



# Argyll and Bute Woodlands and Forestry Strategy

## Introduction and Initial Request for Views/Information

### Introduction

Argyll and Bute Council and the Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) with the assistance of Argyll and the Islands LEADER and Scottish Enterprise have commissioned the preparation of a Woodlands and Forestry Strategy for Argyll and Bute. The work will be carried out over the next year by a team led by **Land Use Consultants (LUC)** along with **Bidwells** and the **Small Town and Rural Development Group (STAR)**.

The steps in the process will include:

- preparation of an Issues Paper;
- stakeholder and community consultation on the Issues Paper;
- production of a Draft Strategy;
- consultation on the Draft Strategy;
- Preparation of the Final Strategy Report.

We hope a wide range of stakeholders can be involved in this process – those involved in the industry, other local businesses as well as communities and their representatives. The strategy will aim to highlight key issues, needs and opportunities and target resources accordingly and improve the industry's ability to attract grant funding. The strategy will also look at how forestry can benefit our local economy, environment and communities and how best to minimise any disbenefits.

### Early input into the preparation of the Issues Paper

We will be working over the next 2-3 months to prepare the Issues Paper and would welcome early input from stakeholders. This will help us to identify the issues that matter along with any detail they wish to provide at this stage.

### ***A short questionnaire is attached.***

The Issues Paper is likely to closely mirror the issues identified within the National Forestry Strategy. We would welcome information on the issues that matter most to you, information on why they matter within Argyll and Bute and any detail that you would like to provide.

## WOODLAND AND FORESTRY STRATEGY CONSULTATION EVENTS

Once the Issues Paper is prepared we will send it back out to stakeholders for comment. In addition we aim to hold a series of area based Open Day Events in the Spring for stakeholders and community representatives to attend. We would hope to meet you at



one of these events. They will run as drop in events but you can also schedule an appointment with the consultants to discuss your particular interests.

Your organisation may also want to organise a display at these events to raise awareness of your organisation and its activities. If you want to be involved in the Open Days or to book an appointment with the consultants, contact us at: [forestry@landuse.co.uk](mailto:forestry@landuse.co.uk)



## **ARGYLL AND BUTE WOODLAND AND FORESTRY STRATEGY**

### **ISSUES**

**The issues are likely to include**

#### **Climate Change**

- Adapting forestry to reflect climate change
- Enhancing forestry's role in helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change
- Enhancing forestry's role in helping to reduce carbon emissions

#### **Timber**

- Promoting predictable and stable timber supplies
- Exploring potential for expansion of woodland area
- Restructuring of existing forest resource
- Supporting employment
- Transport and supply chain efficiency
- Timber industries and adding value in Argyll and Bute
- Developing the hardwood sector

#### **Biomass and woodfuel**

- Environmental benefits
- Developing the local market
- Supporting micro businesses
- District heating systems

#### **Business Development**

- Realising economic potential
- Contributing to rural development
- Increasing skills
- Supporting local micro businesses, community and social enterprise
- Supporting farm/croft diversification
- Supporting tourism

#### **Community Development**

- Promoting Community Ownership and management
- Facilitating involvement and participation for communities and community groups
- Accommodating affordable housing and forest crofts



- Contributing to quality of life
- Promoting education and lifelong learning

### **Access and Health**

- Enhancing access and recreation opportunities
- Working alongside the Core Path Plan
- Developing and responding to market opportunities
- Helping to improve the nation's health
- Enabling people to enjoy woodlands

### **Environmental Quality**

- Meeting the Water Framework Directive
- Protecting and enhancing landscape quality and scenic qualities
- Managing the historic environment
- Protecting water, soil and air resources

### **Biodiversity**

- Conserving and enhancing woodland and non-woodland habitats and species
- Tackling invasive species
- Increasing opportunities for understanding, enjoyment and awareness
- Reversing biodiversity decline by targeted action and broader actions

### **Funding and SRDP**

- Linking the strategy to funding sources and the Scottish Rural Development Programme (e.g. Woodlands in and Around Towns, Forest Challenge, Rural Priorities, Land Management Options).

**ARGYLL AND BUTE WOODLAND AND FORESTRY STRATEGY  
STAKEHOLDERS ISSUES**

**Which of these issues is the most important or of interest to you and why?**

**What detail would you like to provide to give us more background and local context?**

**Are there other issues not covered here that you would like to identify?**

**Name                      Organisation                      Address                      Phone and email**

ALL QUESTIONNAIRES TO BE RETURNED BY EMAIL TO: [forestry@landuse.co.uk](mailto:forestry@landuse.co.uk)

OR BY POST TO: Land Use Consultants, 37 Otago Street, Glasgow, G12 8JJ