

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 5
17 MARCH 2015	Public Report

Report of the Task and Finish Group to Review and Develop a Strategy for the Council's Farms Estate

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A DRAFT STRATEGY FOR THE COUNCIL'S FARMS ESTATE – FINAL REPORT OF THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Committee to review the final outcomes from the Task and Finish Group to Review and Develop a Strategy for the Council's Farms Estate and the proposed strategy it has developed. A report was brought to the January meeting of this committee and further clarity over the process the group has been through was requested.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The committee are asked to:

- Note and comment on the activity of the Task and Finish Group over the last year and the additional supporting information that has been provided which support the final document.
- Review and comment on the draft Strategy for the Retention and Development of the Farms Estate.
- Comment and agree on the objectives of the draft Strategy and agree for the review and strategy to be taken forward to Cabinet.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 This report links to the delivery of sustainable growth through the effective management of the Farms Estate.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Task and Finish Group to Review and Develop a Strategy for the Council's Farms Estate was established by the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 20 January 2014. The purpose of the Group was to look at a range of matters affecting the future management of the Council's farms estate, to help inform and develop a long term strategy for the development of the estate. A draft strategy was brought to the committee in January 2015 and the committee requested further information to support their review of the output.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The committee requested in January the following –
1. The Task and Finish Group should continue until the Strategy has been represented to the Committee at its next meeting on 17 March 2015.
 2. The Strategy is re drafted to include additional information to evidence other options that

had been considered and further financial information that had been considered by the Task and Finish Group when drafting the Strategy.

3. The Strategy to include the mention of any possible educational opportunities.
4. The final draft of the Strategy to be brought back to the Committee on 17 March 2015 for endorsement before going to Cabinet for approval.

5.2 Appendix 1 gives the report from the Task and Finish Group to Review and Develop a Strategy for the Councils Farms Estate including the lines of enquiry.

5.3 Appendix 2 is the proposal final draft of the Farm Management Strategy.

5.4 Appendix 3 provides the support documentation to support the requests of the committee outlined in 5.1

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Whilst the strategy establishes a framework for managing the farm estate, further work is required to develop the action plan that sits below these objectives. This action plan will have implications in terms of finance, legal and property considerations. Appropriate decision making processes will be undertaken and information will be shared with committees where requested and / or appropriate.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 The Task and Finish group has consulted with the tenant farmers of the City Council in preparing the strategy and they have supported the strategy as outlined in Appendix 2.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 Providing the committee supports the proposed strategy, it is intended to take the strategy to Cabinet for approval for the next 5 year period. A more detailed action plan has been developed and this will be further developed now a strategy outlines the proposals for the farm estates. It is proposed an annual report is brought to the committee on the farms estate.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

9.1 None

10. APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1 – A Report from the Task and Finish Group to Review and Develop a Strategy for the Councils Farms Estate
Appendix 2 - Strategy for the Management of the Farms Estate
Appendix 3 – Consideration of Strategic Options by the Estate Task & Finish Group