

29 June 2017

FOREST RESEARCH CORPORATE PLAN FOR 2017/18

Purpose

1. To request Commissioners' approval of the draft Forest Research (FR) Corporate Plan for 2017/18 and to highlight the proposed timescale.

Background

2. As in previous years FR has produced a Corporate Plan covering the work of Forest Research. The purpose of the Corporate Plan is to:

- form and articulate a collective view of activities and budgets for the period; which in turn,
- allows Forestry Commissioners to consider and affirm our direction.

Details

3. The Plan reflects the operating environment as it is currently known and will focus on a one year Business Plan for 2017/18.

4. The key actions in the draft Corporate Plan have been discussed with the FC EB and reflect their views and commentary. Once FC Commissioners have reviewed and approved it and subject to any associated amendments, the draft Corporate Plan will then be submitted to Defra for comment.

5. A copy of the draft Forest Research Corporate Plan is attached as Annex 1.

Forest Research Corporate Plan 2017-18

Timetable

6. The timetable is as follows:

29 June 2017	Commissioners consider the draft FR Corporate Plan and approve it, subject to any associated amendments.
6 July	FR submit the approved draft Corporate Plan to Defra for their comment
19 July	The FC EB discuss & confirm FR's non-core income targets
20 July	FR receive Defra comment, FR consider comments received
24 July	FR publish Corporate Plan on FR website, links cc'd to FC GB and Defra colleagues

Resource implications

7. None.

Risk assessment

8. Having an approved Corporate Plan is a requirement of FR's governance and provides reassurance that FR has an agreed set of strategic, research and finance based targets for the coming year. FR is currently working to the set of proposed targets until they are formally confirmed.

Communication issues

9. Once finalised the approved Corporate Plan will be uploaded on to FR's website and notification of its publication will be circulated to FR staff via the FR Bulletin. There will be limited and selective external communication of the Corporate Plan to FC GB and Defra colleagues.

Implementation and Evaluation Proposals

10. FR monitors its progress against all its Corporate key actions on a regular basis with monthly reports to its Executive Board, quarterly reports to Director Central Services and an annual summary in its Annual Report and Accounts.

Forest Research Corporate Plan 2017-18

Recommendations

11. The Board is invited to discuss and approve FR's draft Corporate Plan 2017/18 and agree the proposed timetable.

Jean Lindsay
Director Central Services
June 2017