

COUNCIL

23 May 2023

SUPPORTING CORNWALL'S FARMERS

This briefing note sets out the potential implications of the motion submitted to Council. It is designed to support the Chairman in making her decision as to whether

- (i) the constitutional provision of automatic referral to the relevant Committee should apply; or
- (ii) if she considers it convenient and conducive to the despatch of business or sufficiently urgent, she may allow the motion to be dealt with at the meeting of the Council at which it is brought forward.

The briefing note will also be included in the Council agenda to enable Members to understand the wider context.

<p>Has the Council or is the Council doing any work at the current time in relation to this motion or any associated issues?</p>	<p>Point One</p> <p>The Council recognises the huge contribution made by farmers to the Cornish economy and its rural communities. It currently does, and is committed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - working in partnership with the sector - the provision of support, - guidance and funding to various projects and programmes for farmers (see below) - the promotion of diversification opportunities through existing planning policy and guidance, and it forms a key consideration in the development of future policies. - the promotion of local produce. <p>Note: ecological successes of farm businesses are celebrated and shared through the work of the Cornwall Sustainability Awards.</p> <p>Point Two</p> <p>Current partnership working and support for farmers includes:</p> <p><u>Nature Recovery and Forest for Cornwall</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cornwall Councils Forest for Cornwall team support diversification of farm businesses and resilient landscape management by offering free cradle to grave consultancy services for tree planting and management plans. - The Nature Recovery team target and work with farmers to gain their insight regarding the Local Nature Recovery Strategy development and consultation so that the farming community is represented in the strategies outputs. - Through the local nature recovery strategies habitat opportunity mapping Lagas provides an
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open-source tool to find potential sites of habitat opportunity and grow our existing nature network. This tool is used by farm advisory groups such as the Westcountry Rivers Trust to support farmers when looking to introduce and manage new habitats.

- Daras, the one stop window shopping experience for land managers, highlights opportunities for new and additional on farm funding during the current agricultural transition. Additionally, it offers an interactive mapping portal where landowners can submit sites and projects to be flagged as project development opportunities to sit within the Future Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINC) investment readiness prospectus.
- That the LNP endeavours to strengthen and develop nature positive relationships and practice with the farming community of Cornwall. To support this, the Local Nature Partnership will utilise its hugely successful pledge for nature campaign and match funding Crowdfunder program, as well the nature recovery toolkit.
- Knowledge sharing and project capture through working relationships with Farm Net Zero, Cornwall AONB, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Natural England and Duchy of Cornwall also endeavours to strengthen and develop positive relationships between CC and the farming community of Cornwall.

Economy and Skills

- A new £4.6m pot of funding for rural communities and businesses has launched, with eligible organisations encouraged to put forward projects that will strengthen those areas and provide new opportunities for residents. The [CioS Rural Prosperity Fund Investment Plan Addendum](#) outlines how the available budget will be prioritised to address local rural challenges and the opportunities to deliver prosperity for rural businesses and rural communities across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.
- Rural Prosperity Fund in CIOs will support:
 - o £1m of 2023/25 RPF budget will be allocated to create a bespoke rural business support offer via the business support Growth Hub with a focus on farm diversification and food and drink processing for non-farmer

