

Forestry purchases and development

CLS conference, 30 May 2017



Jon Hollingdale, CEO

Overview of workshop

- Introductions
- Acquisition
- Development
- Discussion



Community Woodlands Association

- Established in 2003, some groups much older.
- Mission: “to support members to achieve their aspirations & potential, and to represent and promote community woodlands to the wider world”.
- ~180 members, involved in management of 100,000ha (70% owned, 50% woodland).



Routes to acquisition

- (Scottish) Public Sector – Asset Transfer rules apply:
 - Forest Enterprise Scotland has a bespoke scheme
 - Other Scottish public bodies must follow same rules but processes will vary
- Private sector (inc GB bodies, NGOs):
 - Various CR2B mechanisms – challenging!
 - Negotiated sales: no rules (CLS protocol may be helpful)
- Funders also have requirements.



Fundamentals

- Eligible body
- Objectives – what is you want to achieve?
- Proposals and plans – how will you do it?
- Evidence of community support
- Funding



FES CATS

- Follows Asset Transfer rules
- FES notifies assets for disposal
- Specific application form
- Defined processes for valuation and consideration of discount
- Independent evaluation panel
- Includes non-statutory options



Funding for acquisition

- Scottish Land Fund
- Other public funding, incl. LEADER?
- Charitable Trusts
- Local fundraising and donations
- Timber (various models)



Development

- Woodlands can deliver wide range of public benefits – over a wide range of timescales
- Need to balance the potential and constraints of the woodland and needs of the community: can't do everything in every wood
- Mixed economy: some activities profitable, others require grants, etc



Development

- “Forestry” – timber & woodfuel – should generate surplus, FGS grants for some operations
- Recreation & Biodiversity – grant dependent, opportunities for volunteer input, important for community sense of ownership
- Education, Health projects – managed through contracts, requires investment in staff & facilities
- Built development – needs capital investment, external contractors, potential long term returns



Support

- CWA: www.communitywoods.org
jon@communitywoods.org
chris@communitywoods.org
- Other community woodland groups
- FES: <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/managing/get-involved/community-asset-transfer-scheme>
Rebecca.Carr@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
- HIE/SLF:
<https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/scottishlandfund>

