CT/20/32
Farms Estate Committee
24 February 2020

The County Farms Estate

Capital Monitoring (month 10) 2019/20

Report of the County Treasurer

1 **Capital Monitoring for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 January 2020**

1.1 The Capital budget presented to Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee on 29th January 2019 and approved at County Council on 21 February 2019 included schemes totalling £600,000.

1.2 Added to this is slippage from the 2018/19 budget of £558,337 taking the total capital budget for 2019/20 to £1,158,337.

1.3 Overall County Farms capital schemes are forecasting to come in on budget in 2019/20.

2. Nitrate Vulnerable Zone Compliance

2.1 Currently one new slurry store is in the design and planning stage with a view to potentially being built in 2020/21.

2.2 Some retention money is still not released for other slurry stores constructed in previous financial years. Final accounts and final defect remedial works are being negotiated with contractors.

2.3 Actual to date currently stands at nil and there is no further forecast spend expected.

2.4 The balance of the 2019/20 budget of £409,334 will not be spent in year on NVZ compliant schemes and thus may be redeployed to enable more farmhouse renovation and improvement schemes to be carried out before year end.

3. Compensation Payments (Tenants Improvements, etc..)

3.1 Forecast spend currently stands at nil, but this excludes a potential liability of approximately £60,000 that may fall due before year end.

4. Enhancements and Improvements

4.1 Actual to date currently stands at £580,189 with a forecast spend for the year anticipated at £994,211 in total.

4.2 Retention money is being held during the 12-month defect period for 14 schemes completed in the previous year.

4.3 Expenditure has been incurred on 4 schemes started in 2018/19 but completed this year.

4.4 Expenditure has been incurred on 8 schemes started or starting this year.

4.5 A further 4 schemes are being designed, specified and tendered with a view to works being completed next year.

5. Septic Tank Replacement Programme

5.1 The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 and associated General Binding Rules for septic tanks and small sewage treatment plants for domestic properties have made it necessary to replace 8 septic tanks with sewage treatment plants and associated infrastructure before the end of the financial year.

5.2 Actual to date currently stands at £49,083 with a forecast spend for the year anticipated at £114,787.

6. Land Acquisitions

6.1 Currently no potential land purchases have been identified.

7. Options/Alternatives

7.1 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.

8. Consultations/Representations/Technical Data

8.1 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.

8.2 No other parties have been consulted and no other representations have been received

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

9. Financial Considerations

9.1 The Author is not aware of any financial issues arising from this report.

10. Environmental Impact Considerations (including Climate Change)

10.1 The Author is not aware of any environmental impact (including climate change) issues arising from this report.

11. Equality Considerations

11.1 The Author is not aware of any equality issues arising from this report.

12. Legal Considerations

12.1 The Author is not aware of any legal issues arising from this report.

13. Risk Management Considerations

13.1 The Author is not aware of any obvious risks to manage.

14. Public Health Impact

14.1 The Author is not aware of any public health impact.

15. Summary/Conclusions/Reasons for Recommendations

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

Mary Davis – County Treasurer

Electoral Divisions: ALL

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

None

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