

Audit Committee

Item No.....

Report title:	County Farms Update
Date of meeting:	26 January 2017
Responsible Chief Officer:	Executive Director, Finance and Commercial Services
Strategic impact	
<p>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).</p> <p>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.</p>	

Executive summary

The Audit Committee received an update [report](#) on County Farms on 22 September 2016 (Agenda Item 13: page 327, 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 January meeting. This report provides that update.

A follow up of the original audits has been completed by BDO during November and December 2016. The key messages now are:

- Direction has been given by the Economic Development Sub- Committee (9 September 2016) and subsequently at the Policy & Resources Committee (26 September 2016) regarding proposed Constitutional and governance arrangements relating to County Farms
- Establishing a new Property Management System for County Farms is a key deliverable
- The approved procedures need to 'bed in' once the resourcing of the County Farms team is completed

The follow up audit report is presented at **Appendix A**. The audit report's action plan is presented at **Appendix B**.

Recommendations:

- 1) **Members are asked to consider the Follow Up Audit Report (Appendix A) and Action Plan (Appendix B)**
- 2) **To note that:**
 - **An update will be reported to the Economic Development Sub-Committee**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Audit Committee asked for an update report at its January 2017 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 A County Farms systems audit was 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 Audit Committee.
- 2.3 As requested at the September 2016 Audit Committee, the Terms of Reference for the Follow-Up Audit have been circulated to members of the Audit Committee for information.

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:

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