

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

Report title:	NLAF response to Defra Consultation
Date of meeting:	18 April 2018
Responsible Officer:	Steve Miller, Assistant Director Culture and Heritage

Strategic impact

Defra has issued a consultation paper *Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit* seeking views on its plans to reform agriculture so as “to change the way we use the land, so as better to promote health and harmony.” The proposals “set out a range of possible paths to a brighter future for farming. They are the beginning of a conversation, not a conclusion and we want everyone who cares about the food we eat and the environment around us to contribute.” Access issues are among those covered in the paper, and are particularly significant in Norfolk (and other East Anglia counties) because of the ongoing loss of permissive routes previously support through Stewardship schemes funded by the EU.

Executive summary

A draft response has been prepared, and was circulated to LAF members on 20 March. The draft attached (see Appendix 1) has been updated in light of the sole comment received, and is now offered for approval by the LAF for submission. The closing date for receipt of comments is 8 May 2018.

Recommendation:

The LAF approves Appendix 1 as its response to the DEFRA Consultation.

1. Proposal (or options)

It is proposed that the LAF approves the attached paper (Appendix 1) as the basis for responding to Defra’s consultation.

2. Evidence

The Defra report is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-for-food-farming-and-the-environment>. A first draft response was circulated to all members on 20 March.

3. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for the process of making a representation, other than the modest staff time required.

4. Issues, risks and innovation

Failure to make a representation could lead to the Government pursuing a course less beneficial for access issues.

5. Background

Please refer to the ‘Evidence’ section of this report.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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