

**SUBJECT: FALLOW PERIOD- INITIAL VIEW**

**REPORT BY: CAROLINE BIRD, COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER**

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To seek Commons Advisory Panel's (CAP) views on whether to hold a Fallow Period in 2018.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 Under the terms of the Lincoln City Council Act 1985 the Council may require horses to be removed from common land for a specified period in order to facilitate protection of the sward.

- 2.2 The act states:

*15- (5)d The Council may -*

*by notice prohibit, for the purpose of protecting the sward, the grazing or pasturing of horses on the commons between 31<sup>st</sup> March and 14<sup>th</sup> May in any year.*

- 2.3 Whilst an annual fallow period was maintained until 2008, the decision was taken, following consultation with CAP, not to do so in 2009, and to reconsider the matter annually thereafter. At that time CAP concluded that the limited number of horses on the common meant that there was a limited risk of damage being caused to the surface of the common if the horses were allowed to remain instead of having a fallow period.

## **3. Issues to be Considered**

- 3.1 As yet no specific requests have been received either to hold a fallow period or not to hold one, in 2018.
- 3.2 The decision must take in to account the condition of the sward, horse numbers, and the potential benefits of holding a fallow period.
- 3.3 Whatever the recommendation at this time, the matter will be reviewed in December 2017, giving the opportunity for any changes in condition by that point to be taken in to account. This will be brought to the next CAP meeting by way of a verbal report, and discussion if necessary.
- 3.4 The Council has previously stated its consideration of consulting with independent specialists on whether to hold a fallow period, should this be felt appropriate, however there are currently no plans to do so in 2017/18.

#### **4. Matter for Discussion**

- 4.1 CAP members are asked for their views on the introduction of a fallow period in 2018, so as to assist the Council with its decision.

**List of Background** Lincoln City Council Act 1985

**Papers:**

**Lead Officer:** Caroline Bird Telephone 873405