

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 9
4 SEPTEMBER 2014	Public Report

Report of the Director of Governance

Contact Officer(s) – Paulina Ford, Senior Governance Officer
Contact Details - Tel: 452508 email: paulina.ford@peterborough.gov.uk

SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP FOR PETERBOROUGH FARMS ESTATE STRATEGY – TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Committee to consider and agree the Terms of Reference and membership of a Task and Finish Group

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee approves the Terms of Reference for the Task and Finish Group.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A report was brought to the committee on the 20 January on the management of the agricultural estate and future proposals and a recommendation was agreed to establish a review group to develop a strategy for the farm estates. The farm estates have been in the control of the city council for over a 100 years and in recent years have had a low profile within the council. They are an important economic and social asset of the council and need to be recognised as such through a formal strategy for the medium and long term.

3.2 DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terms Of Reference

It is proposed the task and finish group undertakes the following actions -

- Ensure that the profile of the farm estate is raised, both within the council and members but also to the public including the key role it has played for the City over a number of years going back to 1913.
- Develop a strategy for the farms estate and their use into the future
- Consider options around realising maximum value from the estate, including financial, social and environmental returns. Financial considerations include options for sale, expansion, rental levels, alternative uses, attracting external funding or invest to save proposals.

3.3 MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

The proposed membership of the working group is -

Councillor David Over
Councillor Judy Fox
Councillor Ed Murphy
Councillor David Harrington

The group will be supported by Jonathan Lewis (Assistant Director – Education, Resources and Corporate Property) and Jo Gresty (Farms manager). The group will also involve the representative farmer tenants (and other interested bodies) where appropriate to ensure a balance of views and expertise are available for meeting the terms of reference.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 If the Terms of Reference and membership of the Task and Finish Group are agreed by the Committee then the Task and Finish Group will conclude recommendations for the January 2015 meeting of the committee.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 5.1 None