

Herefordshire Council Smallholdings Review  
 Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Title of review	Smallholdings estate
Scope	
Reason for enquiry	To inform the executive on options/recommended actions to ensure the council is optimising its return from its smallholding estate
Links to the corporate plan	The review contributes to the following objective's contained in the Herefordshire corporate plan and other key plans and strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making best use of the resources available to us in order to meet the council's priorities (includes money, buildings, IT, information)</li> <li>• Being transparent about our resources</li> <li>• Creating and maintaining a vibrant and healthy economy</li> </ul>
Summary of the review and terms of reference	Summary: This review is to identify options for the long term future of the council's smallholding estate and to make recommendations to the executive to increase the value delivered to the wider community of Herefordshire.
	Terms of Reference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does the estate contribute to the delivery of the council's statutory functions and corporate priorities</li> <li>• How is the estate performing in support of wider corporate objectives</li> <li>• How the council can maximise and sustain the delivery of its statutory functions from the smallholdings estate</li> </ul>
What will NOT be included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of options for individual holdings and tenancies</li> <li>• Development sites already identified/ disposals already under consideration</li> </ul>
Potential outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding if/how the smallholdings estate is supporting wider corporate priorities and statutory functions</li> <li>• Understanding the cost of holding and managing the smallholdings estate and the opportunity cost of doing so</li> <li>• Using the smallholdings estate to optimise outcomes for the wider community of Herefordshire</li> </ul>
Key questions	To consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does the smallholdings estate comprise</li> <li>• What benefits are delivered to Herefordshire residents through its smallholdings estate</li> <li>• What are the financial implications of retaining the smallholding estate against the capital/development opportunities realised by its disposal</li> <li>• What are the options to maximise the benefits from the smallholdings estate to the wider community of Herefordshire</li> <li>• What will be the impact of those options</li> </ul>
Cabinet Member	Cllr H Bramer (Cabinet Member Contracts and Assets)
Key stakeholders / Consultees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tenant Farmers</li> <li>• Tenant Farmers Association</li> <li>• National Farmers Union</li> <li>• Countryside Land &amp; Business Association</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herefordshire Young Farmers</li> <li>• Rural Hub / Holme Lacy</li> <li>• Ward Members</li> <li>• Major landowners</li> <li>• Herefordshire citizens</li> <li>• Developers (housing and/or employment)?</li> </ul>
Potential witnesses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tenant Farmers meeting</li> <li>2. Key stakeholder meeting</li> </ol>
Research Required	Best Practice in comparable shire authorities / County Farms Market analysis / marketability of estate Performance of smallholding estate
Potential Visits	Selected holdings with the agreement of the tenants
Publicity Requirements	Launch of Review and consultation During Review Publication of Review and its Recommendations

Outline Timetable (following decision by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to commission the Review)

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Confirm approach, Terms of Reference, programme of consultation/research/provisional witnesses/meeting dates	10 June 2015
Collect current data available for circulation to Group for first meeting of the Group	To 10 June 2015
Collect outstanding data	
Analysis of data	
Commence consultation process	
Final confirmation of stakeholder meetings	
Carry out stakeholder meetings	
Agree programme of site visits as appropriate	
Undertake site visits as appropriate	
Coordinate and analyse consultation returns	
Final analysis of data and stakeholder evidence	
Prepare options/recommendations	
Present final report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee	8 September 2015
Present options/recommendation to Cabinet	
Cabinet response/decision	
Monitoring of implementation of agreed recommendations	

Group Members	
Chair	Cllr WLS Bowen
Support Members	Cllr MJK Cooper
Support Officers	Helen Beale, Tony Featherstone, (Jane Lowrie)