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| Shropshire Local Access Forum 13 July 2011 10.00 a.m. | <u>Item</u> 5 | <u>Paper</u> B |
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Independent Panel on Forestry – Call for Views

The Independent Panel on Forestry are seeking views on forests and woods in England, and what this part of our landscape can and should provide, now and in the future. An extract from this call for views, which is the start of an ongoing dialogue with everyone who is interested in forests and woods, is set out below.

The Panel have been set up to advise Government on the future of England's forests and woods by April 2012. Their terms of reference state that they should advise "on the future direction of forestry and woodland policy in England".

This includes, but is not limited to, the work of the Forestry Commission, forests and woods in public, private and charitable ownership, the economics of forestry, public benefits such as well being, access for leisure pursuits and the role of forests and woods, and related open habitat, in the wider natural environment.

This ongoing dialogue will work in a number of ways, including site visits and web activity. The Panel will draw on existing information and previous Government consultations but will not be limited to the questions and issues asked before.

The Panel want help with understanding:

- what forests and woods deliver for people, communities, nature and the economy;
- what it is about forests and woods that people value so much and why; and
- what works in the practice and can be repeated in other locations.

The Panel would welcome views and ideas on any aspect of forests and woods.

The following list of questions has been set out to help frame responses.

Question 1 – What do forests and woods mean to you?

Question 2 – What is your vision for the future of England's forests and woods?

Question 3 – What do you feel to be the benefits of forests and woods to:

- a) you personally;
- b) society as a whole;
- c) the natural environment; and
- d) the economy?

Question 4 – We would like to hear about your suggestions of practical solutions and good practice which can be replicated more widely.

Question 5 – What do you see as the priorities and challenges for policy about England's forests and woods?

Respondents have been asked to capture their ideas in a maximum of four pages, to reach them by 31 July 2011. Responses should be sent to Secretariat to the Independent Panel on Forestry, Defra, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR. Email: forestrypanel@defra.gsi.gov.uk

