

**EDINBURGH AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENT DISCUSSION CIRCLE  
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**STEWARDING THE LAND: FROM SHAMBLES TO SOLUTIONS**

**Introduction**

RSE report and its foci:

- H&Is why?
- need for explicit policy on support of rural population/community viability; key attributes and objectives specified,
- 3 key areas of economic opportunity: tourism, energy and food
- 5 key issues on developing viable communities: affordable housing, improved transport services, telecoms, post offices and integrated service delivery, and FE & HE provision
- Need for changed approaches to government delivery
- Major issue is future of agriculture and other land uses

Address 3 issues: CAP not delivering, land use conflict needs resolution, and support for land stewardship needs new models

**1. CAP not delivering**

Problem: historic basis of payments, SFP skewed payment and requiring little effort. Many farms in deficit without subsidy, policy of UK government will make H&Is agriculture totally unviable, cross compliance not working

What to do:

Pillar 1 Single farm payment more clearly linked environmental benefit

Active agriculture should be a condition

Area based SFP could lead to some 'flattening' of payments and more support for Hills and Islands

Use special provisions to support for sheep farming

Increased rate of compulsory 'modulation

Pillar 2 Retain LFASS

change definition of LFASS area

Focus LFASS support on agri-environment & climate change

Increase funds for agri-environment schemes

Reduce number and bureaucracy of agri-environment schemes

Post 2013 Move to area based system after 2013

EU Land, Environmental and Climate Change Policy

**2. Land use conflict needs resolution**

Problems: conflict between uses now and will intensify: food/energy/wildlife/landscape/forestry/climate change. T&C Planning system not adequate

What to do:

Strategic Land Use Policy Framework

Land Stewardship Proofing Test with explicit criteria

Mandatory Codes and changes in practice

**3. Refocusing support for land stewardship**

Problem: fragmentation, competition, Pentland House domination, university takeovers, half cock mergers

What to do:

Partnership working and collaboration, removing duplication, developing the big idea Rural University/Scottish Land Use University, integrated advisory services, redefine what customers needs and will need in future. Importance of practical demonstration