

The County Farms Estate

Capital Monitoring (month 5) 2021/22.

Report of the County Treasurer

Recommendation: that the Committee endorse the report

1 Capital Monitoring for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 August 2021

1.1 The approved budget for 2021/22 stands at £1,215,019

1.2 As at month 5 there is minimal expenditure to report.

2 Nitrate Vulnerable Zone Compliance

2.1 Retention monies are left to pay on only two slurry stores constructed in the previous financial years. No new slurry store schemes are being designed or programmed for this financial year.

2.2 Forecast spend stands at £152,946 on retention monies associated with NVZ compliant schemes for 2021/22.

3 Compensation Payments (Tenants Improvements, etc..)

3.1 Forecast spend currently stands at nil, but this excludes any liability that may fall due in year or at 25 March 2022 which cannot be funded through the revenue budget.

4 Enhancements and Improvements

4.1 The 2021/22 programme has been agreed and there are 9 primary farmhouse improvement schemes being designed, specified and tendered. In addition, further works are being carried out to other dwellings as either priority works in advance of carrying out the main programme of improvements, or additional works following earlier farmhouse improvements. There is sufficient work in the programme to ensure the full budget is committed.

4.2 Actual spend at month 5 is just £152,048 with a further £174,907 committed (orders placed) to date. A total of £1,061,544 is forecast to be spent by year end.

5 Land Acquisitions

5.1 One land acquisition opportunity is currently being explored.

6. Budget 2022/23 – 2026/27

6.1 As part of the Authority's medium term capital program, the Farms Estate intend to submit bids for additional funding to:

- Improve, modernise and make the remaining stock of farmhouses and cottages more energy efficient.
- Cover slurry stores to comply with the clean air strategy.
- Invest in slurry store covers that can capture and harvest methane to provide a return on investment and reduce CO2e emissions.
- Provide SSAFO compliant infrastructure such as silage clamps.
- match fund any grants DEFRA may provide Local Authorities to improve and retain new farming entrant opportunities.
- Invest in life expired and inefficient farm infrastructure.
- Pay statutory end of tenancy compensation for tenant's improvements.
- Purchase replacement land.

6.2 The value of bids will be brought back to the November 2021 Committee.

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. Legal Considerations

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

11. Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change)

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

12. Equality Considerations

12.1 The Author is not aware of any equality 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).

Name

Mary Davis – County Treasurer

Electoral Divisions: All

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper

Date

File Reference

Nil

The above mentioned Reports are published on the Council's Website at:
<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>