

Independent Panel on Forestry

Final report 4 July 2012

- March 2011 - Independent Panel on Forestry set up to advise government on a new approach to forestry policy in England.
- Initial 'call for views' attracted over 42,000 responses.
- December 2011 – progress report published
- 4 July 2012 – Final report published. Initial Govt response about PFE
- January 2013 – full Govt response

Trees and woods: good for people

'We call on Government and other woodland owners to give as many people as possible ready access to trees and woodlands for health and well-being benefits – this means planting trees and woodlands closer to people and incentivising more access to existing woodlands.'

Trees and woods: good for nature

'We call on Government to ensure that land-use creates a coherent and resilient ecological network at a landscape scale, by integrating policy and delivery mechanisms for woods, trees and forests in line with the principles in the "Making Space for Nature" report, published by the Lawton Review.'

Trees and woods: good for the green economy

'We urge Government, woodland owners and businesses to seize the opportunity provided by woodlands to grow our green economy, by strengthening the supply chain, and promoting the use of wood more widely across our society and economy.'

The role of our national forestry organisations

'We need sustainable and resilient public forest organisations that will exemplify the natural capital approach to managing our natural environment. They will have a mandate to catalyse the management and expansion of England's woodlands for the benefit of the nation.'

Evolved Forest Services

'Forest Services should evolve to become a public body with duties, powers and functions to champion, protect and increase benefits from trees, woodlands and forests that are good for people, good for nature and good for green economy.'

Managing the public forest estate

'We propose that the public forest estate should remain in public ownership, and be defined in statute as land held in trust for the nation. A Charter should be created for the English public forest estate, to be renewed every ten years.'

Cross-border capability

'We urge Government to ensure that the new organisational landscape makes specific provision for international and cross-border arrangements, working closely with the devolved Parliaments on sustainable multi-benefit forestry implementation, research and in the international arena.'

- Forestry Commission's role:
 - advise and support Defra in drafting the Government's response
 - respond to enquiries from stakeholders seeking clarification on the report