

Briefing Note FCTU 004/2010

FCBU REVIEW FORUM MEETING 13TH SEPTEMBER 2010, SILVAN HOUSE, EDINBURGH.

The second meeting of the Forestry Commission Business Unit Review Forum was held today in Silvan House.

Attending the meeting were:

Frank MacCulloch (Chair),	Robert Beaney, FCTU Departmental Chair,
Nicky Whitaker, Phase 2 Implementation Manager	Alistair Gillies, FCTU Business Units, Chair
Jennifer Gordon HR	Ian Kirkham, FCE & PCS
	Lawrence Villa, FCTU Business Units
Margaret Shearer, Minute Secretary	Roy Laird, FCTU Business Units

Following a brief introduction from the Chair, the notes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 29th July 2010 were accepted as a true record.

During the discussion on **COMMUNICATION** under matters arising, it was agreed that Alistair Gillies would be added to the Minute Secretary's distribution list so that he and Allan could both receive copies of papers issued by Management. The FCTU would like the Communication Strategy to be re-visited to ensure that there is provision for open and transparent communication for all staff at any time. Robert Beaney queried the FCE situation in Aberfoyle and in particular FCE machines. Frank MacCulloch said that this was a separate issue to the FBU Review and it would be dealt with by the Country Staff Council. The new FCE structure within Countries he added would be outlined to staff via a series of meetings over the next few weeks.

Papers for Agenda Items

4 - Adoption of Update Terms of Reference,

5 - Work stream 1 Update and Updated Project Plan, and 6 – Work stream 2 Update, were discussed, in particular the Steering Group's reasons for adopting the method of "competitive dialog" procurement.

Nicky Whitaker explained this was the most flexible method and will allow dialog with potential suppliers during negotiations.

In addition, she said it was easier for the "market" to be tested. Alistair Gillies commented that regardless which method was used it could still not be seen as good for staff.

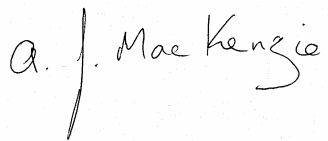
Responding to a question about why the phrase "consider options in the light of the Treasury Spending Review" was included in the **PROJECT INITIATION DOCUMENT** management said that the PID would change but the "change" would be recorded after the "baseline date" which is 1st August 2010.

Frank MacCulloch provided an **HR UPDATE** and reported that the relocation of the Peebles staff was still being discussed; the forum was advised that NRS and Silvan House were currently being considered.

Following discussion about the issue of **"IN HOUSE" BIDS** it was agreed that the FCTU and Management would contact members and staff to gauge whether bids were expected.

The FCTU explained that it was unhappy with the controls being applied to the **STRESS RISK ASSESSMENT**. It was agreed that a paper would be submitted at the next meeting detailing its concerns and proposed amendments.

Finally, the future of the existing **FBU STAFF COUNCIL** was discussed and it was decided that this was something for the full FBU Staff Council to examine and agree a way forward.



Allan MacKenzie

FCTU Departmental Trade Union Secretary