

AGENDA AND PAPER FOR SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL FORESTRY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

28 JULY 2021

**Hosted by Màiri McAllan MSP, Minister for Environment, Biodiversity
and Land Reform**

**Chair: Kevin Quinlan, Director of Environment and Forestry Directorate,
Scottish Government**

14:00 – 16:00, 28 JULY 2021, By MS Teams

Agenda

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| 1. Welcome and introduction – Kevin Quinlan | 14:00 - 14:10 |
| 2. Introductory remarks by the Minister | 14:10 - 14:25 |
| 3. Strategic discussion sessions – Dave Signorini | 14:25 |

The group will break into three sub groups. Each group will address all three Strategic Objectives set out in Scotland's Forestry Strategy in turn, in three 20 minute sessions.

Participants will be asked to identify and discuss the strategic policy issues influencing the implementation of the forestry strategy objectives, forestry targets and SG outcomes, Annex 1 has further details. The objective will be hear views on the:

- Strategic issues that influence the realisation of the Scottish Government's long-term vision for forestry, SG outcomes and delivery of climate change, biodiversity and forestry targets.
- Issues on the implementation, monitoring and statutory reporting of Scotland's Forestry Strategy.

Comfort break - 14.50

Continue with discussion sessions **15:00 - 15:20**

Break

Final discussion sessions **15:20 - 15:40**

Reporting back by group chairs **15:40 - 15:55**

Summary remarks from the Minister **15.55 - 16:00**

Close and next steps – Kevin Quinlan **16:00**

Annex 2: Details of the group's members and invitees.

Annex 3: The group's Terms of Reference.

Background paper for discussion sessions:

Delivering the objectives of Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029

Purpose

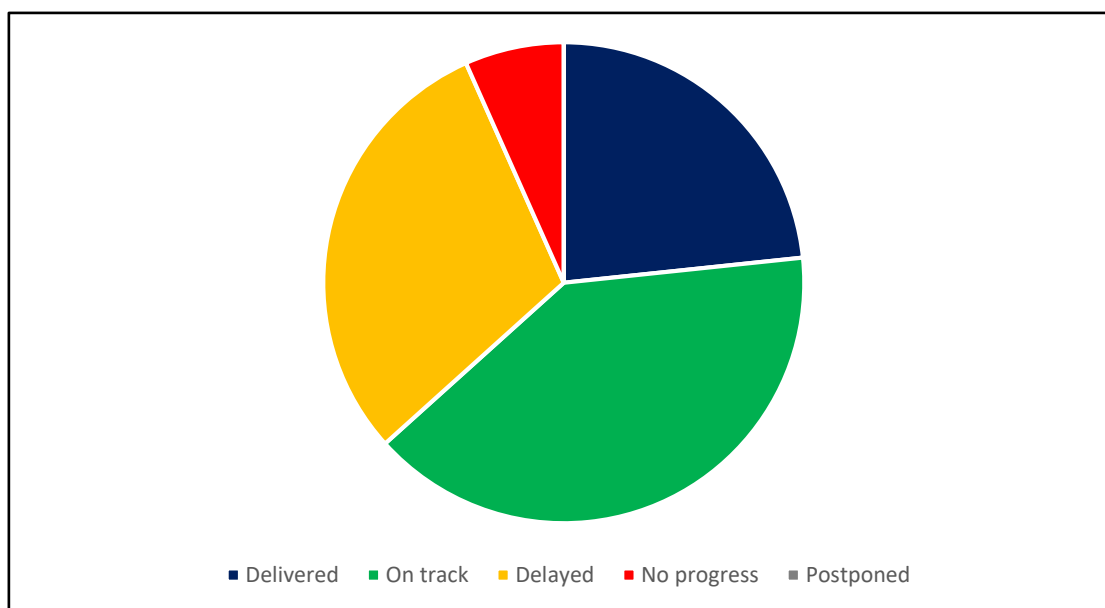
1. The paper background information on the development and delivery of Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 as context for a workshop discussion on next steps we could to take to realise the Strategy's 10 year objectives.

Background

2. In February 2019 the Scottish Government published a new forestry strategy setting out a 50-year vision for Scotland to have more forests and woodlands. The publication fulfilled the Scottish Ministers' duty to prepare a forestry strategy under the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018.
3. Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 provides vision and the continuity and stability needed by forestry. It has cross-party support in the Scottish Parliament. It was developed following extensive stakeholder input, including from a reference group made up of economic, environmental and social experts.
4. The Strategy has three 10-year objectives:
 - **Increase contribution of forests and woodlands to sustainable and inclusive economic growth.**
 - **Improve resilience of forests and woodlands and increase contribution to healthy and high quality environment.**
 - **Increase use of forest and woodland resources to enable more people to improve health, well-being and life chances.**
5. The Strategy committed to publishing an implementation plan setting out delivery actions and a set of high level indicators to monitor and report progress. The actions were identified as a key first step towards realising the Strategy's 10-year objectives. An initial plan was published in June 2020 ([Scotland's Forestry Strategy Implementation Plan 2020-2022](#)).
6. Scottish Ministers are required to report delivery of the Forestry Strategy to the Scottish Parliament every three years. The implementation plans are synchronised with this reporting cycle. The first report is due by the end of 2022.

