

POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

SCOPING PAPER FOR AGRICULTURE IN NORTH DEVON

Members of working group: Cllr Bulled, Cllr Bushell, Cllr Jones, Cllr Patrinos
Date: 16/08/2023

1 Scope

A brief description of the scope of the work to be undertaken and the objectives to be achieved. Also, for clarity identify areas that are outside the scope

- To focus on the current uncertain state of agricultural support & it's impact on farming income
- To inform the public of the situation & investigate the potential impact it might have on:- the future of North Devon farming, food supply including quality & security, environment, tourism, land ownership, effect on health of the farming community with special reference to mental health & the future of the rural economy.

2 Information requirements

List below the initial information that is expected to be needed for the review

- To gather information from all interested parties
 - Active farmers in North Devon
 - Influencers on the future policies
 - Academics involved in agriculture
 - Advisory services to farmers
 - Businesses involved in agriculture
 - Environmental bodies in the rural agricultural areas

3 Witnesses and support

List below any external organisations, officers, & others required to provide evidence and support for the review

- A number of above businesses have been discussed but as have yet to be approached the names will follow.

4 Quantified benefits expected

The benefits you expect, expressed in measurable terms

- A wider knowledge in the non farming community of the current difficult situation that affects the farming community & the influence it could have on the wider community.
- Greater recognition & support for the policy implications on the financial & cultural health of the rural (farming) economy & how it will secure future benefits to the wider N Devon economy in food production, & environmental enhancement (carbon, water & ecological) as well as supporting tourism & other businesses to actively invest in the future in North Devon.

5 Key risks

The key risks to the review e.g. why the work might not be completed within the proposed timescales, or why it might not produce the benefits

- As the current transition proposals are so fluid definition of the way forward for farmers it may take some time despite the imminent future loss of income.

6 Costs

Work is undertaken within existing resources and therefore no additional costs are expected, but there might be an exception

- None

7 Timescales

A summary of the key dates and a target date for completion

- We would like a meeting with representatives from all interested parties to extract more information & discuss a way forward. It is suggested that this should be an open meeting for all councillors & members of the public