

## **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **CABINET MEMBER MEETING FOR COUNCIL SERVICES**

**23 January 2014**

### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

#### **ADOPTION OF THE CORPORATE WOOD AND PAPER PRODUCTS PURCHASING POLICY**

##### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To seek approval for Derbyshire County Council to adopt the purchasing policy for wood and paper based products.

##### **2. INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS**

###### **Background**

A cabinet report was previously submitted to the Cabinet Member for Technology and Recycling, titled; Making a Pledge to Improve the Purchasing of Timber Based Products, 25 October 2012. Approval was given to work with the WWF (formerly known as the World Wildlife Fund)<sup>1</sup> to develop a corporate timber purchasing policy via this report.

In addition the policy has also been shaped to the requirements of new legislation, active as of the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013: Timber and Timber Products (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2013 (SI 2013/233) (EU TR No 995/2010).

The WWF estimates that the public sector is responsible for around 20% of all timber purchased in the UK. Furthermore, in a recent survey undertaken by the charity, 84% of people stated that they believed that their local authority should commit to buying sustainable wood and timber products. Local authorities are in a strong position to influence the way timber is harvested and processed by buying responsibly sourced wood and paper products.

The Council's corporate Environment Policy outlines the Council's commitment to sustainable development, in particular by protecting, conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment and through responsible purchasing and contracts.

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<sup>1</sup> The WWF is the world's leading conservation body, helping to create long-term solutions to global threats to people and nature – such as climate change, endangered species and habitats, and the unsustainable consumption of the world's natural resources.

The County Council sources timber based products through a variety of contracts and current good practice includes procurement of timber and timber sheeting materials by Corporate Property and corporate paper purchasing.

### *Timber*

Timber and timber sheet materials are purchased by the Corporate Property Department using the Government's latest guidelines for legal and sustainable timber procurement requirements set out in the CPET (Central Point of Expertise on Timber Procurement) website. CPET standard clauses are included in timber tender documentation and only FSC (Forestry Stewardship Council) / PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) or equivalent approved products are used wherever possible. The County Council works closely with the supplier to ensure that their products continue to meet our standards.

### *Paper*

Since January 2012, A4 paper purchased through the Council's corporate Orderpoint catalogue must be Navigator Ecological paper. This is made in Portugal from Eucalyptus pulp and conforms to EU Ecolable regulations. These are products with reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle, from the extraction of raw material through to production, use and disposal. It also carries the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) mark as being a paper from responsible sources.

### WWF Local Authorities Timber Pledge

The WWF has asked all local authorities to make a pledge to improve the way they purchase timber based products. Derbyshire County Council have previously committed to the bronze, silver and gold pledge (as detailed below). The production of a 'wood and paper based product purchasing policy' will assist in assuring compliance with these pledges.

*Bronze* - The Local Authority will attend a CPET workshop or host a CPET/WWF seminar on responsible procurement of forest products, and the importance of valuing forest resources

*Silver* – The Local Authority will choose a project(s), contract(s) and/or product group(s) where only recycled and sustainable timber products will be used

*Gold* – The Local Authority will set up a recording and monitoring system to ensure forest products procured meet the requirements of our policy

A corporate policy for wood and paper based product purchases has been developed in conjunction with WWF (appendix 1). Following consultation with departments it has been agreed that this policy govern all wood and paper based product purchases. The new policy will improve current contracts and ultimately ensure the development of a monitoring and recording system for wood and paper based product purchasing.

## 3. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The work necessary to improve contracts across the Council and develop monitoring systems, as detailed in the policy, will be met using existing budgets.

#### 4. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Developing a 'Wood and Paper Based Products Purchasing Policy' demonstrates Derbyshire County Council's commitment to the responsible and sustainable purchasing of timber.

#### 5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to the Strategic Director of Policy and Community Safety, Making a Pledge to Improve The Purchasing of Timber Based Products, 25 October 2012.

#### 6. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered; the prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, health, legal and human rights, personnel, property and transport considerations.

#### 7. KEY DECISION

No

#### 8. OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That approval is given for Derbyshire County Council to adopt the Wood and Paper Based Products Purchasing Policy, improve timber contracts and establish monitoring and recording systems.

**Ian Stephenson**  
**Chief Executive**

## **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE PURCHASING POLICY WOOD AND PAPER BASED PRODUCTS**

As a consumer of forest products, Derbyshire County Council has a responsibility to ensure that our procurement is not at the expense of the future of the world's forests, but positively supports responsible forest management.

To achieve this, Derbyshire County Council will purchase wood and paper products from legal and sustainable sources and ensure that wood and paper products are sourced only from forests where:

- The forest owner/manager holds legal use rights to the forest. Where there is compliance with all relevant local and national legal requirements, where all relevant royalties and taxes are paid and where there is compliance with the requirements of CITES.
- Harm to ecosystems is minimised.
- Productivity of the forest is maintained.
- Forest ecosystem health and vitality is maintained, including adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, mining and encroachment.
- Biodiversity is maintained including protection of rare, threatened and endangered species and conservation of key ecosystems or habitats in their natural state and the protection of features and species of outstanding or exceptional value.
- Legal, customary and traditional tenure and use rights related to the forest are identified, documented and respected; where mechanisms for resolving grievances and disputes are in place and where the basic labour rights and health and safety of forest workers.

Derbyshire County Council will require documentation to prove this in the form of:

- 1) Certification under a scheme recognised by CPET<sup>1</sup> including the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification scheme (PEFC) **or**,
- 2) Other documentary evidence that provides assurance that the source is legal & sustainable as summarised above and defined by CPET in detail.
- 3) Where certified timber does not exist we will carry out due diligence on these timber purchases by ensuring compliance with the Timber and Timber Products (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2013 (SI 2013/233) (EU TR No 995/2010 - application as of March 2013) and where necessary seek external advice on purchases from CPET and WWF. We will work with our contractors and suppliers on the implementation of this policy.

<sup>1</sup>Central Point of Expertise on Timber: [www.cpet.org.uk](http://www.cpet.org.uk)