

REPORT TO: GREENER STRATEGIC GROUP 8 OCTOBER 2009

SUBJECT: PREPARATION OF USE OF HOME GROWN TIMBER GUIDANCE

BY: HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

This report is to inform the Greener Strategic Group of the Council's involvement in the development of Home Grown Timber Guidance. This is a collaborative piece of work being led by Forestry Commission Scotland in conjunction with Highland, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils as well as the Cairngorms National Park.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Group is requested to note the preparation of the guidance on Use of Timber in Sustainable Construction.

2.2 A further report will be submitted when the finalised document is complete seeking the agreement of the Group to promote the guidance within the respective partnership organisations as an example of best practice in the use of home grown timber.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The document is to take the form of planning guidance that will be used to inform developers on the use of timber in sustainable construction. As this is a collaborative piece of work between the North of Scotland Local Authorities and the Forestry Commission Scotland the guidance will be customised to the specific needs and individual context of each authority. In the case of Moray it has been decided not to formally adopt the document as Supplementary Planning Guidance but instead to use it as promotional material to encourage the use of more sustainable and local construction materials. The document is also seen as being complementary to any future work on sustainable construction techniques the Council or Greener Strategic Group wish to pursue.

3.2 The role of the guidance is to facilitate the promotion of local timber in future development proposals. It is proposed to achieve this by addressing the following issues within the document, clarify the potential availability of local timber and processing resources, increase the understanding of potential uses of local timber and its qualities and increase the sustainability of future development proposals.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Community Plan / Theme Plans / Partner Plans

The promotion of locally sourced timber for use in sustainable construction is consistent with the aims of the Greener Strategic Group. The preparation of this Guidance is included within the Greener Strategic Groups Local Delivery Action Plan and will assist in the achievement of Single Outcome Agreement National Outcomes 12 and 14.

“We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it for future generations”.

“We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production”.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Greener Group is one of five Strategic Theme Groups, established in March 2008 as part of the revised Community Planning Partnership structure, with responsibility to address identified national and local outcomes within Moray’s SOA.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

Financial

There are no financial implications arising as a result of this report should any costs arise these will be reported to the Council.

Risks

There are no risks associated with this document it will be issued for guidance and as an example of best practice.

Staffing

There will be requirements for Council staff to input into the development of the guidance. Any matters that arising that require additional staffing will be reported to the Council and Greener Strategic Group as appropriate.

Property

There are no implications for the Council’s existing property portfolio. The guidance may impact on future development proposals where sustainable use of local timber should be incorporate where appropriate.

(d) Consultations

None

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The development of guidance on the use of home grown timber in development proposals will assist efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the priorities of the Greener Strategic Group, Single Outcome Agreement and Scottish Governments targets to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 80% by 2050.**

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Background Papers:

Ref: