



<u>Committee and Date</u> Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership 7 February 2012	<u>Item</u> 6
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DEFRA CONSULTATION ON COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY REFORM POST 2013

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Summary

This paper gives information on an important consultation by Defra on proposed changes to the Common Agricultural Policy. The draft response of the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) to the consultation is also provided for members' comments.

Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to comment on the consultation issues, to inform an AONB Partnership response, and to influence the NAAONB response if timescales allow.

Background

1. Defra issued on 12 December 2011 a discussion paper inviting views on the European Commission's recently published Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Regulatory proposals for the period 2014 – 2020, that were released on 12 October 2011. Defra is seeking views from (English) farmers, environmental groups, rural communities, non-governmental organisations and other interested parties on how these proposals may impact those directly affected by the CAP.
2. The proposals may have a number of significant impacts for the AONB, including through a proposed replacement for the Single Payment Scheme, revised rules for the next Rural Development Programme in England (including LEADER), and new initiatives such as 'greening', 'capping' and a dedicated 'small farmers' scheme. A reduction in the number and detail of the current Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions and Statutory Management Requirements are also proposed. The consultation ends on 5 March 2012.
3. The National Association for AONBs has drafted a response to the consultation and this is included as a stimulus for discussion and for any specific comments.

List of Background Papers

Background to the Defra consultation is available at

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/farm-manage/cap-reform/>

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The information in this report is compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.

Environmental Appraisal

The recommendation in this paper will contribute to the conservation of protected landscapes.

Risk Management Appraisal

Risk management has been appraised as part of the considerations of this report.

Community / Consultations Appraisal

The Defra consultation paper was circulated electronically to Partnership members on email a few weeks ago to allow further time for consideration of it.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Defra discussion paper on the impact in England of EU Commission regulatory proposals for Common Agricultural Policy reform, post 2013

Appendix 2 Draft NAAONB response to the Defra consultation