

MOTIONS TO COUNCIL**23 May 2023**

Title of Motion	Supporting Cornwall's Farmers
Proposer	Cllr Nick Craker
Seconder	Cllr Martyn Alvey
Supporters (a minimum of three are required)	Cllrs John Conway, Dave Crabtree, Connor Donnithorne, Anne Double, Dominic Fairman, Peter Guest, James Mustoe, Adrian Parsons, Jane Pascoe, Adam Paynter, Peter Perry, Shorne Tilbey, Peter Williams and Martin Worth
Recommendation for Council to vote on	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cornwall Council recognises and notes the huge contribution made by our local farmers to the Cornish economy and its rural communities. 2. Cornwall Council commits to developing stronger partnerships with our arable, livestock, and dairy farmers in order to enhance our magnificent countryside. The Council will strive to support farmers, by being sympathetic to diversification opportunities and promotion of local produce. 3. Cornwall Council commits to supporting our local farmers by, where possible, ensuring that all food provided at council organised events is sourced from local suppliers; to include meat, dairy, and plant-based produce. 4. With tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergencies key priorities for Cornwall; Cornwall Council will consider ways to encourage residents, where possible, to shop locally, taking advantage of home-grown, affordable and nutritious food, both plant and meat based thus reducing food miles to our plates and boosting the local economy. 5. Cornwall Council will continue to support the Council's County Farms estate, including the adopted 2019-2039 Farm Estate Strategy.
Context for the motion (i.e. why is the motion being submitted – what is the proposer aiming to achieve)	The UK produces some of the best food in the world, with the highest animal welfare and husbandry standards. The NFU estimate British food and farming to be worth more than £120 billion to the national economy and provides jobs for more than four million people. Educating people and supporting food, farming

	<p>and countryside management is essential. Red meat and dairy are recognised as an important part of a balanced diet. Currently 98% of British households buy milk, while 91% of UK households enjoy red meat.¹</p> <p>The agricultural sector also underpins much of our Cornish tourism industry in rural areas. Whether providing land and water for enjoyment, food for the table, or accommodation from which to explore our unique landscapes. We must champion our farmers and celebrate their contribution to the Cornish landscape and economy.</p> <p>Britain's Leading Edge, the advocacy group of peripheral local authorities in which Cornwall Council plays a key role, recently launched its 2023 manifesto, relevant pledges included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helping Government deliver on its promise that the UK will be net carbon zero by 2050. Britain's Leading Edge regions contain the clean energy capacity which will power this commitment. - Building UK energy and food resilience, particularly in the light of ongoing geo-political developments.² <p>A study by the Farm Safety Foundation found that 88% of farmers under the age of 40 rank poor mental health as the biggest problem they face today.³ Farming is an incredibly tough industry to work in, it is one of the most dangerous occupations in Britain, extremely hard manual work, all year round. Recent market forces have pushed up the price of important materials like diesel, fertilizer (which in some cases rose in price by over 300% during 2022), and animal feed increasing by 70%⁴</p> <p>Council Farms⁵ Cornwall Council's Farms Service manages the council farms estate and provides advice to the Council on agricultural matters. The Council first acquired agricultural property in 1908 to create smallholdings. Today the Council owns just under 10,800 acres. The Council Farms Estate comprises of a variety of holdings which host a range of farming activity; dairy, stock, and mixed farms as well as a number which also support</p>
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¹ National Farmers Union, [The Facts about British red meat and milk](#), 2020

² Britain's Leading Edge [Cornwall at heart of Britain's Leading Edge's 2023 manifesto launch - Cornwall Council](#)

³ BBC News, [Young Farmers and mental health](#), 2021

⁴ National Farmers Union [Next steps for science and technology in UK agriculture – NFUonline](#)

⁵ Cornwall Council, [Farm Estate Strategy 2019 – 2039](#)

	<p>diversified farming activities. The Estate has been and will continue to enable farm businesses to make an important contribution to the foundation of Cornish agricultural production and ensure that future generations of new entrants will be given the opportunity to make their living in agriculture and farm based business.</p> <p>In addition to promoting Cornwall's local farmers and farm produce, this motion reminds Council of the adopted 2019 Farm Estate Strategy and the four ambitions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Farming Futures 2. Environmental Growth 3. Vibrant Communities 4. Sustainable Estate <p>The Council should recognise and engage with organisations that promote and campaign on behalf of farmers and rural communities, such as the Countryside Alliance and National Farmers Union who undertake important campaigning work. The Countryside Alliance have rightly championed local food and dietary choice and collectively play an important role in ensuring rural voices are heard by government, parliament, and local authorities.</p> <p>It is with all this in mind that Cornwall Council should ensure it is doing all it can to support and promote our local farmers and all the meat, dairy and plant based food producers of Cornwall. Whether it be through local procurement to reduce food miles, promoting health local food produce through Healthy Cornwall, and all other relevant policy areas, to ensure Council policy development has regard to our local farmers, the food they produce and the countryside they steward.</p>
Does the motion*:-	
(i) have potential financial implications for the Council – if so advise what these might be	<p>No. The motion sets out a statement of intent for the whole Council, rather than prescribing any specific immediate actions. The motion asks that Cornwall Council has regard to local farmers and locally produced meat, dairy and plant based produce in its relevant policy making and contractual agreements of the future. It also builds on other relevant motions in the 2017-2021 Council, relating to local procurement and a declaration of a climate and ecological emergency.</p>
(ii) have potential legal/constitutional	

<p>implications for the Council – if so advise what these might be</p>	<p>No. The motion sets out a statement of intent for the whole Council, rather than prescribing any specific immediate actions. The motions asks that Cornwall Council has regard to local farmers and locally produced meat, dairy and plant based produce in its relevant policy making and contractual agreements of the future. It also builds on other relevant motions in the 2017-2021 Council, relating to local procurement and a declaration of a climate and ecological emergency.</p>
<p>(iii) require further background information to enable the Council to make a decision and/or require detailed consideration – if so advised what might be required</p>	<p>No. The motion builds on other relevant motions in the 2017-2021 Council, relating to local procurement and a declaration of a climate and ecological emergency. The motion seeks to ensure Cornwall’s local farmers are considered during future relevant policy reviews and new contracts with suppliers.</p>

*Should any/all of (i)-(iii) apply it is likely that the constitutional provision of referring the motion to the relevant Committee will apply.