

Community Forests North West Structural Review

Community Forests North West

Brief

BE Group was appointed by the Mersey and Red Rose Forests to undertake a critical examination of the opportunities for restructuring their organisations.

Fundamental to the considerations were the requirements that any restructuring must:

- Maintain delivery levels
- Streamline support functions
- Achieve good governance for Community Forests North West
- Maintain links to the Forest Partnerships
- Maintain the identity of the individual forests.

The work was commissioned in recognition of the changing political, institutional and financial environments in which the organisation operates.

Activities

Mix of desktop research and consultations, which examined existing operations and procedures of the two organisations.

Supported by consultations with key stakeholders (Salford and Cheshire Councils as the lead authority for each Forest Partnership); related regional organisations (NWDA, Forestry Commission, Natural England) and a number of the member local authorities.

Drivers for change established, and a number of options prepared and evaluated.

Outcome

Report findings and recommendations were presented to the management groups of both organisations, and the Red Rose Forest Partnership Group.

Both organisations accepted the conclusions and agreed to develop more robust structures, including clarity around roles and responsibilities, and to further investigate the business case for potential efficiencies.

