



Scottish Borders Land Use Strategy Pilot update

Autumn 2014

The Land Use Strategy (LUS) pilot aims to produce a map based tool to help facilitate land management decision making. The background framework will be no-statutory and non-regulatory.

The pilot is in 3 parts: Part 1) a data gathering phase, Part 2) a land use opportunities and interactions phase and Part 3) development of the draft framework and mapping tool phase. The main objective is to deliver multiple benefits for society, through linking people with the land and developing partnerships with nature.

The LUS pilot is now in the final stage (Part 3) and is due to report to the Scottish Government by March 2015. Over the last year, a widespread public stakeholder engagement programme has been undertaken which has generated feedback from a wide range of land based businesses, organisations and individuals. During the autumn of 2014, there will be a chance to comment on the draft Framework further through a public consultation programme. Over 500 individuals have engaged with the LUS pilot to date and 15 themed 'land use' categories have emerged from Stakeholder Engagement.

These include: 1-Farming, 2-Water related themes, 3-Forestry, 4-Biodiversity & Environment, 5-Local Business & Tourism, 6- Recreation, 7- Energy, 8- Education, 9-Financial, 10- Infrastructure, 11- Cross Cutting Issues, 12- Government policy, 13- Mapping technicalities, 14- Publicity and 15- Other Comments.

The main land use opportunities that stakeholders mentioned most often, were captured in the subject matter as 6 land use opportunity maps: ie food production, woodland expansion, flood water management, areas for biodiversity enhancement, soil carbon storage, and diffuse pollution control. Opportunities for recreation and wind energy are considered in relation to the existing planning processes. The draft Framework is based on scenarios focussed on the key policy drivers behind these opportunities and will consider where multiple benefits might arise but also were existing land use (e.g. for food production) needs to be carefully considered in relation to potential opportunities to deliver other ecosystem services.

The key element throughout the development of the pilot has been to ensure that stakeholders are given opportunities to comment on the LUS pilot and provide a means of inputting to its

development. This is to ensure that the land use strategy framework and mapping tool, has local relevance and local support, which will hopefully lead to its local use.

We welcome comment on the Land Use Strategy pilot and ask for your thoughts and opinions to be e-mailed to info@tweedforum.org

More information on the LUS can be found on the following web link: <http://tweedforum.org/lus>