

# Climate Change Conference of the Parties: East Hampshire

Land Use and Agriculture Action Group

## *Supplementary Information Pack*

Further resources to support the work of action groups

# Division of roles and remits of Local Authorities with regard to land use and agriculture

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## **Response to a written request to Hampshire County Council, for information on the roles of different local authorities with regard to specific aspects of land use and agriculture**

*6 July 2021*

In East Hampshire, there is no simple answer to the above question, as the existing framework is a mosaic of responsibilities.

Planning is the major determinant of change of land use, with the power for planning resting on the relevant planning authority – either the South Downs National Park Authority or East Hampshire District Council. Hampshire County Council holds no real power in relation to planning decisions.

Hampshire County Council does hold statutory responsibilities for trading standards, including animal welfare, as well as responsibilities for highways as the local highway authority. Hampshire County Council can theoretically change the designation of a highway from one use to another (e.g. from footpath to bridleway) but has never exercised this power.

Natural England has statutory responsibility for designations of certain types of protected landscapes, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) manages the various agricultural management schemes, such as the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS). The Environment Agency has statutory responsibility for water catchment management, which inevitably impacts land use.

There is no one body with statutory responsibility for agriculture or land use, and many of the schemes are voluntary. This can mean that there are limited powers available to any local authority to compel a landowner to behave in a certain way.

## Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Blog: Future Farming

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[Click here to access](#)

- A rich resource page covering all aspects of changes to farming in England. More specifically the page covers, and provides links to resources on, environmental land management schemes, other schemes and programmes, prosperity and productivity funding, and future plans for existing schemes.
- The guiding principle of the changes to farming in England is that farmers and land managers will be rewarded for actions to improve the environment, whilst producing high quality food and other products.
- Also included on this page is a link to DEFRA's [Farming is Changing](#) document, which provides a broad overview of the changes to English farming as it transitions away from EU-based rules, particularly with regard to the gradual phasing-out of Direct Payments, to be replaced by a new system. A useful visual guide to the timeline for scheme changes is provided on [this leaflet](#), along with a summary of the new schemes.

## Response to the Environmental Audit Committee's report on the role of nature and net zero in the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

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22 June 2021 – [click here to access](#)

- The Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) is appointed by the House of Commons to evaluate the success of government departments in protecting the environment and helping sustainable development, and to audit their performance against government targets.
- This document sets out the EAC's recommendations to the government for halting biodiversity loss and slowing climate change through investment-led policies, and the government's responses to these recommendations

# Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) Resources

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## **POST Research Briefing: *Climate change and agriculture***

7 May 2019 – [click here to access](#)

- A detailed overview of measures to reduce the impact of food production and agricultural land use on climate change, and steps taken to ensure the sector's resilience to climate change. Suggestions for steps that can be taken at a local and government level are provided, as well as an overview of the role of agriculture in UK emissions. An extensive list of references is included in the document.

## **POST Research Briefing: *Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture***

4 July 2017 – [click here to access](#)

- Although somewhat out of date now, this research briefing does provide useful information on different environmentally sustainable farming measures, the role of future trade treaties and new agricultural policies on farmers' decision-making, and the impact that some agricultural practices can have on the environment.

## **POST Article: *Reducing the environmental and biodiversity impacts of agriculture***

29 April 2021 – [click here to access](#)

- A summary of the debate around reducing the environmental impacts of agriculture, e.g. use of new technologies such as robotics and gene editing vs proposals for increased uptake of regenerative agriculture approaches. The balance of agricultural efficiency and productivity with environmental considerations is also discussed.

# House of Commons Library Resources

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## House of Commons Library Briefing: *Tree planting in the UK*

2 June 2021 – [click here to access](#)

- A summary briefing providing a useful account on the history of tree planting policy, current policy on tree planting across the devolved administrations, the relationship between tree planting and net zero, and comparisons with other developed countries.

## House of Commons Library Briefing: *Carbon capture usage and storage*

11 March 2020 – [click here to access](#)

- A detailed briefing covering what carbon capture usage and storage (CCUS) is and how it works, as well as a history of government support for CCUS, and policy developments on CCUS between 2017 and 2020. Funding and business models for CCUS are also covered in some detail.

## House of Commons Library Briefing: *Local Government air quality responsibilities*

25 February 2020 – [click here to access](#)

- A comprehensive briefing paper summarising the responsibilities held by local authorities with regard to local air quality. Air quality targets are a devolved issue, and the briefing focuses primarily on policy in England. As well as a history of air quality legislation, actions to improve air quality are discussed, as are proposals for change.

## House of Commons Library Briefing: *Green belt*

20 November 2020 – [click here to access](#)

- A briefing paper examining issues relating to the Green Belt, and exploring how the white paper 'Planning for the Future' approaches the Green Belt. Statistics on the size, location and development of the Green Belt are also provided.