

The County Farms Estate

Capital Monitoring (Final Outturn) 2019/20, Capital Budget 2020/21, and Capital Monitoring (month 5) 2020/21.

Report of the County Treasurer

1 Capital Monitoring (Final Outturn) 2019/20

- 1.1 The Capital budget presented to Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee on 29 January 2019 and approved at County Council on 21 February 2019 included schemes totalling £600,000.
- 1.2 Added to this was slippage from the 2018/19 budget of £558,337 taking the total capital budget for 2019/20 to £1,158,337.
- 1.3 The month 10 monitoring position was reported to the Farms Estate Committee at its meeting of 24 February 2020 (CT/20/32 refers).
- 1.4 Total spend in 2019/20 amounted to £1,189,225 resulting in an overspend of £30,888.
- 1.5 There were a number of schemes completed in 2019/20 with some over or under spend due to variations between estimates and actuals, or minor contract variances post scheme approval. These were largely self-balancing and as such required no further action.

2 Nitrate Vulnerable Zone Compliance

- 2.1 In 2019/20 £4,076 was spent on design and planning fees for a proposed new slurry storage facility.

3 Compensation Payments (Tenants Improvements etc...)

- 3.1 All landlord end of tenancy compensation liabilities arising in year have been provided for from within the revenue budget. No capital expenditure has thus been incurred.

4 Enhancements and Improvements

- 4.1 In 2019/20 £1,185,148 was spent on eight farmhouse refurbishment and improvement projects either started and/or completed in year. In addition, eight septic tanks were replaced with sewage treatment plants in year. The expenditure also includes retention monies

released and paid to contractors who completed schemes in the previous year.

5 **Land Acquisitions**

5.1 No land purchases were made in 2019/20.

6 **Capital Budget 2020/21**

6.1 The Capital budget presented to Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee on 28 January 2020 and approved at County Council on 20 February 2020 included schemes totalling £600,000.

6.2 There was an 'overspend' of £30,888 in 2019/20 thus the balance of capital available to spend in 2020/21 amounts to £569,112.

7 **Capital Monitoring for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 August 2020**

7.1 As at month 5 there is minimal actual expenditure to report. This is largely due to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions putting a stop to some works on site earlier this year and disrupting the design and tender programme for new schemes due to start this year. Some new schemes have however now commenced on site with further works due to start and finish before year end.

8. **Nitrate Vulnerable Zone Compliance**

8.1 Currently one new tin tank slurry store has been designed, specified and tendered. Contractors are now on site and it is hoped work will be complete before winter sets in. In addition, retention monies on previously completed stores remain to be paid.

8.2 Forecast spend stands at £329,412 on NVZ compliant schemes for 2020/21.

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

9.1 Forecast spend currently stands at nil, but this excludes any liability that may fall due in year or at 25 March 2021.

10. **Enhancements and Improvements**

10.1 Forecast spend currently stands at £239,700 in total. The 2020/21 capital programme is behind schedule due to movement and working restrictions imposed through Covid-19 emergency powers, but the programme is now being developed at pace.

11. Land Acquisitions

11.1 Currently one land acquisition opportunity is being explored for which additional capital funding is being requested.

12. Options/Alternatives

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

13. Consultations/Representations/Technical Data

13.1 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.

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

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

14. Considerations

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

15. Summary/Conclusions/Reasons for Recommendations

15.1 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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