

# WOODLAND INITIATIVES UPDATE

JULY 2008

## Social and Community Forestry (incl. Sustainable Dev)

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The woodland initiatives network is hosted by the Small Woods Association and supported by the Forestry Commission, Natural England and a partnership of initiatives.

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## SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY (including Sustainable Development)

### Community Allowance Scheme

A national campaign to enable people to work for their communities without falling foul of benefit clawback rules. The Create consortium is in talks to get the 'community allowance' piloted in every English region as well as in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Under the scheme, people in disadvantaged areas would be able to earn up to £4,305 during the course of a year – the equivalent of up to 15 hours a week on the minimum wage – without it affecting welfare benefits or other benefits such as free prescriptions. To be eligible, work would have to support the wider community. Pilots would last for 18 months and backers believe each pilot could create up to 80 jobs. Campaigners would like to hear from people interested in running a pilot. <mailto:n.alexander@dtta.org.uk>  
<http://www.communityallowance.org>.

### Social Enterprise campaign

"More for Your Money" will lobby consumers, commissioners and investors on the benefits of enterprises that have social and environmental goals. The campaign will demonstrate the added value that social businesses can bring to society.

Social Enterprise Coalition: <http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/Page.aspx?SP=1893>

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### Social Return on Investment (SROI)

The Government is to carry out a project that will bring together the public sector, independent investors and social enterprises to agree a standard methodology for SROI measurement that places

a financial value on social benefit. The research is designed to help third sector organisations, including charities and social enterprises, access more sustainable funding and finance.

### **IdeA: Multi area agreements**

Information on multi area agreements, which are designed to be cross-boundary local area agreements. They will bring together key players in flexible ways to tackle issues that are best addressed in partnership at a regional and sub-regional level.

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=6960557#contents-1>

### **Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities: The Big Picture**

A leaflet that outlines what is meant by 'sustainable rural communities'. It describes the changes to policies and practice that are needed to make rural communities more sustainable.

<http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/files/crc%2073.pdf>

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### **'Green Test' for New Developments**

Wildlife rich green spaces must be at the heart of all new development for the benefit of the natural environment and people's health and wellbeing say Natural England, in response to the announcement of 20 new Growth Points around the country by the DCLG. Natural England went on to say that the experience and expertise to establish green infrastructure already exists: Community Forests, Country and Regional Parks, Local Nature Reserves and a huge number of individual projects demonstrate the sorts of approaches that can be taken. The full list of Growth Points can be found at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/895020>

### **Growing Round the Houses**

Subtitled food production on housing estates - a briefing paper that explains how social housing providers and their tenants can work together on their estates to grow food. As well giving advice on how to set up a food growing project it gives examples. The paper makes recommendations to social landlords, planners and developers, and residents to facilitate new food growing projects on housing estates across the country.

[http://www.sustainweb.org/pdf/food\\_growing\\_&\\_social\\_housing.pdf](http://www.sustainweb.org/pdf/food_growing_&_social_housing.pdf)

### **Unlocking the Talent of our Communities**

This document sets out the government's commitment to unlocking the talents of all of the people and seeks views on the ways to make changes which give people locally more influence, control and ownership of local services such as employment, health, education and transport.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/unlockingtalent>

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### **Communities in Control: Real people, real power**

This White Paper looks at who has power, on whose behalf is it exercised, how is it held to account, and how can it be accessed by everyone in local communities.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/communitiesincontrol>

Summary of the white paper.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/summarycommunities>

### **Housing and regeneration agreement**

A new agreement to support the delivery of more homes and the regeneration of communities. It sets how councils and the HCA will work together to deliver high-quality homes in places where people want to live, and regenerate the most deprived communities.

This is a draft with the final version released in the autumn.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/875664>

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## Greenspace Quality 'tool-kit'

A new tool-kit for assessing the quality of greenspace. Developed by Greenspace Scotland and the Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership, the 'tool-kit' will help local authorities, developers, housing associations and other greenspace managers to assess whether their greenspaces are 'fit-for-purpose' and to identify actions required to maintain and enhance quality.  
<http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/default.asp?page=438> to download the guide.

## Social Issues in Public Procurement

Buy and Make a Difference - How to address Social Issues in Public Procurement. A new guide that show public procurers how they can help address social concerns both in what they buy and in the way they should expect suppliers to cater for social needs.

This can include:

- Promoting healthier eating in schools;
- involving community groups to actively engage with businesses to increase employment opportunities to diverse groups;
- encouraging the buy-in of the voluntary and community sectors in regeneration projects;
- promoting contract opportunities to a broader business community to encourage wider take-up by community groups;

[http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Social\\_Issues\\_in\\_Public\\_Procurement.pdf](http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Social_Issues_in_Public_Procurement.pdf)

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## Sustainable Development Indicators In Your Pocket

Sustainable development indicators that measure everyday concerns including health, housing, jobs, crime, education and the environment.

<http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/progress/data-resources/sdiyp.htm>

## The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

A new charge which local authorities in England and Wales will be empowered, but not required, to charge on most types of new development in their area. CIL charges will be based on simple formulae which relate the size of the charge to the size and character of the development paying it. The proceeds of the levy will be spent on local and sub-regional infrastructure to support the development of the area.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/communityinfrastructurelevy>

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## Clarity on 'social enterprise' business models

Venturesome, the social investment fund of the Charities Aid Foundation, has published a paper outlining three different business models of social enterprise, and is calling for a debate to get common agreement on the language used to describe them.

