



<u>Committee and Date</u> Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership  21 March 2017	<u>Item</u>  <b>8</b>
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## **SHROPSHIRE HILLS UPLANDS FORUM, DEFRA PLANS AND POST-BREXIT ENVIRONMENT AND LAND MANAGEMENT POLICY AND PROGRAMMES**

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### **Summary**

This paper provides members with background and discussion material on post-Brexit environment and land management policy and programmes.

### **Recommendation**

The Partnership is recommended to consider the issues raised and take part in a short discussion workshop.

### **Background**

The UK leaving the European Union will mean new arrangements for many environmental policies, and a domestic replacement for the Common Agricultural Policy. These will amount to the biggest changes for the environment and farming sectors in a generation. Defra have prepared frameworks for 25 year Plans for the Environment and for Food and Farming. The launch of these has been put back a couple of times, but is expected imminently (a recent Defra presentation on the Environment Plan will be circulated electronically). The NAAONB is developing a paper on post-Brexit policy and opportunities which will be released after approval by the Board of Trustees.

Against this background, and development of lobbying positions by many organisations, the AONB team decided to hold an 'Uplands Forum' discussion event for the Shropshire Hills. With support from contacts through the Uplands Alliance and local partner organisations, this was held on 27<sup>th</sup> February, and was attended by a total of 82 people. The final reports are still being written, but some of the discussion topics are included in Appendix 1 for a short workshop session with AONB Partnership members.

Links to other material from a variety of organisations is provided below.

**List of Background Papers**

Uplands Alliance website <https://uplandsalliance.wordpress.com/>

House of Lords European Union Committee 12<sup>th</sup> Report of Session 2016–17 HL Paper 109  
Brexit: environment and climate change, 14 Feb 2017

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201617/ldselect/ldeucom/109/109.pdf>

Greener UK (alliance of environmental NGOs) manifesto

[http://greeneruk.org/resources/Greener\\_UK\\_Manifesto.pdf](http://greeneruk.org/resources/Greener_UK_Manifesto.pdf)

CLA Brexit New Opportunities papers <https://www.cla.org.uk/newopportunities>

NFU paper Farming's offer to Britain: How farming can deliver for the country post-Brexit

<http://www.nfuonline.com/assets/80290>

**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 topics raised in this paper have been the subject of earlier consultations with Partnership members.

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 Workshop questions based on Uplands Forum event

## Appendix 1 Workshop Session

<b>Question 1    Public benefits</b>
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Some of the public benefits which the uplands provide are:

Food production	Flood management
Tranquillity and wellbeing	Carbon storage
Space, exercise & relaxation	Biodiversity and ecosystems
Clean air and water	Landscape
Wood products, minerals	Historic and cultural value

Please consider these public benefits and any others you may think of, and as a group discuss:

**Which public benefits from the uplands should government funding support, and how?**

(Question 2 on the next page)

## Question 2 What we need to do..

Please read the 'Looking forward..' statements below generated by the national Uplands Alliance workshop on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016.

**i) As a group please note any statements you disagree with, and why.**

**ii) As a group please consider what we need to do for the Shropshire Hills AONB. Write down your group's three most important actions, completing the statement:**

**'Looking forward, we need to ...'**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016, over 80 people from all over England, representing interests including farming, conservation and landscape, water, research and others, took part in an Uplands Alliance workshop. The following statements are a summary of what they said when asked about the uplands - **"Looking forward we need to..."**

### **1. Inform and Engage the Public**

- Communicate what the uplands provide to local communities, visitors and the wider public
- Explain the links between management, public benefits and healthy food
- Articulate and clarify the diversity and value of landscapes

### **2. Encourage Businesses to Flourish and Deliver Public Goods**

- Ensure funding schemes are attractive and take-up is high
- Ensure payments fairly and sufficiently reward businesses
- Recognise that livestock production is at the heart of upland management
- Encourage the delivery of public goods as a business diversification
- Ensure join-up between land management, the rural economy and communities

### **3. Encourage Locally Relevant Delivery within a National Framework**

- Establish a national framework to ensure national priorities are delivered locally
- Have properly convened partnerships to decide local outcomes
- Involve farmers and landowners in design of schemes for shared delivery and ownership of outcomes
- Keep measurement simple to monitor outcomes
- Include effective and trusted facilitation services

### **4. Incorporate good learning from previous initiatives including**

- Schemes open to all e.g. Environmentally Sensitive Area, Upland Entry Level Scheme
- Projects e.g. Farmer Networks, North-West Livestock Programme
- Partnerships combining different knowledge can be especially productive