Kerry Anne Wain

From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject:

03 September 2019 15:06 CDLL-LDP

Preferred Strategy - Consultation

Dear Sir

Thank you for consulting the Department on the Preferred Strategy. This consultation is made in accordance with TAN6 Annex B1 and the response is being sent directly to your Authority at the request of Planning Division.

Agricultural Land Classification:

Officials met with your Authority on 4th July to discuss BMV Planning Policy. At the meeting your Authority set out the spatial strategy and discussed the ALC grading (predictive & actual) for a range of strategic sites including which would need additional ALC survey work to confirm grades. It was also agreed that a paper would be written to specifically address the sequential test set out in BMV planning policy. As discussed, the Department expects BMV land loss to be minimised and any potential losses to be fully justified in line with PPW requirements.

The Department has not discussed or assessed smaller candidate sites. The same expectation concerning the application of BMV policy is required. The candidate site assessment process document makes clear ALC is one of the considerations.

Your Authority is using the full range of agricultural land quality information available made available by Government; the Predictive ALC Map and published ALC surveys.

Preferred Strategy:

The Preferred Strategy directly quotes BMV policy in Strategic Objective 1 (SO1), Strategic Policy 13, Managing Settlement Form. BMV policy is also considered in the sustainability appraisal.

Departmental View:

The Department offers <u>no objection</u> at this time based on the candidate site assessment of agricultural land quality and the commitment to produce a paper evidencing the application of BMV policy.

Yours faithfully

R.J. Cooke

Department for Environment, Energy & Rural Affairs

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