

## Responsible purchasing policy for forest products

As a consumer of forest products, Surrey County Council has a responsibility to ensure that our procurement is not at the expense of the future of the world's forests, but positively supports responsible forest management.

To achieve this, Surrey County Council will purchase forest products from legal and sustainable sources, from within Surrey, the rest of the UK and internationally, and ensure that forest products are sourced only from forests where:

- The forest owner/manager holds legal use rights to the forest. Where there is compliance with all relevant local and national legal requirements, where all relevant royalties and taxes are paid and where there is compliance with the requirements of CITES.
- Harm to ecosystems is minimised.
- Productivity of the forest is maintained
- Forest ecosystem health and vitality is maintained, including adequate protection of the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, mining and encroachment.
- Biodiversity is maintained including protection of rare, threatened and endangered species and conservation of key ecosystems or habitats in their natural state and the protection of features and species of outstanding or exceptional value.
- Legal, customary and traditional tenure and use rights related to the forest are identified, documented and respected; where mechanisms for resolving grievances and disputes are in place and where the basic labour rights and health and safety of forest workers. The scope of this policy is all areas of the Council's purchasing of forest products. These include, but are not limited to:
  - Building maintenance
  - Construction (built environment)
  - Countryside estate management
  - Furniture
  - Stationery
  - Wood fuel

Surrey County Council will require documentation to prove this in the form of:

1. Certification under a scheme recognised by CPET1 including the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification scheme (PEFC) or,
2. Other documentary evidence that provides assurance that the source is legal & sustainable as summarised above and defined by the **Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET)** in detail.

Where wood products are produced as a by-product of land management activities conducted primarily conservation and/or public access objectives, or resulting from coppicing, additional documentary evidence is not required for procurement purposes.

Where certified timber does not exist we will carry out due diligence on these timber purchases and where necessary seek external advice on purchases from the Central Point of Expertise on Timber CPET.

Recycled or reused products will not require documentary evidence of the sustainability of the virgin source of the wood product.

We will work with our contractors and suppliers on the implementation of this policy.