Implementation plan progress

7. The implementation plan was prepared before the Scottish Government declared a national health emergency on the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, and developed with input from a stakeholder reference group.
8. The decision was taken to make the implementation plan available as much of the information provides a baseline for the initial delivery of Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 objectives. It has been kept under review in discussions with delivery organisations to understand the impact of the pandemic and the need to support the forestry sectors green recovery.
9. An initial assessment of the progress of delivering the 30 new actions set out in the plan was carried out in April 2021. The initial findings found that the majority of those actions will be delivered by 31 March 2022. However, a number have been impacted by the pandemic and we are discussing next steps with external delivery leads. The following chart illustrates the status of the 30 actions:



10. We will carry out a further assessment of progress in the next six months. Initial work has started to scope out the process to develop and engage stakeholders and delivery partners, on the development of the implementation plan covering the period 2022-2025, and will be discussed and agreed with Ministers later this summer. We then hope to have more detailed discussion on the next plan at this group in future.

Workshop discussions

11. A continuing challenge is identifying the key actions that will make the most significant contribution to delivering the Strategy's 10-year objectives. As we are only two years into a 10 year strategy, we believe it is a good time to reflect on what we collectively see as the key changes we are trying to deliver under each objectives and the key steps we can take to support the realisation of those changes.
12. We are looking to engage participants in a discussion at the meeting on what these changes are and the potential next steps. To help inform those discussions participants are asked to consider the following questions prior to the meeting:
 - i. **What are the top 1-2 changes [outputs] you would want to see as a result of delivering each of the strategy's three objectives and SG outcomes; and**
 - ii. **What are the key steps to achieve each of those changes**
 - iii. **What organisation needs to lead each step and who else needs to be involved**

ANNEX 2

Invitees to the meeting

Member	Name
Association of Deer Management Groups	Richard Cook
Chief Forester for Scotland	Helen Mckay
Committee on Climate Change	CEO
Community Woodlands Association	Jon Hollingdale
Confederation of Forest Industries	Stuart Goodall, CEO
COSLA	Sally Loudon, CEO
Director, Environment and Forestry, Scottish Government (Chair)	Kevin Quilan, Director EnFor
Forest Research	James Pendlebury, CEO
Forestry and Land Scotland	Simon Hodgson, CEO
Forestry and Timber Technologies Industry Leadership Group	Guy Watt
Green Action Trust	CEO
Highlands & Islands Enterprise	Steven Hutcheon for the CEO
Historic Environment Scotland	Alex Paterson, CEO
Institute of Chartered Foresters	Shireen Chambers, Executive & Technical Director
James Hutton Institute	CEO, Colin Campbell
National Access Forum	Don Milton, Convenor
National Farmers Union Scotland	CEO, Scott Walker
Nature Scot	Francesca Osowska, CEO
Scottish Enterprise	Linda Murray (Director, Strategy) for CEO
Scottish Environment Link	Deborah Long
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency	Terry A'Hearn, CEO
Scottish Government, Future Rural Policy Frameworks, Land Use and Land Reform Division	Fiona Harrison, Deputy Director
Scottish Government, Future Environment Division	Katriona Carmichael, Deputy Director
Scottish Government, Natural Resources Division	Cate Turton, Deputy Director
Scottish Land and Estates	Stephen Young for the CEO
Scottish Land Commission	Emma Cooper attending for CEO.
South of Scotland Enterprise	CEO, Jane Morrison-Ross
University of the Highlands and Islands	Professor Todd Walker
Young Scot	CEO

National Stakeholder Group: Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the group is to advise Scottish Forestry on:

- Strategic issues that influence the realisation of the Scottish Government's long-term vision for forestry, SG outcomes and delivery of climate change and biodiversity forestry targets.
- The implementation, monitoring and statutory reporting of Scotland's Forestry Strategy.

Membership

The group will consist of external stakeholders, topic experts, delivery partners and Scottish Government officials (a list of potential members is set out in Annex 3). Additional organisations or experts may be invited to join the group or to participate in specific meetings depending on the issues to be discussed.

Governance

The group provides advice to the Scottish Forestry Senior Executive Team, and is not a decision-making body. It will act as an umbrella forum for other stakeholder groups that Scottish Forestry convenes.

Meetings

It is proposed the first meeting of the group will be held during the summer 2021, hosted by the Minister and chaired by the Director Environment and Forestry. The expectation is that the group will meet twice a year.

Members role

Members will be required to review and comment on meeting papers and contribute to group deliberations at meetings and via correspondence.

Remuneration

Members will not be paid but reasonable travel and subsistence costs will be reimbursed.

Duration of the group

The group's terms of reference and membership will be revisited following the laying before Parliament of the 3-yearly Forestry Strategy Progress Report.