

**Rural Development Programme for England
Programme Monitoring Committee**

**Proposal to amend the Rural Development Programme for England
2007-13**

1. At the PMC's meeting on 29 May 2008 we consulted the Committee on some proposed changes to the RDPE as a result of changes to be made to Environmental Stewardship (ES) schemes following the ES Review of Progress. These changes were summarised in papers RDPE PMC 4-4 and 4-5.
2. In order to make changes to the programme, a formal notification must be made in accordance with Articles 6-12 of Regulation 1974/2006 advising the European Commission of the changes and their effect. We are also required to send the Commission an updated version of the Programme. The Commission has four months to review the proposals, check that they are in accordance with the Regulations and advise us of their findings.
3. We submitted a formal notification, taking account of the changes reviewed by the PMC, on 7 October 2008. In addition to the changes to ES we took the opportunity to propose a number of other revisions to the Programme including: an amendment clarifying the funding of anaerobic digestion under Axis 1; updated details (from each region's Regional Implementation Plan) of the demarcation criteria between the RDPE and structural funds; and some updating of the financial tables and targets/indicators.
4. At a recent meeting with the RDPE team the European Commission asked that our Monitoring Committee be given an opportunity to review and agree all the changes described in the modification document as sent to the Commission. This is to ensure that Article 78 of the Rural Development Regulation, which requires that the Programme Monitoring Committee is consulted on the selection criteria to be used in the RDPE and on any subsequent changes to those criteria, is fully met. The attached document, RDPE PMC 5-5a, is a copy of the modification proposal.
5. The Committee is invited to offer its views on the modification proposal.

Proposals for further notifications of changes to the Programme

6. It is anticipated that Ministers will be soon be taking decisions on changes to upland support including the introduction of Uplands Entry Level Stewardship. We may therefore need to propose further changes to the RDPE Programme Document. If we do need to amend the Programme we will consult PMC in writing in due course.

**RDPE Programme Team
Defra
November 2008**