

## Forestry England Board Meeting Agenda

4 February 2021 10:00 - 12:30

### MS Teams

#### Attendees

**Forestry England Board:** Ian Gambles, Julia Grant, Tristram Hilborn, David Hodson, Peter Latham, Jennie Price, Gurch Randhawa, Mike Seddon, Chris Simpson, William Worsley (Chair)

#### Apologies:

**In attendance:** PK Khaira-Creswell (item 5), John Stride (item 5), Mari Sibley (items 6 & 7), Hayley Skipper (item 6 & 7), Michael Graham (item 6), Chris Hardy (item 8), James Simpson (item 8)

**Secretariat:** Rachel Mackintosh

NO. / TIME mins	Start time	ITEM (Materials)	OUTCOME REQUIRED	LEAD
<b>Welcome</b>				
1. 10 mins	10:00	Chair's Welcome  Declarations of Interest Approval of minutes, matters arising and action log	Approval	Chair
<b>Management Accountability</b>				
2. 25 mins	10:10	CEO report	Discussion & note	Mike Seddon
3. 15 mins	10:35	Finance report	Discussion & steer	David Hodson
<b>Items for Approval</b>				
4. 20 mins	10:5	Business plans	Approval	Tris / David
5. 15 mins	11:10	5-year plan - near final	Approval	PK Khaira-Creswell
	11:25	<b>10 min Break</b>		
6. 15 mins	11:35	Commercial Sensitive Item	Approval	Mari Sibley / Mike Graham
7. 20 mins	11:50	Commercial Sensitive Item	Approval	Mari Sibley



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8. 15 mins	12:10	<b>Commercial Sensitive Item</b>	Discussion and decision	Chris Hardy / James Simpson
<b>Concluding items</b>				
5 mins	12:25	AOB		Chair

**Future meetings:**

21 April 2021	Virtual
6 - 8 July 2021	Tour and meeting
20 - 22 Sept 2021	Tour and meeting
7 Dec 2021	Virtual

All proposed visits are subject to Government guidance in place at the time.



# Forestry England board meeting minutes

8 December 2020 8.30 - 11:00

## Teams Meeting

### Attendees

Forestry England Board: Ian Gambles, Julia Grant, Tristram Hilborn, David Hodson, Peter Latham, Gurch Randhawa, Mike Seddon, Chris Simpson (part), Sir William Worsley (Chair)

Apologies: Jennie Price

Guests: PK Khaira-Creswell (item 5) John Stride (item 5) Mari Sibley (Item 6), Hayley Skipper (item 6), Chris Hardy (item7)

Secretariat: Rachel Mackintosh

### Agenda items

#### 1. Welcome | Item Lead: Sir William Worsley

The Chair welcomed members to the ninth full meeting of the Forestry England board, held via Teams video call.

Apologies were noted from Jennie Price. It was also noted that Chris Simpson would be leaving the meeting 9:30.

The Chair updated on his recent engagements that included a successful staff meeting with 120 members of staff from across the FC joining remotely, the senior staff meeting and the Tree Planting Programme Board meeting. He also reported on excellent communications developing with the Defra team.

#### Declarations of Interest

It was noted that William and Peter's declarations had been updated. There were no declarations made for items on this agenda.

#### Approval of Board minutes

The minutes of the Forestry England Board meeting held 7.10.2020 were approved as circulated.

#### Actions

The updated action log was reviewed and agreed. It was noted that most actions had been closed, of the two remaining:

- Action 52: future of CITF was coming to the Board today and also in February
- Action 51: JV strategy. Mike proposed that as the CITF work was pressing, to defer the JV paper to later in the year and focus solely on Forest Holidays. Board agreed.

#### Matters Arising

A question was raised on the Partnership Ethics policy that was shared in response to Action 55. Whilst noting this was a very inclusive policy, did it rule us out of partnerships of companies who want to carbon offset e.g., Airlines? Secondly whilst being inclusive of

practices it singled out palm oil, but should it also cover others such as beef and soya that were causing damage in South America.

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Issues raised over Ethics Policy to be considered.	Mike	4.2.21

**2. CEO report** | **Item Lead: Mike Seddon**

**Official Commercial Sensitive**

**3. Finance Report and Business Plans** | **Item leads: David Hodson / Tristram Hilborn**

**Official Commercial Sensitive**

**4. ARAC report** | **Item Lead: Julia Grant**

**Official Commercial Sensitive**

**5. 5-year plan - draft text** | **Item Lead: PK Khaira-Creswell**

PK presented the draft 5-year plan that had been developed drawing on previous input from the Board, ET and SLT.

