

Audit Committee

Item No 13

Report title:	County Farms Update
Date of meeting:	22 September 2016
Responsible Chief Officer:	Executive Director of Finance

Strategic impact

The Audit Committee considers matters of Governance in accordance with its terms of reference, which are part of the [Council's Constitution, part 4.1 \(4.4\)](#). (page 11).

The Council has 16,000 acres or more of farmland (estate) in Norfolk which are rented to over 145 tenant farmers. The Economic Development Sub-Committee is responsible and accountable for the oversight and development of County Farms, a recognition of their importance in the rural economy.

Executive summary

The Audit Committee received an [update report](#) on County Farms on 16 June 2016 (Agenda Item 16: page 110, please click on the underlined text to link to the report) and asked for a further update report to be presented to the Committee at its September meeting. This report provides that update.

The County Farms report was presented to a specially convened meeting of the County Farms Advisory Board on 27 May 2016, which was formally minuted, which give Members of the Board an opportunity to formally respond to the audit reports. The County farms Advisory Board met again on 26 July 2016 and provided further feedback for a report to the Economic Development Sub-Committee in September 2016.

A [report](#) (please click on the underlined text to link to the report) has now been published for the Economic Development Sub-Committee on 9 September 2016.

Recommendations:

- 1) To consider the update report set out in this Executive Summary
- 2) To note that:
 - Full and final responses have been made to all but four complainants; and
 - A County Farms systems audit has been included in the 2016-17 Internal Audit Plan for November/December 2016, which will include following up the agreed actions, to be reported to the January 2017 Audit Committee.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Audit Committee asked for an update report at its September 2016 meeting.

2. Evidence

2.1 [The County Farms Governance Audit report and the County Farms Lines of Enquiry Report \(as at 31 March 2016\)](#) were reported to the April 2016 Audit Committee as **Appendix A** and **Appendix B** to that report respectively.

2.2 Full and final responses have been made to all but four complainants.

2.3 A County Farms systems audit has been included in the 2016-17 Internal Audit Plan for November/December 2016, which will include following up the agreed actions, to be reported to the January 2017 Audit Committee.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 Any specific financial implications are covered in the reports.

4. Issues, risks and innovation

Risk implications

4.1 Apart from those listed in the reports, there are no other implications to take into account.

5. Background

5.1 The background is set out in the reports (at 2.1).

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

Name	Telephone Number	Email address
Simon George	01603 222400	simon.george@norfolk.gov.uk
Adrian Thompson	01603 222784	adrian.thompson@norfolk.gov.uk



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