

The County Farms Estate
Management and Restructuring

Report of the Head of Digital Transformation and Business Support

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation(s):

That the Committee approves the recommendation as set out in the opening paragraph of section 1 of this report.

1.0 Merrifield Farm, Holsworthy

It is recommended that:

- (i) the tenant's surrender notice is accepted and the tenant be released from the holding at 25 March 2020.
- (ii) Merrifield Farm be advertised to let as a 73.30 acre or thereabouts residential equipped mixed livestock starter farm on the open market for a term commencing 25 March 2020 and expiring 25 March 2027, subject to terms being agreed.

1.1 The Holsworthy Estate comprises:

(i)	Merrifield Farm	–	29.66 hectares (73.30 acres)
	Total	–	29.66 hectares (73.30 acres)

1.2 The current tenant of Merrifield Farm has occupied the holding since 1 December 2015.

1.3 An opportunity has arisen for the tenant to move back to and take over a family farm on Exmoor.

1.4 The tenant has thus served on the landlord a surrender notice seeking to vacate Merrifield Farm and be released from the lease at the earliest opportunity.

2.0 Options/Alternatives

2.1 Alternative options have been considered and discounted as they are believed to either be contrary to current Estate policy and/or not in the best financial interests of the Estate.

3.0 Consultations/Representations/Technical Data

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 No other parties have been consulted and no other representations for or against the proposal have been received
- 3.3 The technical data is believed to be true and accurate.

4.0 Considerations

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

5.0 Summary/Conclusions/Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 The Author has prepared this report in accordance with the findings of the County Farms Estate Strategic Review (April 2010)

Rob Parkhouse, Head of Digital Transformation and Business Support

Electoral Divisions: Holsworthy Rural

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers:

None

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