Model 1: Enterprises which fit into this model operate a profit making trading activity that has no direct social impact, but they give some or all of their profit to a charity.

Model 2: These enterprises operate trading activities that have a direct social impact but manage a trade-off between producing a financial return and social impact.

Model 3: Enterprises which fit into this model engage in a trading activity that not only has a direct social impact but also generates a financial return in direct correlation to the social impact created. Fewer organisations fit into this model.

The Office of the Third Sector estimates that there are over 55,000 social enterprises in the UK, generating a turnover in excess of £27billion and contributing £8 billion a year to GDP.

<http://www.cafonline.org/default.aspx?page=15961>

## Social Enterprise Fund - Ireland

Ulster Community Investment Trust (Ireland) is managing the money. The seed capital fund is the largest of its kind in Ireland.

[http://www.ucitltd.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=4&emid=19](http://www.ucitltd.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=4&emid=19)

## **GreenPrint**

BRE's GreenPrint methodology has been developed to assist design teams in delivering masterplans that maximise the potential for sustainable communities. It can be applied to a wide range of development types ranging from urban extensions to business parks. The Green Print framework covers eight key areas which impact on sustainability: Climate change, Resources, Transport, Ecology, Business, Community, Placemaking, Buildings.

<http://www.bre.co.uk/page.jsp?id=1290>

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## **Communities: Healthy, strong and prosperous**

A paper from IDeA that explores the developmental and service delivery links between the place-shaping role of local government and its health and wellbeing ambitions.

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=8394630>

## **Creating Strong and Prosperous Communities**

Providing statutory guidance to local authorities and their partners on creating strong, safe and prosperous communities. It covers local strategic partnerships, sustainable community strategies and local area agreements.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/strongsafeprosperous>

## **Eco-towns: Living a greener future**

An eco-towns update following the end of the first stage of the consultation on the eco-towns programme. It sets out the proposed criteria and planning process for eco-towns, provides an updated list of locations and where to find out more about the proposals, sets out how the second stage of consultation will work and describes the work underway to assess the proposals across Government and with local authorities and other partners.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/ecotowns>

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## **The Ecological Land Co-operative**

The Co-operative plans to buy agricultural land that is suffering from or vulnerable to intensive agriculture, and convert it into low impact, residential smallholdings with planning permission. It will sell long leases to suitable users which will give them the security of landowners, but retain the ability of the co-operative to monitor land use and maintain high ecological standards regardless of how it changes hands in the future. The proceeds from the sale of leases will enable the purchase of further land, cover the costs of planning applications and improvements, and provide a fair return to the investors that provided the funds in the first place. The intention is to create clusters, or hamlets, of between two and six smallholdings, sharing services and facilities.

The ELC is keen to include people and organisations that are already practicing ecological land management. Contact <mailto:info@ecologicaland.coop>, Phone Alex Lawrie on 0845 458 1473.

## **Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS 12)**

This states that Local Development Framework's do not exist in isolation and should be considered as one part of the local strategic prioritisation and delivery process. Local authorities are recognised as being uniquely placed to bring together the local public, voluntary and community sectors with private enterprise to create a vision of how to respond to and address a locality's problems, needs and ambitions and build a strategy to deliver the vision in a coordinated way. The PPS includes references to the importance of green infrastructure in planning.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps12lsp>

## **Greener homes for the future**

The national standard for the sustainable design and construction of new homes. The Code aims to reduce our carbon emissions and create homes that are more sustainable.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/codeleaflet>

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## **Delivering 14-19 Reforms in Rural Areas**

This report considers the challenges rural areas face and explores a range of solutions already being taken forward to meet these challenges. It also provides a number of tools to support local areas in their planning. The report commits DCSF to:

- Fund the post of Travel and Access Coordinator in each of the 40 most rural areas;
- Provide £1 million of capital to the 20 most rural areas to help them develop innovative solutions;
- Provide a small amount of funding to support a rural pairing scheme to help the 40 most rural areas share practice and explore solutions together.

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/documents/Delivering\\_14-19\\_Reforms\\_%20in\\_Rural\\_%20Areas.pdf](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/documents/Delivering_14-19_Reforms_%20in_Rural_%20Areas.pdf)

## **Work Skills: Unlocking talent**

This paper sets out the Government's plan to unlock the talent and potential of all people by giving them the skills that will be required in the labour market and, in turn, making British businesses more profitable and society fairer and ensuring everyone can gain from future prosperity.

<http://www.dius.gov.uk/publications/workskills.pdf>

## **Ministry of Justice Third Sector Strategy**

The strategy sets out how the MoJ will engage with the third sector to deliver better public services and improve policy through effective partnerships. The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) will also publish a third sector action plan to reduce reoffending shortly, which will feed into the overall strategy. <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/third-sector-strategy.htm>

## **Face to Face and Side by Side**

This document sets out how faith communities, the Government and wider society can work together to encourage and enable greater local activity that brings people with different religions and beliefs together. Face to Face and Side by Side: A framework for partnership in our multi-faith society.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/facetofaceframework>

Summary of the framework: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/facetofacesummary>

Summary of responses to the consultation:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/interfaithdialogueresponses>