

SUSTAINABLE TIMBER POLICY

- 1 The City of Edinburgh Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy commits the Council to avoid procuring goods, services and works that impact negatively on places, people and other species both locally and across the world. The Council recognises that forest management can be environmentally appropriate and socially beneficial; it can also be environmentally and socially damaging. To support responsible forest management, the Council will meet the following commitments in relation to purchasing timber and timber products (including, but not limited to, paper, furniture, wood fuel, site works and material supplied by contractors such as scaffolding, hoardings and shuttering).
- 2 The Council will not source forest products from:
 - Forests or forest product suppliers that do not comply with all relevant national and international legislation relating to the trade in forest products;
 - High Conservation Value Forests where these are recognised nationally or regionally, unless these forests are progressing towards credible forest certification in a time-bound, stepwise and transparent manner;
 - Protected areas, parks or similar areas where harvesting operations are not complimentary to responsible forest management;
 - Forests which are currently being converted to other land uses, or forests that have been converted since 1994; and
 - Forests which are in areas of armed conflict or civil unrest where there is a direct relationship between the forest products trade and the funding of such conflicts.
- 3 The Council will procure products from legal and well managed forests which are certified under third party certification schemes which are in compliance with the criteria set in the document "UK Government Timber Procurement Policy: Criteria for Evaluating Category A Evidence". Schemes in compliance include the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification scheme (PEFC).
- 4 The Council will accept other documentary evidence that provides assurance that the source is sustainable as set out in the document titled "UK Government Timber Procurement Policy: Framework for Evaluating Category B Evidence".
- 5 The Council will, where practicable, purchase recycled timber and products using recycled timber. Where possible, and whilst complying with national and EU procurement regulations that protect and encourage open and transparent public procurement throughout the European Union, the Council will purchase timber and timber products from Scottish native tree species. For building projects where tree planting occurs, Scottish native tree species will be used.

- 6 The Corporate Procurement Unit will implement the Sustainable Timber Policy as part of embedding sustainable procurement within the Council. This will include communicating the policy to all stakeholders, ensuring procurement procedures incorporate the policy and providing guidance to client departments on how to comply with the policy. The Corporate Procurement Unit will also monitor supplier performance in relation to compliance with the policy and will report progress on purchasing sustainable timber and timber products to the Council annually.
- 7 The Council will, If necessary, use an agreed independent expert agency or the services of the Council's Legal Services and/or Trading Standards to independently verify that timber and timber products have been legally and sustainably managed and that there is a robust chain of custody.