	<p>owned/controlled businesses. Small grants of up to £200,000 will be offered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The remaining £4.6m RPF budget will be utilised to launch an open invitation for rural projects to come forward with projects that strengthen community infrastructure and assets that will have a positive impact on rural businesses and communities. Grants of £200,000 to £1m will be made available through this open invitation. - Agri-food is identified in the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local industrial Strategy as a distinctive opportunity/USP. Agri-food activity is aimed at creating a productive and sustainable sector maximising market opportunities for land and marine management, and food processing/production. The visitor economy and agri-food economy are quite closely aligned. Both employ a much higher than average proportion of people and businesses in CIoS than in GB overall, and combined they contribute 18% of CIoS GVA. - The ambition for these sectors is to improve productivity and business performance through skills development, creating new market opportunities, the diffusion of innovation and diversification. This will deliver improved performance at business level, better quality jobs, pay and hours, upskilling and progression opportunities. <p><u>Carbon Neutral Cornwall</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Producer organisations have been supported under the Cornwall Climate and Nature Fund when establishing Crowdfunder campaigns - Development of an employee benefit offer (within the established and recognised One and All Employee benefits platform) related to the promotion of, and access to, locally produced food from a diverse range of producers. <p><u>Cross team input</u> Sustainable Food Cornwall – Cornwall Council has three representatives on this new group (About Sustainable Food Cornwall) from the Cornwall AONB, Economy and Skills and Public Health. The group has six workstreams which include developing a Cornwall food strategy, sustainability and local food procurement systems.</p> <p>Point Three</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cornwall Council is committed to socially, environmentally and economically responsible procurement to deliver improved quality of life and better value for money for our people, our businesses and our county. Our social value policy delivers benefits that can be achieved to the local economy through our suppliers and forms a significant element of the scoring for contracting services and suppliers. <p>With regard to point three (food at Council run events to be locally sourced), we already have a Social Value policy which requires that we let contracts with a value of up to £25k to local suppliers (with Cornwall postcodes) first, wherever possible.</p> <p>Through our Social Value policy, we also look at how we can best use our spending power to support the local economy and work with contractors to measure how our spend ensures more local employment in Cornwall and more opportunities for local suppliers.</p> <p>Point Four</p> <p>With regard to the climate and ecological emergencies and behavioural change information campaigns to encourage residents, where possible, to shop locally and be aware of reducing food miles and boosting the local economy, this is currently included within the Carbon Neutral Cornwall HIVE (here).</p> <p>The climate emergency development plan Document contains policies which support rural development and diversification, there is also support for creating new rural service and employment hubs (including small scale day to day retail facilities to meet the needs of the settlement or cluster of settlements.</p> <p>https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/uxgjk4jn/climate-emergency-dpd.pdf</p> <p>Point Five</p> <p>The Councils support for the Farms estate was given through Cabinet and Council in 2019 in the delivery of the Farms Estate Strategy. The strategy aligns with the Council's Business Plan and the interventions contained within the plan are managed as part of the Council performance framework. Delivery of the strategy will continue to be reviewed to ensure alignment and relevance to the Cornwall's agricultural ambitions.</p>
Does the motion:-	
(i) have potential financial implications for the Council – if so	There are no direct financial implications. Resources required are aligned to business plans and use of officer time. There is unlikely to be a change in the

advise what these might be	cost of food for Council events as a result of this motion
(ii) have potential legal/Constitutional implications for the Council – if so advise what these might be	The Procurement Bill currently going through Parliamentary approval may make it easier for there to be a bigger focus on the procurement of food more locally. Some of the proposed changes in the Procurement Bill will reduce current restrictions around awarding contracts based on location of suppliers.
(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	Targeting of funding under SPF and RPF is already aligned with the motion's overall objectives. This funding will deliver in CIOs until March 2025 and the case for further support will continue to be made to ensure the legacy of funded investments can continue. Strategic alignment is already in place through the CIOs LIS with Agrifood identified as one of the 5 key opportunity sector areas for CIOs. Support is being commissioned for sector development through SPF to ensure this sectoral development opportunity is capitalised on. In terms of planning policy, the Council has to work within national guidance and legislation, and within this there is already supportive policy in place. Any future policy development such as the next Local Plan will consider such issues in its development.
What would be the implications for the Council if this motion was dealt with at the meeting of the Council at which it is brought forward?	The motion aligns with the Council's stated priorities in the business plan and therefore, the activities required as a result of the motion do not need any re-definition or re-scoping for officers to comply

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Briefing note approved by:- Tracie Langley, Chief Operating Officer and S151 Officer