



Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson - Executive Director - Place

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| Report to: | Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee |
| Date: | 19 October 2021 |
| Subject: | Lincolnshire Rural Services Network |

Summary:

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee have given considerable consideration and input into food and farming including policy changes such as the Agriculture Bill, to the predicted structural changes now being seen within farming to the lives of those working in and running land based businesses in Lincolnshire.

Significant discussion has focussed on the need to support the sector through the current challenging period of change for Lincolnshire's farming businesses and the people they employ.

Today the committee will hear from Lincolnshire Rural Support Network who received a £40,000 grant from Lincolnshire County Council in 2019 as a result of the work of the Committee.

Lincolnshire Rural Support Network will provide an overview of the work that they are doing and provide an update on the sector in Lincolnshire.

Actions Required:

The Committee will receive the presentation from Lincolnshire Rural Support Network and follow with discussion.

The Committee is invited to give consideration to future opportunities to support the sector.

The Committee will share comments with the Scrutiny Panel B - Agricultural Sector Support Review.

1. Background

Lincolnshire farming businesses continue to experience a perplexing present as well as an uncertain future. Changes to the basic payment schemes and the emerging financial incentives such as the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) will continue to drive significant structural change in the sector. The sector is awash with both challenge and opportunity. Today's presentation from LRSN provides a snapshot of the impact on some individuals and businesses.

2. Lincolnshire Rural Services Network

LRSN is a volunteer-led organisation that provides pastoral and practical support to farming and rural people during periods of anxiety, stress and problems relating to their families and businesses.

In 2019 Lincolnshire County Council was able to grant £40,000 to LRSN, as they pulled together a funding package to employ a mental health professional to support the work being undertaken. The £40,000 contribution from Lincolnshire County Council completed the funding jigsaw.

They will give a presentation detailing the work that they are doing and provide an update on their experience of the sector in Lincolnshire.

More information about LRSN can be found at their website: www.lrsn.co.uk and during the presentation to be given to Committee.

2. Conclusion

Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider and comment on the presentation on Lincolnshire Rural Services Network which provides an overview of the work that they are doing and an update on the sector in Lincolnshire.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Vanessa Strange, Head of Infrastructure Investment, who can be contacted on 07917 781627 or vanessa.strange@lincolnshire.gov.uk.