

Response ID ANON-ECNN-E5TS-5

Submitted to **Scottish Forestry Corporate Plan Consultation**

Submitted on **2020-02-05 11:17:58**

Questions

1 To what extent do you agree that the Corporate Plan provides a good introduction to the organisation, its role and the structure of Scottish Forestry?

Agree strongly

Comments:

Assumes substantial background knowledge of the sector

2 To what extent do you agree with the Purpose contained in the Corporate Plan?

Strongly agree

Comments:

3 To what extent do you agree with Strategic Objective 1 as a priority for our work over the next three years?

Agree strongly

Comments:

The Timber Transport Forum welcomes the commitment to 'support efforts to enable the sustainable transport of timber and mitigate the risks of potential negative effects'. The Forum and its regional timber transport groups were established as voluntary partnerships to organise and facilitate the sustainable transport of timber on local authority roads to address the ambitions of the national forestry strategy. The expertise and approach developed and maintained by the Forum and regional groups are vital in ensuring that our forests remain physically connected to the economic and community activities associated with the forests. The public transport infrastructure generally pre-dates the forest resource, has limited capacity for timber haulage and serves multiple social functions. With the timber harvest continuing to increase, managing this 'infrastructure gap' and minimising and mitigating the impact of timber haulage on the local authorities and other road users remains a challenge.

Scottish Forestry policy support and funding towards both the partnership processes and the Strategic Timber Transport Fund remains vital but also serves to draw in resources and expertise from private sector forestry, timber processing and haulage businesses as well as the local authorities. This partnership also fosters innovation in road and forest infrastructure engineering, timber transport technology and health, safety and welfare.

The Timber Transport Forum and the regional groups are actively promoting processes of consultation and engagement with local communities that may be impacted by timber transport. The groups welcome the support of conservancies in this regard. The wider activities set out under 'Engaging more people, communities etc.' must play a key part in ensuring productive forestry becomes a locally recognised and valued activity across rural Scotland.

With Scottish Forestry now an integral part of Scottish Government, the Forum recognises an opportunity for more integration of forestry with wider national and local government strategies and policies relating to land use planning, transport infrastructure, decarbonisation of transport and rural economic development. The timber industry demand for improved sustainable transport infrastructure must spearhead and serve wider infrastructure-led development.

4 To what extent do you agree with Strategic Objective 2 as a priority for our work over the next three years?

Not Answered

Comments:

5 To what extent do you agree with priorities associated with this Strategic Objective?

Agree strongly

Comments:

6 To what extent do you agree with the activities associated with this Strategic Objective?

Not Answered

Comments:

7 To what extent do you agree with Strategic Objective 3 as a priority for our work over the next three years?

Agree strongly

Comments:

8 To what extent do you agree with priorities associated with this Strategic Objective?

Agree strongly

Comments:

9 To what extent do you agree with the activities associated with this Strategic Objective?

Agree strongly

Comments:

The planning and permissions processes of Scottish Forestry are critical in relation to timber transport. Where timber transport does impact on neighbouring communities, these regulatory processes are a direct interface between the land use and the communities and local authorities and it is vital they work efficiently and effectively. The good practice developed by the Forum and the effective liaison undertaken in the regional timber transport groups, span a regulatory gap between Scottish Forestry and local authority (particularly roads) responsibilities. Expertise and knowledge of these areas of responsibility at a policy and conservancy level, together with the practical solution-based focus of the regional timber transport groups will continue to be vital both in the management of the existing forest resource and in new woodland creation. All public consultation and engagement with local authorities, residents and communities must be initiated and completed by forest managers themselves and regulatory processes must ensure that this is the case.

10 Performance

What do you think are the important areas we should include as we develop KPIs to measure performance against this Corporate Plan?:

11 Equality and Diversity

Do you think any of the outcomes and activities in the Corporate Plan will impact differently on people who share protected characteristics? (for example, in relation to their age, disability, gender, pregnancy/maternity, marital status, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, religion or belief).:

12 Are there any actions we should consider in relation to our outcomes and activities to ensure we are inclusive and advancing opportunities for people from different equality groups or for people from different socio-economic backgrounds?

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13 Please use this space to provide any other comments you think are relevant to the Corporate Plan.

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The Timber Transport Forum is a GB-wide voluntary partnership and collaborates with partners in Northern Ireland and Ireland. The Forum benefits from the cross border working but does rely primarily on the support of Scottish Forestry and the Scottish industry players where the majority of the challenges lie. As in other areas of productive forestry it is likely that this leadership role will be able to support ambitions for forestry expansion in the rest of Great Britain, particularly at this time when the climate change emergency is requiring more tree planting.

About you

What is your name?

Name:

Roland Stiven

What is your email address?

Email:

roland@confor.org.uk

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Timber Transport Forum

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact

you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.

I consent

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.:

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.: