

# An Agricultural Strategy for the next 10 years

*Launching our consultation*

*We are looking for your views and ideas*



**Isle of Man**  
Government

26th February 2019 - Bemahague

# Where are we today:

- ❑ *“Developing a reliable, sustainable, self-reliant Manx Agriculture”* – launched in 2008
  1. Introduced decoupled Countryside Care Scheme
  2. Sought extension of red meat derogation (ended 2010)
  3. Infrastructure support – subvention
- ❑ Meat Plant joint venture making progress with subvention secured for foreseeable future
- ❑ Milk Price Order is key ongoing policy



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# Where we are today - Brexit

## □ Brexit means:

- Risk of transitional market impacts, e.g. lamb
- Exports must continue to comply with EU/UK standards
- Agricultural support increasingly compared to WTO rules
- Expectation of accessing new global markets in longer term
- UK Agriculture Bill – strong focus on environment, ecosystem services and public benefits – area based payment to be phased out.

# How we developed this strategy

- ❑ Reviewed and tested many delivery options
- ❑ Worked with industry representatives
- ❑ Identified trends in support in neighbouring jurisdictions (environmental)
- ❑ Ensured that delivery compatible with Brexit (whatever the outcome)
- ❑ Concept now approved by Treasury

# How does it compare with the UK/EU?

- ❑ UK trend is reduction in payments with goal of no area payment by 2029
- ❑ UK no commitment to maintain budget post-2021/22
- ❑ No plans for EU to increase CAP budget
- ❑ UK moving away from flat-rate payments to optional payment for 'public goods'
- ❑ EU is increasingly moving funding from direct payments to Pillar 2 (Rural development) projects

# New money agreed in budget

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Match funding for modulation	£350k	£700k	£1,050k
Meat Plant subvention (AFF)	£1m	£1m	£1m
Biosphere fund (community projects which support Biosphere)	£250k		



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# Aims of strategy 1/3

1. To achieve an agile, **sustainable** and self **reliant Manx food chain** that **efficiently** and **profitably** produces a **diverse** range of **high quality foods** for the Manx Nation and for profitable **export**.



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# Aims of strategy 2/3

2. To steward and enhance the Island's **landscape, natural heritage and Biosphere status** through the **protection of biodiversity, carbon sequestration and water catchment management.**





# Aims of strategy 3/3

3. This strategy, underpinned by **efficient and reliable infrastructure**, will offer **opportunities for new entrants and existing businesses** and shall allow both co-operative and **entrepreneurial behaviour** to flourish.



# 4 Key Objectives (1/2)

- ❑ **The Environment** – support targeted initiatives that help preserve conserved and cherished landscapes, promote biodiversity, enable sequestering of carbon and improve water quality and reduce flood risk.
- ❑ **Supporting active farmers** – to ensure that financial support is targeted at agricultural businesses producing food, protecting the environment and proactively effecting water catchment and landscape management.



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# 4 Key Objectives – (2/2)

- ❑ **Productivity** – to support industry productivity and efficiency through knowledge, advice, benchmarking and marketing to improve farm profitability and secure long term viability post Brexit.
- ❑ **Investment** – to stimulate investment through capital grants, building business confidence and profitability.



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# New support available to active farmers

- ❑ Advisory service
  - Productivity, welfare/herd health, environmental and land management
  
- ❑ Capital Grant Scheme expansion:
  - Modernisation of fixed assets
  - Adoption of new technology to improve productivity and profitability
  - Improvements to slurry/FYM storage and pollution control.
  - Hedges and dry stone wall repair and renewal
  - Industry diversification and efficient food processing
  - Voluntary improvements to public access
  - Animal welfare
  - Soil management through lime, reseedling, weed wipers and soil sampling



