

AGENDA ITEM No 4

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

URGENT BUSINESS ITEMS SUB-COMMITTEE

29 APRIL 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

1. DEFRA'S SINGLE PAYMENT SCHEME AND ITS APPLICATION TO AUTHORITY-OWNED LAND (A.568/JJL)

Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is urgent in order to ensure that the Authority and its tenants and graziers are able to complete discussions and make applications to a national scheme by the Government's deadline. It was not possible to bring it to a previous scheduled meeting because it is a complex issue and all the necessary information to enable Officers to assess and then present to Members has only gradually been received.
- 1.2 In 2003 the European Union commenced a fundamental reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. One of the main features of the reform is to replace all the existing national schemes for direct aid to farmers by a new Single Payment Scheme (SPS). Previous schemes, for example for the beef, sheep, dairy and arable sectors, were related to production whereas the SPS relates to the land.
- 1.3 For payments to be received, those managing the land have to apply to establish entitlements for each hectare of eligible land. Guidance on applications has gradually been emerging from government and, in the last few weeks, application forms have been distributed. These have to be completed and returned by 15 May 2005.
- 1.4 Only one person can claim the new single payment for any area of land. Therefore, where land is let, landlords and tenants/graziers have to reach understanding about who should submit the application. The guidance from Government is that establishment of entitlements for a particular area of land will be based on who has the land as part of their agricultural holding.
- 1.5 For Authority property, Officers need to present to Members a proposition covering circumstances under which the Authority might apply for entitlements as landlord and circumstances under which the farmers would apply.
- 1.6 An explanatory report is now in preparation. This report, which will include recommendations, will be circulated to Members for the Urgent Business Items Sub-Committee on 29 April as a Supplementary Report.

Human Rights aspects including Equal Opportunities, Health & Safety

- 1.7 There are no apparent issues to consider.

List of Background Papers (not previously published)

Nil