

COUNTY FARMS ESTATE WORKING GROUP

To: **Commercial & Investments Committee**

Meeting Date: **15 September 2017**

From: **Deputy Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **N/a** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To formalise a Member working group to review issues relating to the County Farms Estate.**

Recommendation: **It is recommended that the Committee:**

- a) Agree the Working Group's Terms of Reference;**
- b) Agree the Working Group's membership;**
- c) Consider whether it appropriate to nominate a Member Champion for the County Farms Estate**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Following a strategic review of the County Farms Estate in 2016, the then Assets & Investment Committee held a series of workshops in February and March 2017 to explore the options raised by the review.
- 1.2 Following the workshops, the Committee agreed the estate objectives in principle, with policies the following aspects of the review accepted:
 - Applications for tenancies;
 - Farm Size;
 - Tenancy Length;
 - Retirement
 - Agricultural sub-letting; and
 - Tenant Selection Criteria
- 1.3 Due to the changes to the Committee's membership, in May Commercial & Investment Committee agreed to appoint three Members to a County Farms Estate Strategic Review Working Group, consisting of Cllrs Schumann (Chair), Hay (Vice Chair) and Rogers. Subsequently Cllr Nethsinga has been co-opted into the Group.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The purpose of the Working Group is to review and update, where necessary, the stated objectives and policies relating to the County Farms Estate, prior to a formal paper being submitted to the Committee for its approval.
- 2.2 A suggested Terms of Reference is attached as Appendix 1. This covers purpose, membership arrangements, meeting arrangements, decision making, duties, and reporting arrangements.
- 2.3 The Working Group does not currently represent the political balance of the Committee and the Committee are asked to consider whether this should be revisited.
- 2.4 There has also been some difficulty in ensuring that sufficient Members are available in order for meetings to proceed. Whilst this has been exacerbated by the summer period it is suggested that the number of Members on the Working Group could be expanded to provide a larger pool and therefore increase the likelihood that meetings could proceed.
- 2.5 The Committee are also asked to consider whether it is appropriate to establish a Member Champion for the Farms Estate. This would provide a focus for officers in developing papers for consideration at the Working Group. If deemed appropriate this could be a member of the existing Working Group, appointed by the Group, or could be a nomination from the Committee.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

The County Farms Estate makes a significant contribution to Cambridgeshire's economy. The Working Group will seek to maximise revenue and development opportunities, thus strengthening it further.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	No
Have the procurement/contractual/	No

Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement?	
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?	No
Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?	No
Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	No
Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?	No
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	No

Source Documents	Location
Briefing papers submitted to the Asset & Investments Committee working group.	Hugo Mallaby, Shire Hall, 2 nd Floor Octagon.