

# FC's Contribution to Government Missions



## Kickstart economic growth

- Get UK **timber into 1.5M new homes**
- Timber is one of first **circular economies**
- **Rural job creation:** planting, management, harvesting, processing, research as well as vertically integrated industries such as manufacturing and construction using a carbon neutral product
- Woods and forests attract **tourism and recreation spend**, trees in towns increase spend
- Farm agroforestry diversification can **increase financial and environmental resilience**



## Make Britain a clean energy superpower

- **80% of UK timber is imported** – we are the **3rd largest importer** in the world and one of the **least forested** in Europe
- Forestry England potential **green energy** provider and storage opportunities
- Sustainable forestry can provide a renewable source of **biomass/waste products for energy production** - reducing reliance on fossil fuels and contribute to a cleaner energy mix



## Build an NHS fit for the future

- **£20.2bn** Forestry England **physical health** benefits
- **£1.3bn** Forestry England **air quality** benefits
- Nation's forests (252kha) are the single largest **accessible greenspace** for people in England (86% within a 30-minute drive) - 296m visits in 2022/23.
- **Forestry England forests supporting 152 million active visits and provided £565.6million in avoided medical costs (22/23)** easing pressure on the NHS
- Trees in hospital grounds **speed up recovery** and improve **staff wellbeing**
- Urban forests filter air pollutants, **reducing respiratory illnesses** and **lowering NHS burden**



## Take back our streets

- Urban trees **reduce anti-social behaviour**
- Urban trees increase **property values**
- Green streets attract businesses, leading to **more vibrant, active communities**
- Green spaces bring people together, **building social connections** and a sense of shared ownership of public spaces
- Trees and vegetation can act as natural **sound barriers**, creating a more peaceful street environment



## Break down barriers to opportunity

- **Rural economy** - timber industry (£2Bn pa and 33k jobs)
- Forestry sector can provide **opportunities for workers** transitioning from declining industries
- Forest schools and outdoor programs/ apprenticeships can **build confidence and skills** in young people, broadening their horizons and prospects
- Unlock the financial benefits of **natural capital** (green finance)
- WCC into ETS – **increase private investment up to £21M**

# FC's Contribution to Defra Priorities



## 1. Clean up Britain's rivers, lakes and seas to restore pride to people's communities

- Trees, woods and forests **improve water quality** by acting as natural filters, trapping sediments and absorbing pollutants before they reach water bodies
- 'Riparian buffers' **reduce erosion**, filter runoff, and provide habitat for wildlife
- Shade from trees keeps river water temperatures cooler, **improving conditions for aquatic life** and reducing algal growth



## 2. Create a roadmap to transition Britain to a zero-waste economy, boosting regional economic growth and cutting our carbon emissions

- Growing trees are the **fastest way of capturing carbon** to contribute to net zero targets
- Tree targets represent **13% UK's total modelled carbon sequestration** (24M tonnes by 2050)
- Wood-based building materials dramatically **reduce the carbon footprint of construction**
- Timber use can **reduce embodied emissions** by 20% in a single building



## 3. Support our farmers to boost Britain's food security

- Farm **productivity**
- **Shelter/ temperature moderation**
- **Soil health**
- **Diversify income**
- **Nutrient cycling** (from lower soil layers)
- **Erosion protection**
- Support to **pollinators**

**What about Timber Security?**



## 4. Turbocharge nature's recovery to protect the beauty of Britain's landscapes and wildlife

- **68,000ha SSSIs** in the nation's forests - 98% in favourable or recovering condition
- **Species recovery** – White tailed eagle, pool frog, Wildcat...
- Homegrown, sustainably managed wood **reduces tropical deforestation**
- England's woodlands are nearly **40% of our priority habitats**
- Support critical **ecosystem services** for wider **biodiversity**
- FC's prevention, tracking and responding to **pests and diseases** and their harmful effects



## 5. Protect communities from the dangers of flooding

- Tree canopies intercept rainfall, reducing the amount reaching the ground, delaying and reducing peak flows and help slow water runoff and increasing absorption in soil - afforestation could **reduce average recharge and runoff by 51 - 62%**
- **£1.2bn** Forestry England **flood damage mitigation** benefits
- Woodland Water Code