

GLA 35/10.3 Continuation of the Forestry Pilot

17 October 2012

BOARD PAPER REFERENCE – GLA 35/10.3 – CONTINUATION OF THE FORESTRY PILOT

Issue

1. Extending the period of the Forestry pilot

Recommendations

2. The GLA will continue to apply the lighter touch pilot until the exclusions consultation by Defra concludes
3. The GLA will also consider removal of the application fee for forestry only labour providers

Background

4. The Forestry pilot has been an effective test of a lighter touch approach. It is identified that the level of non-compliance is relatively low compared to the licensing community as a whole.
5. The Written Ministerial Statement confirmed that Defra would consult on the removal of forestry from licensing, The GLA therefore concludes that although the pilot has operated for over a year it is sensible to continue it in these circumstances.
6. However, the GLA is concerned that announcements on this proposal may suggest to forestry only labour providers that it is acceptable not to renew their licences; it is not, and remains a criminal offence.
7. Therefore the GLA has secured Ministerial approval not to levy renewal fees to forestry only labour providers until the completion of the consultation exercise.

(NB: Defra confirmation of 7 is still awaited)