

The County Farms Estate

Capital Monitoring (Month 4) 2016/17

Report of the County Treasurer

1 Capital Monitoring (Month 4) 2016/17

- 1.1 The Capital Programme presented to Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee on 22nd January 2016 (and subsequently approved by County Council) included schemes totalling £1,671,000.
- 1.2 The programme includes £271,000 for existing Nitrate Vulnerable Zone compliance schemes, and £900,000 in respect of additional scheme priorities.
- 1.3 The remaining £500,000 relates to additional scheme priorities for Decent Homes standards, Energy Act and other associated infrastructure projects.
- 1.4 On 4 July 2016 delegated officer approval gave authorisation to purchase specific plots of land. The resulting purchase saw DCC acquire one plot at a cost of £150,000.
- 1.5 Added to this is scheme slippage of £771,000, resulting in a capital programme of £2,592,000 for 2016/17.
- 1.6 Expenditure and commitments (orders) to date is £842,000 with a forecast year end spend of £1,692,000.

1.7 Nitrate Vulnerable Zone Compliance

- 1.7.1 The construction of two previously approved concrete box slurry stores are well underway and are due to complete before this winter.
- 1.7.2 Included in the 2016/17 Capital Programme, approved via the Cabinet Member for Resources and Asset Management on 11 August 2016, is a further concrete box slurry store at Lower Alminstone Farm, Woolsery. A tendering exercise has been concluded for this scheme but due to the successful contractors busy work programme, it has been agreed that this scheme will slip to the 2017/18 financial year. The

contract will be awarded shortly and the contractor has agreed to hold his price.

- 1.7.3 A fourth scheme has been designed but approval has not been requested to include this scheme in the 2016/17 capital programme due to the current tenant reviewing the future of his own dairy farming business.
- 1.7.4 A fifth scheme is at a very early feasibility and design stage.
- 1.7.5 Expenditure and commitments to date currently stands at £620,000 with a year end forecast of £762,000 due to anticipated slippage of £900,000.

1.8 **Compensation Payments (Tenants Improvements, etc..)**

- 1.8.1 Forecast spend in respect of existing liabilities stands at £20,000 in accordance with the previously approved programme. This excludes any additional liabilities that may fall due in year or at 25 March 2017.

1.9 **Enhancements and Improvements**

- 1.9.1 Expenditure and commitments to date currently stands at £222,000.
- 1.9.2 Included in the 2016/17 Capital Programme, approved via the Cabinet Member for Resources and Asset Management on 11 August 2016, is the following priority schemes with a total forecast spend of £489,015:
 - (i) Churchlands Farm, Ermington – farmhouse renovation
 - (ii) Coppa Dolla Farm, Denbury – replace incoming mains water supply
 - (iii) Little Stone Farm, South Molton – farmhouse renovation
 - (iv) Higher Leigh Farm, Churchstow – new wet heating system
 - (v) Prixford Barton Farm, Marwood – new wet heating system
 - (vi) Lower East Week Farm, South Tawton – new incoming mains water supply
 - (vii) Moorhouse Farm, Bovey tracey – new oil tank and oil fired combi boiler
 - (viii) Higher Artiscombe Farm, Gulworthy – farmhouse roof replacement, insulation and clean water drainage works

- (ix) Middle Yeo Farm, Down St Mary – farmhouse roof replacement and mechanical ventilation
- (x) Westcott Farm, Burlescombe – conservatory roof replacement
- (xi) Lower Henland Farm, Kentisbeare – bore hole water supply
- (xii) Higher Henland Farm, Kentisbeare – bore hole water supply
- (xiii) East Catkill Farm, Rose Ash – farmhouse roof replacement and insulation
- (xiv) East Catkill Farm, Rose Ash – new wet heating system
- (xv) Waterford Farm, Musbury – new timber boarding, insulation and replacement heating system

1.9.3 Total forecast spend by year end remains on target and amounts to £760,000.

1.10 **Land Acquisitions**

1.10.1 On 4 July 2016 delegated officer approval gave authorisation to purchase specific plots of land at auction up to a maximum cost of £485,000.

1.10.2 Actual spend was £150,000.

2 **Options/Alternatives**

2.1.1 Alternative options have been considered and discounted as they are neither practical nor in the financial best interests of the Authority.

3 **Consultations/Representations/Technical Data**

3.1.1 The views and opinions of the Devon Federation of Young Farmers Clubs and the Estate Tenants Association will be presented by the two co-opted members to the committee.

3.1.2 No other parties have been consulted and no other representations for or against the proposal have been received.

3.1.3 The technical data is believed to be true and accurate.

4 **Considerations**

4.1.1 The Author is not aware of any financial, sustainability, carbon impact, equality, legal, risk management or public health issues arising from this report.

5 **Summary/Conclusions/Reasons for Recommendations**

- 5.1.1 The Author has prepared this report in accordance with the Councils capital funding procedures and guidelines.

Mary Davis – County Treasurer

Electoral Divisions: ALL

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

None

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