

Meeting:	General overview and scrutiny committee
Date:	27 October 2015
Title of report:	Task and finish group report: smallholdings estate (county farms)
Report by:	Task and finish group

Classification

Open.

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

Countywide.

Purpose

To consider the findings of the scrutiny task and finish group: smallholdings estate (county farms) and to recommend the report to the executive for consideration.

Recommendations

THAT:

- (a) The committee considers the report and recommendations of the task and finish group: smallholdings estate (county farms) (at appendix 1 of this report) and determines whether to agree the findings for submission to the executive; and**
- (b) subject to the review being approved, the executive's response to the review be reported to the first available meeting of the committee after the executive has approved its response.**

Alternative options

1. The committee can agree, not agree or can vary the recommendations. If the committee agree with the findings and recommendations from the review, the attached report will be submitted to the executive for consideration. It will be for the executive to decide whether some, all or none of the recommendations are approved.

Reasons for recommendations

2. The general overview and scrutiny committee commissioned this task and finish group. The report of the task and finish group, as attached at appendix 1, is submitted for consideration and approval by the committee.

Key considerations

3. At its meeting on [10 June 2015](#), the general overview and scrutiny committee commissioned this task and finish group for the following purpose:
'To inform the executive on options / recommended actions to ensure the council is optimising its return from its smallholding estate'
4. Between July and early October 2015, the task and finish group held meetings, interviews, site visits, and witness sessions with stakeholders and tenants.

Community impact

5. If the committee agrees with the findings of the task and finish group, the report will need to be considered by the executive and, depending on their decision, community impact will need to be assessed.

Equality duty

6. If the committee agrees with the findings of the task and finish group, the report will need to be considered by the executive and, depending on their decision, due regard will need to be given to public sector equality duty.

Financial implications

7. The medium term strategy approved by council in February 2015 assumes £60m of asset sales to reduce debt charges. The farm estate could provide a significant contribution towards this target. Any shortfall in achieving the target will mean additional service reductions will need to be identified.

Legal implications

8. If the committee agree with the findings of the task and finish group, the report will need to be considered by the executive and, depending on their decision, the legal implications of implementing any of the recommendations will need to be assessed.

Risk management

9. If the committee agrees with the findings of the task and finish group, the report will need to be considered by the executive and, depending on their decision, the risk management implications of implementing any of the recommendations will need to be assessed.

Consultees

10. The consultees are detailed at section 4.5 of the appended report.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Task and finish group report: smallholdings estate (county farms)

Background Papers

None identified.