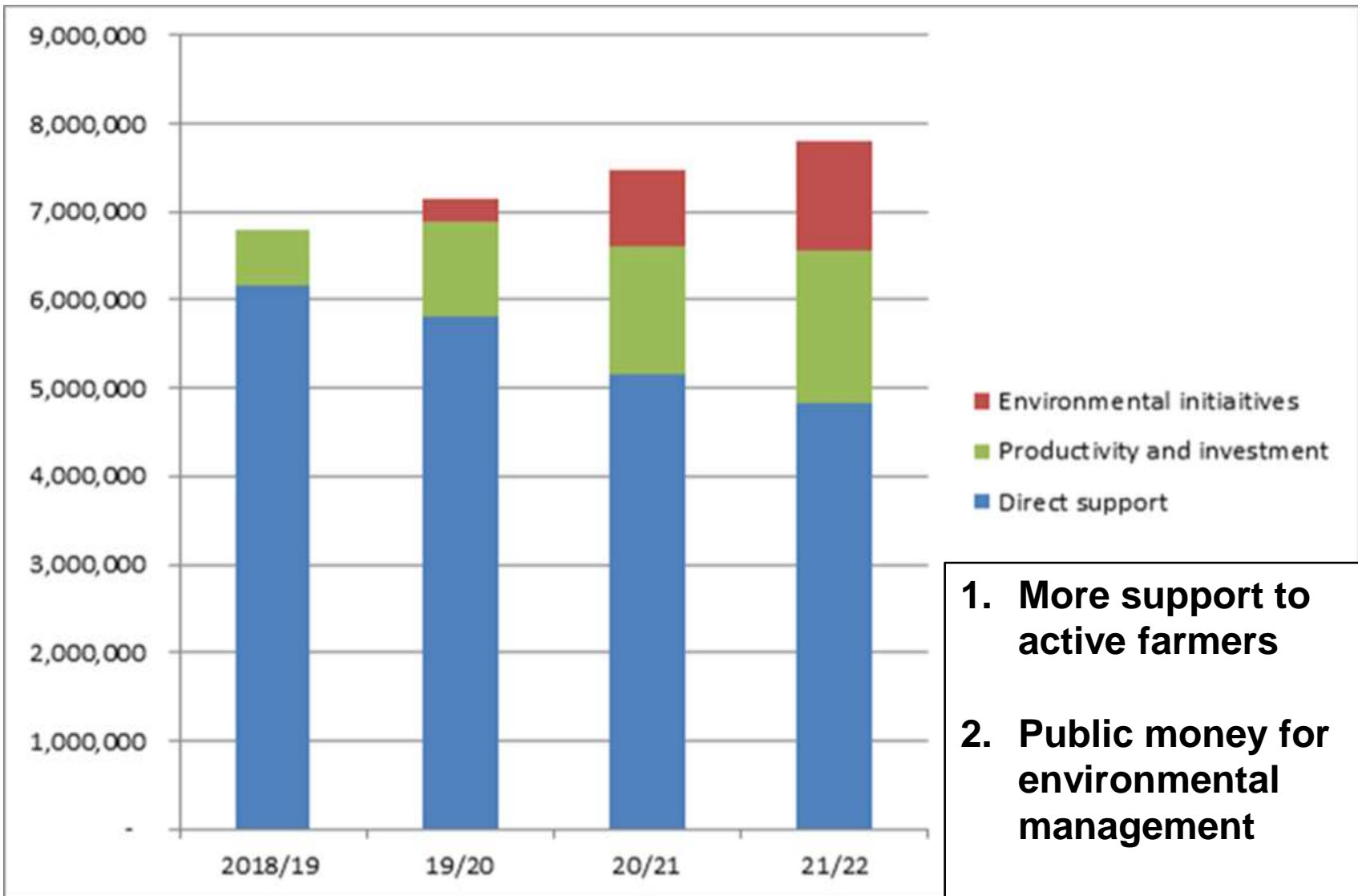
# Lowlands scheme

- ❑ Reduced flat rate payments, reducing £4.56 per acre per year for three years. (£78.20-64.52)
- ❑ With match funds from Treasury increasing overall budget
- ❑ Voluntary extra payments:
  - River water quality and flood risk improvements (e.g. buffer zones and tree planting)
  - Wall, hedgerow and field margin maintenance
  - Habitat management for specific birds (e.g. breeding waders and farmland birds – winter cover crops, stubble retention etc.

# Upland Scheme – next year

- ❑ AML budget ring fenced for 19/20
- ❑ Logic similar to the lowlands, keep simple – but show public value
- ❑ ADS payments decrease
  - ❑ Delivering cross-compliance
- ❑ Stewardship area payments incentivising (starts 2020)
  - Creation of a management plan:
    - Stocking rates and land management, heathland management, catchment protection etc.
    - Catchment tree planting, watercourse fencing
    - Heather flailing, rewetting of peat
    - Cattle grazing, active shepherding
    - Habitat management for specific birds (e.g. curlew, hen harrier)

