

An initiative of:

THE UPLANDS ALLIANCE
A Network For The Future Of The England's Uplands

We are an inclusive umbrella of organisations and networks looking at systems and policies affecting land management in the uplands

Looking Forward: Supporting the Uplands

Four Scenarios for Discussion on 22nd September 2016

The Uplands Alliance Steering Group has developed four scenarios or models for how the Uplands might be supported by the Government after we leave the EU. These have been drawn together to stimulate discussion and though the workshop on 22nd September 2016 is kindly hosted by Defra these are not government “options” for consultation. Rather they are provocative propositions from the Uplands Alliance to enable us to consider likely responses and risks from contrasting approaches. The scenarios are as follows and further detailed below:

1. Resilient Land-based Businesses
2. Vibrant Cultural Landscapes
3. Local Schemes for Local Outcomes
4. Outcomes rather than Actions

Each group will consider the impact of their scenario on upland outcomes over the next 25 years from the perspective of scale of both a farm and the landscape. Once this is done each group will identify:

- What are the three most significant human **Responses** to the scenario and three most significant environmental **Results** of the scenario?
- What are the three biggest **Risks** resulting from the scenario?
- What are the three most important evidence gaps emerging from the scenario that need to be filled by **Research**?

Future Support Scenarios

1. Resilient Land-based Businesses

Premise

We can best deliver the outcomes we are seeking from the countryside by enabling and empowering farmers and other landowners to run sound businesses that nurture and make best use of their human, environmental and financial assets to face future changes in our climate and economy. Support will be targeted to maximise resilience across our environment, economy and communities. Businesses strong in all three measures will deliver better for society. Levels of direct support would be relatively low and potentially reduce over time, with the funding emphasis on enabling farmers and others to maximize income from a range of sources reducing reliance on government

support. There would be additional funding at national level in order to stimulate demand for and help ensure a fair price for local products.

Key Features

- Payments per hectare will be linked to:
 - Continuing practical and business skills development including participating in group sessions
 - Maintenance and improvement of natural and financial capital including benchmarking with similar businesses
 - Monitor flow of environmental goods and services through regular audits
- Additional payments available for:
 - Investing in efficient & or innovative technology for enhancing environmental, soil or animal welfare systems
 - Diversification grants
 - Improvements for flood mitigation, biodiversity and water quality
 - Specific measures for improving resilience to climate change
- Money invested at national and local level for:
 - Product marketing promoting British products, linking food with a healthy environment and local landscapes
 - Improving collective bargaining capacity with supermarkets

2. Vibrant Cultural Landscapes

Premise

Hill and upland farms and commons are the building blocks of our most valued landscapes such as National Parks and AONBs and of a disproportionately high percentage of our SSSIs. They underpin the tourism industry, provide a destination for recreation and well being and are the source of over 60% of breeding ewes in the country and produce the very best of local produce linking food and the cultural landscape. We need to keep families actively farming to maintain and enhance these cultural landscapes that are so beloved by the public.

Key Features

- A payment per ha for the active management of upland landscapes
- An uplift if you work with your neighbours delivering on a landscape scale
- An enhanced payment for the first 50 ha to support family farms
- Additional annual payments targeted at biodiversity, water quality, carbon and flood mitigation options
- A capital grant scheme for landscape, woodland and environmental features
- A dedicated commons scheme with facilitated advice

3. Local Schemes for Local Outcomes

Premise

There is significant diversity among the English Uplands and the most effective outcomes will be achieved through each locality (e.g. a National Park / AONB) being empowered to design support schemes that suit their area. This will enable us to move from merely incentivising to motivating farmers as they become connected and engaged with schemes that deliver the public goods and

services the private market place fails to pay for. This would also allow areas to build upon excellent but underfunded local Hill Farming Projects where appropriate.

Key Features

- In each Defra area one or more local organisations (e.g. a National Park / AONB / LNP) would convene a partnership to design and monitor the scheme
- Payments would be approved locally and made nationally
- The partnership would design a scheme that met the local needs and outcomes of that area with some common requirements across all areas
- The payments could include:
 - A cultural landscape maintenance payment per farm – tiered by farm size and capped (mandatory)
 - Multi-annual payments for environmental enhancement (mandatory)
 - Training for business and environmental management
 - Small capital grants for new technology and environmental improvements
 - Succession transition support
 - Common Land schemes (where appropriate)
 - Diversification support payments

4. Outcomes rather than Actions

Premise

Public money should be paid for the delivery of public goods; rewarding businesses for producing those goods and services which the market fails to pay for. The open to all scheme will focus on rewarding the flow of ecosystem goods and services rather than actions and prescriptions that may or may not produce desired goods and services. Payment rates will be based on the value of those goods and services rather than the opportunity cost of not farming (income foregone). The focus would be on improving natural and cultural capital and society's yield from that capital.

Key Features

- Each farm / holding would have an independently audited inventory of current natural, cultural and social capital on the farm
- Schemes would include a broad range of public goods including, but not limited to, biodiversity, carbon storage, water quality, flood mitigation, landscape features, historical features, educational access, public access, high animal welfare, disease control
- Farmers would be able to choose from a raft of measures which goods and services they wish to provide and to what level; basic, enhanced and higher.
- A range of metrics for each outcome would be developed to monitor and measure the flow of public goods
- A self-assessment form would be completed each year with 10% of schemes externally monitored each year.
- Farmers would be able to engage advisors with earned recognition status to audit their farm prior to self assessment
- Capital grant schemes would enable investment in natural and cultural capital

Looking Forward: Supporting the Uplands Discussion Workshop

An Uplands Alliance Event kindly hosted by Defra

11:30 (arrival from 10:30) – 17:30, Thursday 22 September 2016
Defra, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, Westminster, London SW1P 3JR

Objectives

In the workshop we will:

1. Share insights on how to motivate and support upland land management;
2. Explore the potential impacts of four upland support scenarios;
3. Collate recommendations for policy planning and evidence gathering.

Agenda

Time	Session	Notes
10:30	Arrival	Arrival and registration, refreshments served, opportunity to network
11:30	Welcome	Professor Michael Winter & Julia Aglionby, Uplands Alliance
	Seeing change as an opportunity	Professor Mark Reed, Newcastle University Minette Batters, NFU Deputy President
	Capturing what's good	Facilitated group discussions
	Outlining the scenarios	Christopher Price, Director of Policy & Advice, CLA
12:45	Lunch	Kindly provided by Defra
13:45	A few words...	Sonia Phippard, Director General, Environment & Rural Group, Defra
	Uplands Alliance – update	Professor Michael Winter, Chair, Uplands Alliance
	Exploring the scenarios	Facilitated group discussions (approx. 1hr,15 mins)
15:40	Break	Refreshments served
	Drawing out our recommendations	Facilitated group discussions
	Looking forward...	Plenary feedback & next steps
17:30	Close	

Before the event...

Please take some time to consider what you feel are the elements of the current or historic support systems for the English uplands which work / worked well.