

**The County Farms Estate**

**Capital Monitoring (month 7) 2020/21.**

**Report of the County Treasurer**

**1 Capital Monitoring for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 October 2020**

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 As at month 7 there has been a material increase in expenditure since month 5 although the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions imposed at the beginning of the financial year has undoubtedly put the Estate well behind programme. NPS building surveyors and engineers are working hard to make up for the lost time.
- 1.4 To fully fund the decent homes improvements programme without delaying any works, it is proposed that £600,000 will be brought forward from the 2021/22 Estates Capital Programme to 2020/21. If approved, the revised 2020/21 budget will be £1,169,112.

**2. Nitrate Vulnerable Zone Compliance**

- 2.1 Currently one new tin tank slurry store is being constructed. Contractors are still on site with works due to complete by early December. The recent adverse weather and other unforeseen events has put the contractor behind programme. In addition, retention monies on previously completed stores remain to be paid.
- 2.2 Actual spend to date stands at £140,640 and forecast spend to year-end stands at £306,596 on NVZ compliant schemes for 2020/21.

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

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

**4. Enhancements and Improvements**

- 4.1 Actual spend to date stands at £174,935 and forecast spend to year-end stands at £862,516. 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 with one scheme completed, one scheme on site, four schemes out to tender and nine schemes being designed and tendered with a view to works completing before 31 March 2021.

**5. Land Acquisitions**

- 5.1 Currently one land acquisition opportunity is being progressed in South Molton for which additional capital funding has been approved. This will help towards replenishing the Estate following the recent sale of some very high value land for residential development.

**6. Options/Alternatives**

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

**7. Consultations/Representations/Technical Data**

- 7.1 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.

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

- 7.3 The technical data is believed to be true and accurate.

**8. Considerations**

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

**9. Summary/Conclusions/Reasons for Recommendations**

- 9.1 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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