

13. CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Chapters 5 to 11 detail the evidence that has been collated to inform this review of LFA support and guide decisions on the way forward.

- 1. Are you content that all of the relevant issues have been captured and adequately explored?**

- 2. Are you content with the conclusions that have been reached within the evidence chapters?**

A continuation of the current LFACA Scheme is not possible as a consequence of Council Regulation (EC) 1698/2005 that is due to take effect from 1 January 2010. Therefore, four Options have been presented for future action. Options 1, 2 and 3 are presented in recognition of the fact that there is no requirement under the EU Regulation to operate an LFACA Scheme, i.e. LFA is an optional measure.

- 3. Do you agree with Option 1 that there should be no future LFACA Scheme and that the funds released should not be reallocated to other rural development measures? If so, please explain your reasons for this choice in the context of the evidence that has been presented in this review.**

- 4. Do you agree with Option 2 that there should be no future LFACA Scheme and that the funds released should be reallocated entirely to Axis 1 and Axis 3 measures of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme? If so, please explain your reasons for this choice in the context of the evidence that has been presented in this review.**
 - a. If your choice is Option 2, to what priorities under Axis 1 and/or Axis 3 should the monies be directed, and why?**

- 5. Do you agree with Option 3 that there should be no future LFACA Scheme and that the funds released should be reallocated entirely**

to the agri-environment programme? If so, please explain your reasons for this choice in the context of the evidence that has been presented in this review.

- a. If your choice is Option 3, should the additional monies be directed through the existing agri-environment measures, or are adjustments to the programme required (including, for example, ring-fenced monies for certain areas)? Please give reasons for your answers.**

6. Do you agree with Option 4 that there should be a future LFACA Scheme? If so, please explain your reasons for this choice in the context of the evidence that has been presented in this review.

- a. Do you agree with the broad outline for such a Scheme that has been given and the reasons for this? If not, what changes would you like to see and why, in the context of the evidence that has been presented in this review. In particular:**

- (i) Do you agree that the focus of future of support should be the SDA (or any future designated LFA)?**
- (ii) Do you agree that applicants to the Scheme should farm at least 10 ha of land in total (of which at least 3 ha must be in the SDA)? If not, what would you like to see as the minimum size and why?**
- (iii) What are your views on the range of farm enterprises that would make a farm eligible for support?**
- (iv) What are your views on the use of minimum and maximum stocking densities?**
- (v) What are your views on the use of a possible environmental option within an LFA support scheme? What sort of environmental issues could usefully be addressed by such a mechanism?**

7. Are there any equality issues that you would like to raise that have not been addressed adequately?

- 8. Are there any issues relating to rural proofing that you would like to raise that have not been addressed adequately?**

- 9. Are there any other issues you would like to draw our attention to in the context of this review?**

