

## **19/04, 3pm: Pathways to Success Sub Group**

Attendees: [REDACTED]

### **Actions**

- [REDACTED] to follow up on the usage of green crops, within SFI – queried by [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] to look at financial support Defra can bring to this workstream
- [REDACTED] to share assumptions with [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] to follow up on RPA data sets and carry out analysis, sharing back findings
- [REDACTED] to jointly work together on assessing data we have – ready to discuss in detail 17/05 (meeting after next)
- [REDACTED] – need to think about what our assumptions are about our future offers, think about external factors, think about the ‘what if’ – look at data before that
- [REDACTED] to look further into the ‘what if’ scenarios
- **All** to review the proposal and confirm we have an agreed way forward for the work

### **Notes**

*We briefly reflected on the VP meeting 06/04/2022*

- we still wait on the readout from that ([REDACTED] has chased). [REDACTED] met with VP 05/04 to discuss farm incomes on hill farms – we briefly ran through that discussion. Noted difficulties with the tenant situation – [REDACTED] has met with Ali Johnson and Baroness Rock on that – [REDACTED] shared the draft spec of this so we are aligned there, noting the tenant theme
- [REDACTED] – We could bring [REDACTED] (tenant working group lead) into this group/conversation if ever needed
- [REDACTED] – supply chain and fertiliser costs – helpful for more clarity about how farmers can make use of green crops, could be a benefit in terms of those crops being used in arable rotations. Acute shortage of winter keep for next winter likely. [REDACTED] noted the [recent fertiliser blog](#) which may be of interest here, as well as the [SFI update](#) – but we will feed this back
- [REDACTED] – clarity (or readjustment) needed as the word in the field is that they (green crops) can’t be used

*Project spec discussion*

- [REDACTED] – Objective of today. We want to plan the spec, formulate into more of a plan. Once we have that, be more formal in putting advice to Ministers to formally shape and get views on the work. Sounds like we are aligned – but worth building Ministerial engagement into the plan. Want to understand what we’re imagining the ‘bunches’ of work to be, what are the key things we need – what are those steps?
- [REDACTED] – we are resourcing in kind – everyone’s resources stretched, but we need to identify what we would like and then see what we have already. Start developing some ‘what ifs’ – stepping stones to success. Are there missing data sets? Desktop exercise using existing resources, between ourselves pulling that together to create something useful for farm businesses
- [REDACTED] – looking into costings and what Defra can offer in financial support to this – building in conversations with finance colleagues as part of our plans
- [REDACTED] – Aspire to a dual badged publication that everyone is happy with publishing
- What do we need to do first in terms of next steps for this work? [REDACTED] – Next 5 years, decreasing BPS, what is the finance situation with that? Scope around the farm business, how do you elver a financially viable business which is still viable in 27/28? If that’s the aim, looking at the changes – taking the latest data, 2020 (due to be published this month), look at each for the next 5 years and model those changes over those years, as BPS declines, if the average farmer has X amount of moorland, they’re losing by 2024 £ of BPS but will have money from SFI X £. What would happen if you did nothing? ...28:51

- [REDACTED]- Do you need us to make scheme assumptions on amount of funding available that could be available to the average farm? [REDACTED]– some assumptions we'll have to make, e.g. BPS reductions post-2024. Rather than producing forecast accounts for every year, we can look at the end of the transition. [REDACTED]has assumptions he can share with [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]- What will our scheme offers be and what will our average offers be? [REDACTED]current focus on looking at current uptake of CS
- [REDACTED]Do we need to kick this workstream and development of the guide with a conversation which goes through the different data sets and what they say? Workshop to go through that before doing anything further?
- [REDACTED]– action from last time re RPA data, been in touch with colleagues in contact with RPA – expecting data this week looking at how many upland farms are in CS, are they new/existing businesses etc. [REDACTED]to chase and review
- [REDACTED]– a lot to do in terms of understanding and reviewing what that data is telling us, seems like a logical first step. 1. Review the data 2. Understanding what the data is telling us and highlighting any gaps 3. Filling those gaps on new data sets or new analysis 4. Come together with policy teams once we understand the data and have the further analysis – workshop through that data. Decision point then would be as to whether we go forward to do the guide or more policy together – if we need to do more work, we can help structure that conversation
- [REDACTED]– done some of that already, **timelines would lead to the meeting after next (17/05/2022)?**
- [REDACTED]- Speak to [REDACTED] to see what data we can release and analyse and can help interpret
- [REDACTED], [REDACTED]and [REDACTED]to look at the data we have together - work back through as a wider group to highlight gaps – in a months' time (17/05). Come together to discuss that data and then convene as a full group to run through
- [REDACTED]– flagged we will likely need something bespoke on LFA dairy farms – which the report doesn't cover
- [REDACTED]– should we be including capital grant payments? (small capital grants not CS)
- Next steps: 1. Put some of this from today's readout onto paper, look at it as an action plan. Share back and talk about next time 2. Get going on the data side 3. Ministerial engagement on the plan

#### **Outcome – the proposal we have**

1. Assess the data we have and highlight any gaps, any new data we need to pull or any new analysis we need to make
2. Meet 17/05 to discuss this in detail as a group – aim to understand what the data tells us, highlighting gaps
3. Start gathering any additional data and making any new analysis
4. Some form of Ministerial engagement
5. Meet as a group, with policy teams, once we understand the whole data picture and have that analysis