

Rural Development Schemes 2015-20



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What this presentation will cover

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- Design and development of a new environmental land management scheme.
- Emerging picture of other RDP Schemes.
- Transition between current and next RDP.



Health Warning

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- Much of the following is **yet to be set in stone.**
- The **CAP Public Consultation** provides more detail and asks questions to help guide final design.
- Transitional arrangements are still being developed and will be dependent on EU approval.



CAP Reform: Some questions to resolve

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- **England Budget Allocation Proposals**
 - P1 (Direct payments) around €16,421m
 - P2 (Rural Development) around €1,520m
 - Final allocations will be subject to agreement with the European Parliament over the 2014-2020 EU Budget
- **Transfer of funds between pillars?**
 - Any level up to 15% from P1 to P2
 - Transfers will not need to be co-financed

CAP Reform: some questions to resolve (2)

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- **Content of P1 Greening requirements TBC**
 - The Government has decided that the broad approach to greening in England should be to adhere closely to the measures set out in the direct payments Regulation
 - Consultation asks whether benefits for pollinators would be deliverable in this way or via a national certification scheme
- **Balance of funding across RDP Objectives?**
 - Share across priorities of:
 - growth programme
 - competitiveness
 - environmental land management
 - LEADER – must be 5% of EU funding.



Programme Document and CAP Consultation

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- Public Consultation on CAP Proposals (Pillar 1 and Pillar 2) launched on 31st October 2013 with closing date of 28th November.
- Asks for views on wide range of aspects of CAP implementation including aspects of Direct Payments, how greening should be implemented, how rural development funding should be used and how much to transfer from Pillar 1 to Pillar 2.
- Responses feed into final programme design stages – Final submissions to the EU Commission in early 2014.



Pillar 1 Direct Support

Cross Compliance (applies to P1 and P2)



- This is the requirement to comply with Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) and Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC)
- No significant changes expected, but:
 - SMRs and GAECs renumbered & amalgamated into a single framework;
 - 4 SMRs (sewage sludge and 3 relating to animal diseases) have been deleted and a further one (groundwater) has been changed to a GAEC requirement;
 - GAEC requirements have been rationalised to 7 compulsory standards with a single optional element relating to invasive plant species within one standard.



Greening



- Defra aim to implement closely inline with the minimum European requirements. Worth 30% of P1 payment.
- Basic requirements for:
 - crop diversification
 - maintenance of permanent grassland
 - “Ecological Focus Areas” (EFA) on 5% of arable land
 - Note – there will be some exemptions to greening
- EFA: possible examples:
 - maintain and create buffer strips, fallow land, hedgerows and fields of nitrogen fixing crops. Potential to benefit pollinators.
- Expectation that voluntary action under Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE) will build on this.





Pillar 2 Rural Development Programme

Six EU Rural Development Priorities



1. Knowledge transfer and innovation
2. Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness and promoting innovative farm techniques
3. Promoting food chain organisation, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture
4. Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry
5. Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy
6. Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

A new Environmental Land Management Scheme



Timeline

- **Although ‘NELMS’ has been used as a working title the scheme name is yet TBC! - Successor to Environmental Stewardship**
- **Late 2013: NELMS design finalised – but subject to change until Programme Document is approved**
- **Early 2014: RDP Programme Document to Brussels**
- **2015: New CAP due to begin. NELMS applications from Summer 2015**
- **2016: First NELMS agreements live in January**



What should it deliver? (1)

- Help meet **Biodiversity 2020 goals**, in particular our legal obligations under the Habitats and Birds Directives
- Contribute to **better, bigger and more connected habitats** and closer engagement by people with the natural environment.
- **Greater priority to soil and water management**, and in particular the Water Framework Directive
- **Improve integration** across a number of water, biodiversity, soil and flood management objectives



What should it deliver? (2)

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- **Support woodland creation and management** to help contribute to the ambitions set out in the Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement
- Support investment in the **historic environment**
- Support **educational access**
- Support **genetic conservation**
- promote **landscape scale change**
- **Climate change adaptation and mitigation** would remain an overarching objective.



Scheme Basics

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IT

- **Single CAP IT System** across schemes and delivery bodies
- “**Digital-by-Default**” – online applications and “assisted digital”

Scheme

- **Budget:** likely to be less funding available in real terms for new agreement
- **5 year contracts**
- **Simpler, faster** application process

Outcomes

- Enable **site specific and coordinated landscape scale** outcomes
- High degree of **synergy** sought across measures and policies
- Optimise potential for **multiple outcomes**

Targeting

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- **More targeted** than current scheme.
- Greater emphasis on achievement of **landscape scale** objectives
- Greater emphasis on **local partnerships** and **facilitation** to achieve this
- Greater **coordination** across **individual** holdings to achieve this
- Greater **local direction** on local priorities – clearer steer on preferred options to apply, from a national menu
- Site specific bespoke contracts possible where the priorities require this kind of action



Wider landscape of RDP Schemes and Incentives



To be confirmed, but a basic framework of:



Environmental Land Management Scheme



Farming and Forestry Productivity



LEADER

- Local Action Groups



Growth Programme

- Growth and jobs in the rural economy

Plus:

- **Catchment Sensitive Farming programme** - focussed on diffuse pollution outcomes
- **Skill and training package**



Transitional arrangements

Health Warning reminder and key points



- Transitional arrangements are still being developed and will be dependent on EU approval.
 - Current programme ends 31 Dec 2013 and new programme not yet agreed.
 - 2014 transitional measures not yet agreed by EU (neither detailed rules nor implications) – meanwhile we cannot give definite advice.
- In short - proceed at your own risk.



The AE offer budget (spending from 2015/16 onwards)



The budget for 2014 AE offers is

'About £4m' for ELS

for UELS, OELS and ex-classic ELS

'Up to £14m' for CSF

'About £26m' for HLS

- for ex classics expiring in 2014,**
- for SSSI cases that need to be done in 2014,**
- for WFD, especially N2K sites which were included in the 2009 River Basin Management Plans and which need further action to help meet their conservation objectives by 2015.**
- for other high priority cases, based on the residue from the £26m after the others above have been costed.**

CSF Transition – 2014/15

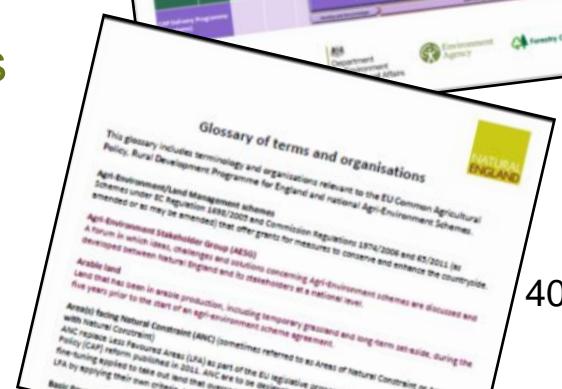


- CSF will continue to deliver the programme in 14/15
- This is a transitional year so although CSF is available some effort will be diverted to developing the future programme
- Potential movement to next round of CAP (closer integration with new environmental land management scheme)
- The CSF capital grant scheme will also continue in 14/15 however funding has been significantly reduced and only likely to be offered in target areas rather than across whole catchments

Communications

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- Regular **Scheme Development Bulletin** for stakeholders, customers, agents and advisers.
- Published at:
www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/developments.aspx
- Information includes:
 - Timeline
 - Glossary
 - Acronym & abbreviation buster
 - Transition and Uniform Start Dates Q&As
- Comments, questions or to be added to distribution list:
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Thank you



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