



Attendees:

Name	Organisation
Simon Pickering (Chair)	Welsh Government – Head of Landscape & Outdoor Recreation
Jont Bulbeck	Natural Resources Wales
Eifion Jones (BBNPA)	Representing the 3 National Park Authorities and 5 AONBs
Adrian Walls	Welsh Rights of Way Managers Working Group
Ben Sears	Welsh Local Government Association

Technical and secretarial support:

Name	Organisation
Helen Lewis	Welsh Government - Landscape & Outdoor Recreation
Jayne Carter	Natural Resources Wales

Key decisions and actions arising	Owner
<p>Notes and actions from previous meeting (25/11/2020)</p> <p>1. It was agreed that WG and NRW will not be able to share legal advice:- this is in line with standard practice and legal privilege. However, it was confirmed that both sets of lawyers did not raise any major issues which would eliminate any options at this stage. NRW confirmed that they have taken their lawyers' advice into account in the analysis reports, including highlighting where further legal advice may be required if certain proposals are to be progressed.</p>	
<p>Options Selection reports</p> <p>2. The group reviewed the Option Selection Report for Expert Group 1 and agreed with the approach of including both group reforms in the same report. JB explained that some key elements have been removed or amalgamated into other elements to simplify the table. The group agreed that the key element numbering system should remain as in earlier reports for clarity and traceability:</p>	

<p>where elements are no longer required, they will be marked N/A. Legal advice is embedded in the document where appropriate.</p>	
<p>Executive summaries</p> <p>3. The group agreed the format of the Executive Summaries. Steering Group members to forward any further comments on the Option Selection reports and Executive Summaries to NRW by the end of the week.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Expert Groups workshops update</p> <p>4. Dafydd Thomas has forwarded the agenda for the forthcoming Expert Group meetings in January. Group members will be sent the final Option Selection reports prior to Christmas.</p> <p>5. Expressions of Interest will be invited from existing Expert Group members for the new Crosscutting Themes group meetings.</p>	
<p>Interim report update</p> <p>6. The interim report will be submitted to the Minister by WG officials in January outlining the progress to date and the final steps being taken before submission of the final report. The report will also include an update on the other (Group 1) access reforms (i.e. those not being considered by the Expert Groups), noting that progress on these had been delayed due to Covid-related resourcing issues).</p>	<p>WG</p>
<p>Final report design</p> <p>7. Group members will be asked to express a preference from each of the reform options at the end of each of the next meetings. The outcomes from this exercise will be taken forward in the final report.</p> <p>8. WG to confirm the timeline for the final report submission. If the report is to be submitted during or just prior to purdah, it may not be feasible to request the Minister to make a decision in the run-up to the general election.</p>	<p>WG</p>