

Powys Wood Encouragement Policy

Powys County Council recognises the importance of forest and wood products industry to rural and regional employment and economic development.

This Policy seeks to:

- help stimulate sustainable economic development within the timber/wood products industry and encourage development of added value products;
- encourage services to consider the use of wood in the construction and fit out of council buildings, development and infrastructure (within any grant constraints);
- encourage developers, particularly those creating social and affordable housing to consider the use of wood in the construction and fit out of homes;
- recognise the benefits that make wood a smart choice for council buildings, development and infrastructure;
- encourage education, best practise, knowledge-transfer and take up of careers in the timber supply chain;
- encourage the use of wood in demonstration projects across Powys;
- demonstrate local and national leadership by adopting this policy.

Implementation:

Powys County Council will;

- ensure that all briefs for new Council housing projects (subject to any grant constraints) incorporate the requirement to use wood as the preferred material for both construction and fit out purposes, where wood is deemed a suitable and cost effective material for the proposed application;
- seek those who can find, practical, efficient, versatile and cost-effective building and design solutions using wood when sourcing design and architectural expertise for such projects;
- ensure that all comparisons to the cost of building with other materials will take into account all long-term and life cycle benefits of using wood;
- where possible, source locally and home produced wood products for construction and fit out purposes;
- use development, planning and procurement processes to maximise opportunities for targeted recruitment and training in the timber industries;
- be a champion of the forest and wood products industry, by establishing a Wood Encouragement Policy and demonstrating commitment to the further development of the local forest and wood products industry;
- actively seek demonstration projects that showcase the use of wood within the County and Wales;
- actively work to support existing and attract new, innovative wood products manufacturers to Powys.

In using wood as a preferred construction material for council infrastructure, we advocate:

- the utilisation of wood products that are certified by: Forest Stewardship Council (FSC); PEFC; Grown in Britain(GiB), or are from local well managed sources;
- using wood only when it is the right material for the selected application.