

28/06: Upland Farmers Pathway to Success (Steering Group)

Attendees

- [REDACTED]

Actions

- [REDACTED] to get granular data on where the funding is being spent – the items
- [REDACTED] to look circulate data of no. upland farms currently in CS/ES scheme (area) and try to obtain no. of farm holdings in CS/ES from RPA
- [REDACTED] to circulate forward look of key meetings and the Group to flag availability around those. Potentially look into amending the sequencing of meetings. *See above*
- [REDACTED] to recirculate a revised project specification, playing back what adjustments we have made and the discussion today. *I will aim to circulate a revised project spec by the end of this week/early next.*

Actions from last meeting

- [REDACTED] *to consider whether 2024 modelling is possible to provide commentary on where those channels are at that midway point. Definitely can look into this with the modelling, but for now it is easier to focus on 2028 first – we know the roll out, know there's no longer BPS etc. 2024 less clear*
- [REDACTED] *to look into 'stackability' questions for the AES assumption channel (SFI) – of ES/CS and SFI schemes. Looking at the information out there at the moment – agree its difficult. Within SFI, its designed to stack individual modules on top of each other – might be some ability there. Implications – when modelling, means we might need to potentially need to cap the amount of revenue that we think an individual parcel of land might be able to receive from AES*
- [REDACTED] *to consider when we next update the Upland Alliance on Pathways. We will definitely attend - [REDACTED] to think of dates – July/August (w/c 18th July) onwards*

Project Specification – Potential new approach

- [REDACTED] took us through a potential new approach to this work. It seems to have naturally developed into two potential products – 1) farm incomes modelling looking across the agri sector. Defra product which we can regularly test with this group (pending relevant clearances). This group can help shape what Defra produces on that and 2) the guide. See the guide as qualitative as opposed to quantitative. It could include some decision trees and illustrative stats from FBS – but not “do this, it will make you this”
- [REDACTED] – sounds great. We should be careful of producing something that provides answers to everything. Decision tree type approach useful. Badge it as an opportunities type approach. Stacked approach highlighting the opportunities for businesses
- [REDACTED] – how people farm and the farming system they choose to adopt makes a huge difference to profitability. Not just BAU and adding in SFI – SFI/LNR will have significant implications on your farming system
- [REDACTED] – Is there a feeling with people in increase in GS5 more interested in CS, is it making a difference? [REDACTED] – don't think so, not changed the core issues why people can't/won't apply. Not seen a renewed interest in those who were never interested. Issues around tenancy issues or capital works that need doing that will be paid for afterwards
- [REDACTED] - looking to provide a pathway to running a thriving uplands business
- [REDACTED] – is there something we can do in the opportunities in the short term? Mapping some of the offers. What are the barriers to accessing these opportunities? Can we do this in parallel to the data?

- [REDACTED] – timings, products sequential or parallel. Document written with a clear purpose and audience. When is the key moment for that product? 2028 and the years to 2025. Schemes designed that everyone is ok by 2028, less worrying – it's the nearer term now to 2025 that's the worry, when we don't have that full offer on the table. [REDACTED] – needs to be now but can only be when there is enough info