

The County Farms Estate

Capital Monitoring (Month 9) 2021/22

Report of the Director of Finance

Recommendation: That the Committee endorse the report.

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

- 1.1 The approved budget for 2021/22 stands at £1,215,019.
- 1.2 As at month 9 there remains minimal expenditure to report but the programmed works expected to be completed by 31 March 2022 will see the majority, if not all, of the budget spent.

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 £10,142 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 all liabilities that will fall due on 25 March 2022 which cannot be funded through the revenue budget.
- 3.2 A budget provision of £186,000 has been made in this year's revenue account for end of tenancy compensation liabilities but with 11 farms being relet, additional capital funding will inevitably be required.

4 Enhancements and Improvements

- 4.1 The 2021/22 programme is being delivered. 13 projects started in previous years have either been completed in year or remain in defects this year. 5 projects are currently on site with completion or substantial completion due by year end. 3 minor improvements, including 2 further sewage treatment plants, are in design and should be complete or substantially complete by year end. 8 further farmhouses renovated in previous years have had additional minor improvements made to them

in year. 4 farmhouse refurbishment schemes have been deferred until next financial year as it has not been possible to gain access this year.

- 4.2 Actual spend at month 9 is just £356,637 with a further £602,193 committed (orders placed) to date. A total of £958,830 is therefore either spent or committed. A further £246,047 is yet to be committed but orders are due to be placed shortly. The total forecast expenditure by year end is therefore £1,204,877.

5 Land Acquisitions

- 5.1 One piece of land is in the process of being purchased but the funding for this investment is coming from an alternative budget.

6. Budget 2022/23 – 2026/27

- 6.1 As part of the Authority's Medium Term Capital Programme, the Farms Estate made a bid funding totalling £3.8 million over 5 years. The bid continues to progress through the approval process which culminates with a vote at Full Council on 17th February 2022.

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

Angie Sinclair – Director of Finance

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>