

APPENDIX C

INVESTING IN LEICESTERSHIRE PROGRAMME
RURAL ESTATE STRATEGY 2026-2036

HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Department: Corporate Resources

Proposal name: Rural Estate Strategy

Summary of Proposal: To review update the management strategy of the County Council's Rural Estate to ensure it continues to meet its primary objectives of a) providing opportunities for suitably qualified young people to establish and grow a farming business, b) provide financial benefits for the County Council necessary to support service provision, and, c) contribute to the wider objectives of the County Council.

Have any other impact assessments been completed for this project?: Yes

Please specify which assessments have been completed: Equalities Impact Assessment

If you can, please provide any relevant documents:

Community:

Impact: Positive

Positives: The strategy will include provisions that enable land to be utilised to deliver community infrastructure including sites for community buildings, open space etc

Likelihood: Certain/has evidence will occur

Certain/have evidence an impact will occur: Based on previous track record over the past 10 years

Description: Maintained/ enhanced services to maintain sustainability of rural communities

Recommendation: Maintain awareness of community needs in areas where farm holdings are located

Employment, Income and Poverty:

Impact: Positive

Positives: 1.) The letting of smaller farm units maintains/provides employment opportunities in rural areas. The individual businesses support local supply chains and agriculturally based

businesses including agricultural contractors , feed merchants, vets, building contractors, machinery suppliers, professional services etc .

2.) The strategy includes bring forward land for residential and employment uses thereby creating economic growth and job opportunities; the pipeline of development sites being considered at regular intervals by the Corporate Property Steering Group attended by senior members of the Public Health Team.

Likelihood: Certain/has evidence will occur

Certain/have evidence an impact will occur: 1.) All are part of a normal farming business.
2.) The potential exists to deliver new homes and employment space over the next 10 years as evidenced in the pipeline of development sites and each district planning authority's SHELAA

Description: 1.) Will maintain the existing rural framework
2.) Will provide quality and affordable new homes and create job both during and post construction on occupation

Recommendation: 1.) Ensure that new entrants are able to maintain sustainable farming businesses.
2.) Maintain a pipeline of potential development sites.
3.) Continue dialogue with Public Health

Transport:

Impact: N/A

Physical Activity:

Impact: Positive

Positives: The strategy includes provision for giving greater permissive access to the countryside encouraging walking, cycling etc

Likelihood: Certain/has evidence will occur

Certain/have evidence an impact will occur: Schemes that have already been established will be maintained or expanded and opportunities for new schemes explored and delivered where feasible

Description: Provide opportunities for increased physical activity

Recommendation: Explore opportunities that do not negatively impact the main farming operation

Housing:

Impact: Positive

Positives: The strategy includes provisions for the bringing forward of residential development sites which will deliver both quality market and affordable homes; the affordable homes including homes for social rent, affordable rent and shared ownership.

Likelihood: Certain/has evidence will occur

Certain/have evidence an impact will occur: Continuation of existing policy with a significant number of sites currently being promoted.

Description: Increase the stock of quality residential dwellings for sale or rent.

Recommendation: Maintain a pipeline of potential development sites ensuring that all developments meet local plan policies in respect of Health and Health Impact Assessments as a minimum.

Diet and Nutrition:

Impact: Positive

Positives: The strategy will support sustainable farming practices and support farmers wishing to market produce directly to the general public. In addition, the implementation of the strategy will reflect the outcomes of the Air Quality and Health Partnership

Likelihood: Certain/has evidence will occur

Certain/have evidence an impact will occur: The strategy seeks to expand the current opportunities available to tenants

Description: Maintain/ increase the supply of quality locally produced food

Recommendation: Support tenants in establishing diversified and enterprises providing added value including leveraging external funding. Continue to contribute to the work of the Air Quality and Health Partnership and maintain dialogue with Public Health regarding potential links with work in connection with the healthy weight strategy and whole system approach to food.

Education and Skills:

Impact: Positive

Positives: 1.) Limited opportunities arise for training and apprenticeships within the farm business however by maintaining support to the supply chain many opportunities exist.
2.) Educational visits to farms will continue to be actively encouraged
3.) Through the establishment of nursery units provide tenants with the ability to seek financial advice and mentoring in the early years of their farming career to increase business awareness and improve mental wellbeing.

Likelihood: Certain/has evidence will occur

Certain/have evidence an impact will occur: 1.) & 2.) A continuation and expansion of existing practice.
3.) Create partnerships with local colleges to provide additional support in the mentoring of new entrants

Description: 1.) Training and apprenticeships will be maintained across the wider rural economy
2.) Increased awareness and understanding of farming and food production across the wider population especially school children.
3.) Reduce the potential for tenants being impacted by poor mental health.

Recommendation: 1.) Ensure viable farming businesses are maintained across the estate
2.) Support tenants wishing to provide opportunities for educational visits to farms.
3.) To proactively encourage new entrants to take advantage of the support and mentoring made available to them in the early years of their farming careers and deliver support appropriate to their individual needs.

Pollution and Noise:

Impact: Positive

Positives: The strategy provides for the construction and maintenance of the necessary fixed equipment to control pollution in accordance with statutory regulations

Likelihood: Certain/has evidence will occur

Certain/have evidence an impact will occur: Through the use of funds provided as part of the MTFS capital programme the estates fixed equipment will be improved on an ongoing basis to ensure it meets regulatory standards

Description: Pollution will be minimised across the estate

Recommendation: Ensure sufficient capital funding is available to meet statutory compliance standards.

Maintain an ongoing dialogue with the Air Quality and Health Partnership as support, as appropriate, its work in addressing pollution.

Crime Reduction and Community Safety:

Impact: N/A

Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug use and Gambling:

Impact: N/A

Environmental Resilience:**Impact:** Positive**Positives:** The strategy will seek to deliver environmental improvements across the estate contributing as appropriate to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the Leicestershire Tree Strategy.

Further, sites with the potential to deliver biodiversity improvements will be identified and delivered to support the development schemes across the whole Council portfolio in addition to providing financial benefits.

Farmers on the estate will be required to meet at least the minimum standards in respect of environmental regulations whilst being encouraged to farm sustainably and progress environmental improvements schemes in their management of the holding.

Likelihood: Certain/has evidence will occur**Certain/have evidence an impact will occur:** The Estate has an existing track record in respect of all the potential positive outcomes which it will seek to continue and enhance**Description:** Ensure environmental protection by adherence to statutory regulation. Increase the areas of the estate subject to biodiversity improvements, sustainable farming methods and environmental stewardship**Recommendation:** Monitor statutory compliance by tenants across the estate and maintain progress in delivering environmental improvements through proactive management of the portfolio.**Access to Public Services:****Impact:** Positive**Positives:** The strategy seeks to provide financial benefits that will support the delivery of services for the people of Leicestershire.**Likelihood:** Certain/has evidence will occur**Certain/have evidence an impact will occur:** The estate provides and will continue to deliver revenue surpluses that support day to day service delivery and funding from property disposals to fund capital projects to improve service delivery**Description:** The continued delivery of services to residents**Recommendation:** Ensure the estate strategy facilitates the continued delivery of financial benefits

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