

Forest Services Board

27 June 2019

GEOGRAPHICAL LINKS PROPOSALS

Purpose

1. To agree how to link non-executives with geographical areas.

Recommendation(s)

2. That non-executives are linked to Forest Services' areas as follows:
 - a. George McRobbie – North West and West Midlands
 - b. Liz Philip - Yorkshire and North East and East and East Midlands
 - c. Sir Harry Studholme – South West
 - d. Shirley Trundle – South East and London
3. That this should be revisited following recruitment to the current vacant non-executive role and again when further membership changes take place.

Background

4. At the FS Board's 1st meeting it noted:
 - a. That the Board's Terms of Reference include: *'ensure that effective relationships are maintained and the Forestry Commission's reputation is upheld with stakeholders, customers, suppliers, employees and other government departments across England, including by establishing links with local delivery teams and Forestry and Woodlands Advisory Committees.'*
 - b. Non-executives will be expected to attend occasional Forestry and Woodlands Advisory Committee meetings, and encouraged to go to some other forestry sector meetings and events (area based and national), as realistic within the constraints of Commissioners' 30 day commitment, non-executive's 20 day commitment and the Defra representative's available capacity. Forest Services' local delivery teams mapped at Annex A and the Forestry and Woodlands Advisory Committees (FWACs) and their memberships mapped at Annex B.

- c. The proposal that once all are appointed, each of the five non-executive board members (the chair, two non-executive Commissioners and two non-executives) are linked with one Forest Services area each, and the FWAC (in the case of Southwest) or the two FWACs within those areas.
 - d. The proposal that, as far as possible, non-executives are matched to the local delivery area nearest where they live.
5. The Board then invited Richard Greenhous to prepare further developed proposals for linking specific non-executives to specific geographical areas. This paper describes these further developed proposals, which aim to reflect the FS Board's initial discussion at its first meeting.

Discussion of the alternative courses of action available

6. Currently there is one more area than there are non-executives. It has therefore been proposed that Liz Philip makes links with two areas at least until the currently vacant non-executive role is filled, at which time arrangements will need to be revisited. Alternatives considered included splitting FS's areas to give a more even split of area per non-executive, but these were discounted due to their greater complexity, including for FS area teams.
7. Board members are invited to agree these proposals or otherwise make any further or alternative suggestions.

Resource Implications

8. The primary resource implications are for non-executives' and FS area teams' time. These will be reflected in plans to introduce non-executives to their linked areas, including as part of their induction. We will need to be particularly mindful of not exceeding Liz Philip's capacity if it is agreed that she will link with two areas, which could prove challenging.

Communications

9. Decisions on geographical links will be communicated to staff through FS's regular 'Friday Round Up' and on the FC's intranet 'Roots'; and to FWACs by email from Richard Greenhous to FWAC chairs.

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0300 067 4039
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Forestry and Woodlands Advisory Committees