The discussion that followed noted:

- Narrative was exciting and going in the right direction.
- Key was getting the right target outcomes that are exciting and express our ambition. It was proposed they are expressed as the ambition for 5 years, rather than incremental. The “people” theme targets particularly needing strengthening.
- Would the plan be strengthened by linking it to external policy documents? To be considered.
- Balancing linking into government targets e.g., the England tree planting targets, but also being clear about Forestry England’s ambitions for the nation’s forests and not just as part of meeting government targets.
- Place of timber as the main income generator needs higher profile, could be included as part of “climate” theme producing for the economy.

The Board approved the direction of travel. The evolved 5-year plan would return to the meeting in February.

**6. Commercial Sensitive Item**

**7. Commercial Sensitive Item**



## AOB

Mike noted that this evening had been planned as the Earth Photo awards event, part of our arts programme with the National Geographic Society. However due to the pandemic this had been moved online, and the link would be shared with the Board to view the winning photos.

Action Items	Person responsible	Deadline
Share link to Earth Photo Awards	Rachel	9.12.20

## Future Meetings

It was considered unlikely that the Board would meet face to face until July, but a final decision would be made on the February meeting in January.

The meeting ended at 10:45



4 February 2021

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Paper Title: CEO Report

Under the freedom of information act 2000, exempt information this paper has been withheld from publication as per Section 43(2): Prejudice to commercial interests.

If you wish to request this paper please contact Rachel Mackintosh at  
[Rachel.mackintosh@forestryengland.uk](mailto:Rachel.mackintosh@forestryengland.uk)



04 February 2021

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**Paper Title: Forestry England Finance Report**

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04 February 2021

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**Paper Title: Forestry England Business Plans**

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**4 February 2021**
**BOARD PAPER**
**Paper Title: Forestry England 5 Year Plan 2021-2026**
**Author/Presenter: PK Khaira-Creswell / Mike Seddon**
**Paper Requirement**

Decision Required	For Approval	Steer required	Information Only	Commercially Sensitive
		X		

**Purpose and Recommendations**

This paper presents the near final 5 year plan for review by the Board. Planned publication remains on track for spring 2021.

**Introduction & background**

Forestry England is a successful, complex organisation. This plan seeks to solidify and build upon the elements that remain at our core whilst providing the basis for a step change in the breadth, scale and value of benefits delivered from the nation's forests for people, nature and the economy.

In 2020, the global pandemic brought significant challenge and uncertainty into our operating environment, further exacerbated by issues such as Brexit unfolding. The organisational response and resilience has been inspiring and exhausting in equal measure.

This plan has been deliberately set to keep our eyes and ambitions up and out, a positive expression of how we move forwards and make plans for even greater resilience and robustness post Covid and as the UK carves out its new role in the world. We want this plan to put us in the right space to contribute positively to the England Tree Strategy, and COP 26 to be held in Glasgow later this year. This feels an exciting moment to be talking about how we want to stay relevant and important to the country in the midst of so many statements and wishes around climate change, tree planting and woodland creation. We want this plan to carry a message and sense of momentum of the relevance of the critical service we provide for the country in providing access to nature and wildness for all people, all over the country and to continue to make the case for sustainably produced timber and forest products through productive forestry of the highest standard.

This plan sees us align our work, delivered through our strategic objectives, as our response and the contribution the nation's forests can make to solving some of societies'

biggest challenges and demands: people and wellbeing, nature crises, and climate emergency. This plan recognises we continue to work ‘on the business’ to continue to build a resilient and robust organisation to support our growth and planning for impact.

Complementing our day to day management activities, the aspirations and intentions we have set out in this plan will be started and then deepened over the coming decades and in the realisation of future plans. We are setting ambitious intentions and describing an exciting vision for the future.

We will use this plan to show how we are making a tangible difference to move forwards across these areas.

This latest version of the plan has built on and developed the positive input from the Board and Forestry England senior leadership team

### Discussion questions for the Board

- 1) The Board is asked for its comments and provide further steer on the content of the plan as it approaches its final form.

### Next Steps

Following this meeting, we intend to follow the broad timetable below:

February 4	Forestry England Board comments to near final draft
w/c 8 Feb	Draft to SLT and FE Staff Council
End Feb	Final sign off write round to Board
Second half April	Publish the plan (ETS currently due 19/4)- April 2021- communications launch internally and externally supported delivery
Ongoing	Corporate reporting and internal communications of the plan.

### Resource implications

The Forestry England business plan 21/22 has been developed in parallel with the 5-year plan, so as to enable immediate progress.

### Risk Assessment

No organisational risk associated with this proposal at this time.

### Equality Impact Assessment

Once this plan is finalised it will be equality impact assessed.

### Communications

An internal launch for the plan is being developed, alongside communications that can be deployed on our website and directly with key stakeholders in the course of routine business engagement.

**PK Khaira-Creswell - Director Corporate Affairs Forestry England &  
Mike Seddon Chief Executive Forestry England**

**Annex 1: Draft 5 year plan**



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