

**AYRSHIRE JOINT PLANNING STEERING GROUP  
12 JANUARY 2012**

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**Ayrshire & Arran Forestry & Woodland Strategy First Draft**

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To present to Members the first draft of the Ayrshire & Arran Woodland Strategy for their consideration and to seek authorization to circulate the draft for consultation with key stakeholders and the general public.

DETAIL

2. Members will recall that a stakeholder Steering Group was established in August 2011 to undertake a review of the Ayrshire & Arran Woodland Strategy 2003. The membership of the Steering Group is noted in annex A to this report. Land Use Consultants Ltd (LUC) was appointed to undertake the work for the review, with the Steering Group providing direction to LUC.
3. A first draft of the Ayrshire & Arran Forestry & Woodland Strategy has now been prepared by LUC. A presentation on the draft will be provided by LUC at today's meeting. It is proposed to use the first draft as the basis for consultation with wider stakeholder interests including forestry and timber processing industries, environmental non-governmental organizations and local communities. Comments received through the consultation process will be used to inform the production of a finalized draft strategy which will then be subject to a further round of public consultation in Spring 2012.

RECOMMENDATION

4. It is recommended that Members:
  - a) approve the first draft for consultation with wider interest groups and the general public; and
  - b) authorize the AJPU Acting Manager to make any minor alterations that may be required to the text of the document and diagrams prior to it being issued for consultation.

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## Annex A – Members of Ayrshire & Arran Forestry & Woodland Steering Group

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East Ayrshire Council  
North Ayrshire Council  
South Ayrshire Council  
Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit  
Forestry Commission Scotland  
Scottish Natural Heritage  
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency  
Scottish Government Rural Payments & Inspections Directorate  
Confederation of Forest Industries  
RSPB  
Scottish Wildlife Trust  
East Ayrshire Woodlands  
Irvine Bay URC  
Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership