



Dear Councillor

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - TUESDAY, 12TH NOVEMBER, 2019

Please see additional information relating to Item 7.

Agenda No Item

7. **Matters Outstanding from Previous Meetings**

At the September Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting it was agreed that 'details of the oversight that the Council has over the farmers on Council-owned land' would be provided to Committee members. Here is the response from the Corporate Property Manager and the Countryside Manager:

The Council owns two farms, namely, Home Farm in Effingham (land and 1 barn) and South Warren Farm (land and buildings) in Guildford, both of which are leased out under the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1986. The tenancies set out the responsibilities and obligations under which the farmland should be managed. Both are overseen by Corporate Property Services. As the tenants have exclusive possession of their farm/farmland and are in control of the land, there is little involvement required from the Council as landlord. On occasion members of the public will contact us over concerns which are investigated and dealt with accordingly by the Corporate Property Services team.

The Council also owns land that was part of former Tyting Farm in Guildford. This land is not held for farming purposes and is currently licenced out under a Grazing Licence, while plans for the proposed SANG take shape. The Grazing Licence stipulates the obligations and responsibilities of the occupier. The Countryside Manager and his team oversee the licenced operational grazing on the Council's Countryside Estate, which includes the land at Tyting Farm.

Tyting Farm is being developed as SANG site and public open space. The Countryside Team manages the Council's public Countryside sites in accordance with best practice for land management to ensure that natural and cultural heritage, biodiversity and access is protected for future generations in accordance with the Council's Countryside Vision. On a number of sites, including Tyting Farm, we use grazing animals from local farmers to manage our grasslands under conservation grazing licences. These licences are time limited. The primary aim of conservation grazing is management of grassland habitats, not livestock farming.

Yours sincerely

James Dearling

