the Action Plans. This is the first Annual Delivery Plan, and through the year we expect to be made aware of additional Actions that are taking place or are proposed.

RFS Delivery Group

The Group’s role is to produce the Annual Delivery Plan each year, in conjunction with the Lead Partners, and to use progress reports by Lead Partners to keep track of changes in circumstances. We will facilitate partnership development as appropriate and, as more Actions come forward, we will ensure coordination between Lead Partners. The organisations represented on the Group are highlighted in the list of Lead Partners on page 18.

Lead Partners

Lead Partners are organisations who have agreed to coordinate specific Actions and to take the lead to ensure that their Actions are delivered in conjunction with their other partners. Those other partners may well provide some or even all of the funding or other resources. The Lead Partners’ role is also to advise and report on their Actions to the RFS Delivery Group. They will meet at the launch of the Strategy, and then once or twice a year, to ensure they have the support they need, and are coordinating their actions to best effect. A list of Lead Partners is on page 18.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Output</th>
<th>Actions –mainly as proposed in RFS</th>
<th>Further details of proposed Action</th>
<th>Start Date of Action</th>
<th>Estimated end date of action</th>
<th>Lead Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic Regeneration and Growth</td>
<td>New Businesses</td>
<td>1. Work with providers of outdoor recreation to grow the tourism economy and business opportunities</td>
<td>Includes work with Kielder Partnership, Kielder Access Project, KCEL, Descend, leases to local businesses</td>
<td>Started</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Forest Enterprise, Kielder Partnership, KCEL, Tynedale Council, Northumberland County Council</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Promote major forest recreation sites such as Kielder Forest as part of the tourism package – particularly outside the region</td>
<td></td>
<td>Started</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Kielder Partnerships, Northumberland Water, Tynedale Council, Northumberland National Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Produce &amp; distribute Kielder Water &amp; Forest park guide, promote Kielder through press articles, targeted advertising, presence at destination management events &amp; provide a visitor information service.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Started</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Kielder Partnerships, Northumberland Water, Tynedale Council, Northumberland National Park</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Facilities</td>
<td>2. Investigate the potential for new woodland-based leisure developments that contribute to the sustainable development of rural economies.</td>
<td>Hamsterley Forest – Premier Cycle Centre for the North East Region, Phase 1 - To establish Hamsterley Forest as a premier cycle centre for the North East region with a view to enhancing existing, and developing new, tourism markets within and beyond Teesdale and Wear Valley, and increase business competitiveness. - Single programme funding has been approved for Phase 1 of the project, enhancing and building new cycle trails in the forest and a cycling skills area.</td>
<td>Started</td>
<td>April 2005</td>
<td>County Durham Economic Partnership, Teesdale Marketing, Hamsterley Trailblazers, Forest Enterprise</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Business Cluster</td>
<td>2. Investigate the potential to establish a physical cluster of timber-related businesses in the NE, linked to the development of new processing capacity adjacent to existing facilities at Hexham and Teesside</td>
<td>• Currently being encouraged. • Evaluate outcome of discussions with planners and seek business partners</td>
<td>Started</td>
<td>Dec 2005</td>
<td>NEFF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Provide a supportive environment for developing primary and secondary wood-processing capacity</td>
<td>• Create Business Cluster • Examine cooperation with Sawmillers Forum</td>
<td>Started</td>
<td>Dec 2005</td>
<td>NEFF, Northwood Scottish Sawmillers Forum</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Work with the Scottish Forestry Cluster to ensure that cross-border links are developed.</td>
<td>• Continue discussions with Scottish Regions and NW England on co-operation.</td>
<td>1/04/2005</td>
<td>Dec 2005</td>
<td>NEFF</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Brownfield Land</td>
<td>2. Promote achievements of woodlands in re-mediating brownfield land</td>
<td>Joint project with NCE/GFG, yet to be defined in detail.</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Forestry Commission, ONE, NEFF, GFG, Groundwork, Land Restoration Trust</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tree Protection</td>
<td>1. Initiate a promotional campaign to protect and maintain trees in the built environment</td>
<td>• Promoting regional involvement in national tree campaigns • Promoting the Tree Council’s Tree Warden Scheme regionally, to ensure community involvement in tree issues • Initiate regular meetings of organisations interested in urban trees, to further the above</td>
<td>Nov 2005 (except National Tree Week)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Tree Council</td>
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<td>2. Make better use of the powers available through the planning system to protect trees and woodlands from development pressures, particularly veteran trees and ancient woodlands</td>
<td>Through the North East Assembly’s role as regional planning body to prepare RSS and its conformity role</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>North East Assembly</td>
</tr>
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<td>Outcome</td>
<td>Output</td>
<td>Actions -mainly as proposed in RFS</td>
<td>Further details of proposed Action</td>
<td>Start Date of Action</td>
<td>Estimated end date of action</td>
<td>Lead Partners &amp; other partners involved</td>
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</tbody>
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| Regenerated Economy | Settings for Devt | 1. Promote temporary greening of derelict or underused sites in advance of development - as piloted by Middlesbrough REACT 2. Conduct further research to better understand the effect of quality landscapes on business relocation and expansion decisions | This is touched upon in the completed Business Case for the Environment Phase Two. Depends on the focus of Groundwork Northumberland. | 2005 | 2007 | NE Community Forests  
English Partnerships  
Local Authorities - Various  
Greening for Growth  
NEFF Integrated Agency/ Chamber of Commerce. |
| Regional Image | 1. Establish a regional resource of woodland images 2. Compare the use of woodland imagery for marketing with related investment in trees and woodland 4. Conduct market research to underpin a marketing strategy to promote woodlands, forests and their products to people & businesses | | | 2005 | 2006 | Northwoods  
Northwoods | NE Community Forests  
FC  
ONE |
| Secure & Productive Forestry Businesses | 1. Increase the sustainable timber harvest, measured as a percentage of the total annual growth in timber volume | | | 2005 | 2008 | Northwoods |
| Secure & Productive Forestry Businesses | Business Support | 1. Ensure the new ‘Brokerage model’ for business support includes forestry expertise and understanding. 2. Establish an Internet Portal for forestry and woodland-related businesses 3. Run seminars on the role of forestry in rural development, focusing on opportunities for business growth and diversification. 4. Launch a forestry ‘Harvesting Processing and Marketing Grant’ pilot scheme to encourage and develop the small-scale timber processing and value-added sector 5. Set up a woodfuel producer group and support the establishment of a functioning woodfuel market | | Started | Ongoing | Northwoods  
Tynedale Council, Northumberland CC, ONE, Northumberland National Park, FC  
Northern Rural Network  
Northumberland Estate  
Forestry Commission  
Integrated Agency, ONE, Business Link, Northwoods  
Northwoods  
50 SME’s Newcastle City Council, Derwentside District Council, NECF |
| Productive Woodlands | 2. Support sustainable forest management, including replanting, that maintains the timber production potential of woodlands | • Ongoing provision of advice and work of Forest Research agency to support timber production. • Through EWGS launch and regional targeting | | 2005 | Ongoing | Forestry Commission  
FC Regional Advisory Committee, Forest Research, Integrated Agency |
| Skills & Training | 1. Carry out a sector skills audit 2. Establish a training and skills development project, initially focusing on woodfuel, to build entrepreneurial and marketing skills amongst forestry businesses. 3. Undertake specific and targeted activities to improve the health and safety record of the forestry workforce. | | | 2005 | 2006 | Northwoods  
Northwoods  
Northwoods  
TFRN, Scottish Woodlands, Newcastle City Council, FC |