

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>2. That Durham County Council maximise the income generation and employment opportunities from timber extraction on existing and potential new sites including consideration of new management models such as those produced by the SIMWOOD project for the marketing and extraction of timber.</p>	<p>Discussions underway with several forestry companies for extraction on new sites. Contracts for thinning on a number of sites in progress, £22,000 in income so far. Developing project 'Woodland Return Durham' will mobilise timber onto the markets and stimulate the forestry sector.</p>	<p>SM</p>	<p>2017</p>
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<p>3. That Durham County Council's procurement process for the letting of timber extraction contracts ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracts are advertised to target and maximise interest from the private sector. • That in conjunction with the Corporate Procurement Manager the required documentation and process is simplified to make contracts more attractive to private sector companies. 	<p>Sales of standing timber are now going through a timber auction company.</p>		
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<p>4. That Durham County Council maximises the funding opportunities available via the Common Agricultural Policy (Countryside Stewardship Scheme for England)</p>	<p>This is an issue for all areas not currently under management as there will be no new funding agreements issued by the Forestry Commission after</p>	<p>SM</p>	<p>2017</p>

<p>and the European Structural and Investment Fund (Low Carbon Economy Strand) if and when such funding becomes available for the benefit of the Durham County Council woodland estate.</p>	<p>the autumn statement this year. In order to get funding to prepare management plans and get felling licences in place, land has to be registered on the Rural Land Registry which is an extremely time consuming exercise. Alternative arrangements are now being considered to move this process along.</p>		
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<p>5. That Durham County Council continues to actively encourage and promote the volunteering opportunities available within the woodland estate via the Durham Community Action's Do-it website, AAPs, Durham County News, Durham County Council Staff (current and former), Resident Organisations, Community Centres and County Council Members.</p>	<p>Volunteer Durham is a new clearing house for all volunteering opportunities within Culture and Sport and potential new volunteers are signposted to Countryside volunteering through this route. Woodland sites are promoted as part of the countryside estate though the county website.</p>	<p>Vol Durham (Julie Lavery) Publicity content (April Shelley)</p>	<p>March 2017 Ongoing</p>
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<p>6. That Durham County Council ensures that the contact details of the Countryside Service are clearly displayed on community woodland sites for use by the general public and that Durham County Council publicise via factsheets information in relation to the benefits of biodiversity; woodland management and the illegal status of fallen timber taken from the woodland estate.</p>	<p>All Countryside Estate sites have site information in various forms, with contact details for further information. Some sites have online downloadable PDF information regarding site management. These will be increased as resource becomes available.</p>	<p>Darryl Cox</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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<p>7. That a review of this report and progress made against the recommendations will be undertaken six months after the report is considered by Cabinet including as part of this process an update on the progress of the audit of the woodland estate.</p>			