

Agenda item 6

For decision – Bye-law on River Frome Nature Rights

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Summary

This report recommends that a draft bye-law on rights for the River Frome and Rodden Meadow is sent to DCLG for approval.

Background

This project was first brought to the Town Matters in July 2016 and it was agreed that a draft bye-law to provide rights to the River Frome should be progressed and brought back to this committee for approval. The thinking behind this project is best described in the report to that meeting at [Appendix 6.1](#).

Last May, I updated the committee on developments.

The case for and the wording of the bye-law has been discussed with the Friends of the River Frome, Sustainable Frome and legal experts on numerous occasions over the past two years. Formal online consultation for three months early this year led to widespread support.

Following this engagement, legal experts have drafted what we believe to be a suitable bye-law at [Appendix 6.2](#). It is now proposed to send this draft bye-law, the accompanying report at [Appendix 6.3](#) and the regulatory statement at [Appendix 6.4](#) to the Department of Community and Local Government (DCLG) for their consideration.

If DCLG approve the draft bye-law, the committee can decide whether to enact it.

Recommendation

The draft bye-law, the regulatory statement and the covering report on rights for the River Frome and Rodden Meadow is sent to DCLG's bye-law team for approval.