

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Report to Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee 11 December 2023

Report: ERC County Farms Working Group proposal.

Purpose:

- To receive a recommendation from the ERC County Farms Working Group made at its meeting on 27th September 2023 that the Group is disbanded and for a Cabinet Advisory Group be established.

Background:

- The Working Group was established in in late 2022. The group has a good cross party (and independent) mix of councillors.
- The aim of the group is to have a full understanding of the Council Farm and Woodland Estate. To offer advice, support and recommendations to the portfolio holders and senior officers on best practice through learning drawn from within the group and from other outside bodies.
- The group has met on several occasions on farm estate holdings and has met with representatives of the Farm Estate Tenant liaison panel members to learn firsthand how the estate benefits those living and working within it.
- The group has also met with senior leads within the finance team to gain the best insight into the needs of the council from the farm estate.
- The working group has cross representation on the Climate and Nature working and steering groups allowing the two to support mutual aims.
- To scrutinise the current Farm Estate Delivery Plan.
- The group continues to grow, and still meets on a regular basis, however developments have caused the need to separate out scrutiny from development work. Therefore, at its meeting on 27th September 2023, the Working Group resolved to seek approval from the ERC Committee to disband.
- The scrutiny of the farm and woodland estate could therefore be undertaken by the ERC Committee as a whole.
- And a proposal will be presented to Cabinet to establish a County Farms Estate Cabinet Advisory Group.
- The Cabinet Advisory Group would be able support and provide advice to Cabinet and have the ability to explore and investigate future options of the county farms estate.

Recommendation:

1. That the ERC Scrutiny Committee considers the proposal of the ERC County Farms Working Group to disband.
2. For the Council's County farm and woodland estate scrutiny, be undertaken by the ERC Scrutiny Committee.
3. For the established of a Cabinet Advisory Group be proposed to Cabinet.