

Economies, Residents & Communities Scrutiny Committee

County Farms Working Group

Purpose	<p>To support the work of the PCC farm estate team, senior officers, and cabinet of the council.</p> <p>To work with other local authorities and their farm estate teams to share best practice and key learning.</p> <p>To ensure the farm estate operates within the program for government.</p> <p>To ensure the farm estate operates within relevant legislative frame works, policy and strategies of the Council and Welsh Government.</p>
Vision	<p>To ensure the farm estate supports the needs of our Powys communities and the farmers they support.</p> <p>To see a fully functioning farm estate that is fit for purpose and one that Powys can be proud of.</p> <p>To ensure the farm estate works towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing a high standard of lived in accommodation.• Providing support and guidance to its tenants on a range of subject matters (planning, ecology, biodiversity, energy production, grants etc.)• Ensuring soil health for future generations.• Providing opportunities for both larger and smaller (micro holdings) going forward.• Providing a real footing for future farmers.
Membership	<p>Membership is available to:</p> <p>Core Members: are to be selected from the ERC scrutiny committee.</p> <p>Wider members can include:</p> <p>Cabinet portfolio holder, and other cabinet members with a relevant connection to the estate, ie. ERC, property & Environment.</p> <p>Officers: Farm Estate Manager, Head of department(s).</p> <p>Co-options are permitted as agreed by the members.</p>
Term of office	<p>To be aligned with term of council.</p>
Political Make up	<p>None to be defined – open to all within the membership criteria.</p>
Meetings	<p>The frequency of meeting will be set in the main by when meetings are required but the working group will meet no less than 4 times a year.</p> <p>Meetings can be physical and virtual or a combination of both.</p> <p>Meetings may take place in any location and may include visits to the farm estate or other relevant places of interest.</p> <p>Notes of the meetings will be taken.</p>

	Meetings will be scheduled following each meeting, but a meeting can also be called by any member of the group should there be a need to.
How decisions are made	<p>Any decisions that may be made will be made on a consensual basis where possible.</p> <p>Where a vote is required, motions will be carried by a majority vote.</p> <p>Each Core member holds a voting right.</p> <p>The Lead Member will not hold a casting vote.</p>
Chair	<p>To appoint a chair at the formulation of each new council.</p> <p>Lead Member to stand for two years initially, then yearly afterwards.</p> <p>The presiding Lead Member may put themselves up for re-nominated.</p>
Powers	<p>To have access to portfolio holders and key council officers where their work relates to the farm estate.</p> <p>To have access to all documents relating to the work of the farm estate.</p> <p>To be informed of emerging policy(s) that may have an effect on the workings of the farm estate and to have sufficient time to scrutinise such policy, documents and decisions for consideration.</p> <p>To support / attend any relevant external stakeholder group(s) that relate to the work of the farm estate.</p> <p>To bring suggestions and recommendations forward for discussion and decision making.</p> <p>To set up subgroups of this group should the need arise.</p> <p>To review and amend these terms of reference at least annually.</p>
Responsible to	ERC Scrutiny committee
Support Available	<p>Secretariat support from council</p> <p>from legal team</p> <p>from finance team</p> <p>from members support team</p> <p>from other working groups</p>