# Increase in overall support



1. More support to active farmers
2. Public money for environmental management
3. Reduce direct payments

**\*does not include Meat Plant or Biosphere**

# Strategy - summary

- ❑ The Strategy is **not** following UK policy
- ❑ The Strategy looks at bespoke solutions to the Manx situation
- ❑ The Strategy will be delivered via a revised ADS and AFGS with a new Agri-environment scheme
- ❑ There is an enhanced budget to deliver the strategy
- ❑ Long-term funding is dependent on food production, environmental enhancement and demonstrating public value



# Year 1 delivery

- ❑ Increased AFGS (FHIS) budget
  - Focus on river water quality solutions
  - Field boundaries
  - Bird habitat creation
  
- ❑ Advisory programme set up
  
- ❑ Final strategy to Tynwald (summer)
  
- ❑ Agri-environment modules by end of summer (new scheme)

# Next steps

❑ Consultation opens today for 6 weeks

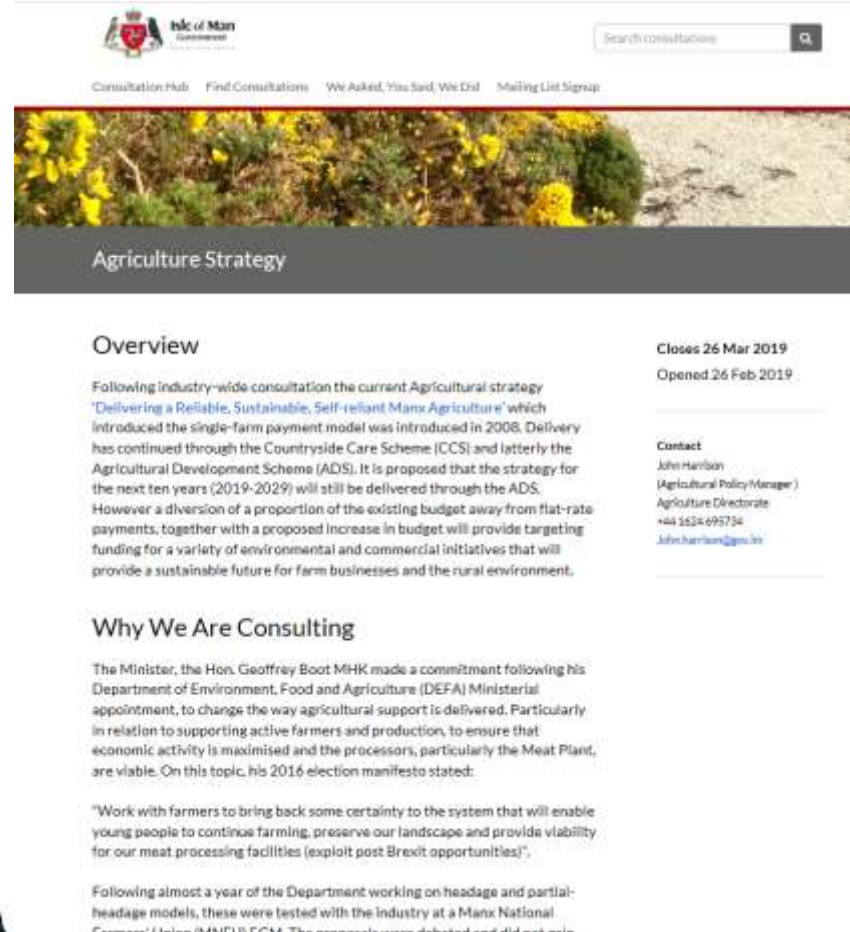
– Closes 9<sup>th</sup> April

<https://consult.gov.im/>

❑ We want your views on these concepts

– how to make them better

– keep it simple



The screenshot shows the top of a consultation page. At the top left is the Isle of Man Government logo. To the right is a search bar labeled 'Search consultations'. Below the logo are navigation links: 'Consultation Hub', 'Find Consultations', 'We Asked, You Said, We Did', and 'Mailing List Signup'. The main header features a photograph of yellow flowers in a field, with the title 'Agriculture Strategy' overlaid in a dark grey box. Below the header, the page is divided into sections: 'Overview', 'Why We Are Consulting', and 'Contact'. The 'Overview' section contains a paragraph of text. The 'Why We Are Consulting' section contains two paragraphs of text. The 'Contact' section lists the name 'John Harrison', his title '(Agricultural Policy Manager)', his role 'Agriculture Directorate', his phone number '+44 1624 695734', and his email 'John.harrison@goa.im'. On the right side of the page, there are two dates: 'Closes 26 Mar 2019' and 'Opened 26 Feb 2019'.



Questions?

Meeting closes 8.30pm

# imagery

