

Meeting of:	Welsh Church Act Estate Committee
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 14 June 2021
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	No Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Glebe Fields - Update report
Purpose of Report:	To update Committee on the outcome of the Agricultural Land Classification Survey for Glebe Fields
Report Owner:	Rob Thomas, Director of Resources
Responsible Officer:	Carys Lord, Head of Finance
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	<p>Committee Reports - Legal OM Accountancy Head of Finance</p> <p>No ward member consultation - since Members of this Committee are acting as Committee Members independent of other Council's resolutions, no wider consultation has taken place</p>
Policy Framework:	The Trustees are working independently of other Council decisions and in accordance with the requirements of Charity Law.
<p>Executive Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide an update to Committee on the outcome of the Agricultural Land Classification Survey for the Glebe Fields and to seek instructions from the Trust in terms of an appropriate way forward. 	

Recommendation

1. That the report is noted and considered so that a decision on this matter can be taken under Part II of this agenda

Reason for Recommendation

1. To enable a decision to be made under Part II of this agenda.

1. Background

- 1.1 At its January 2021 meeting, it was resolved that:

- (1) T H A T the update and Development Site Review Report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Operational Manager for Property be instructed to appoint a suitable consultant to provide an Agricultural Land Classification survey.
- (3) T H A T delegated authority be given to the Operational Manager Property, in consultation with the Welsh Church Act Estate Committee Chairman and the Operational Manager for Accountancy, to agree the consultancy costs associated with the appointment referred to in Resolution (2) above.
- (4) T H A T a further update report be brought to Committee for consideration when the results of the Agricultural Land Classification survey were available.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 Following Committees resolution, the Operational Manager consulted with the Councils planning section to establish a list of firms that the Trust could seek quotations from to undertake the required Agricultural Land Classification Survey.
- 2.2 Agricultural Land Classification Surveys are quite a specialist field of expertise and the planning team had limited suggestions to offer for consultancy appointment and as a result the planning team could only offer one Reading based company as a suggestion.
- 2.3 However, planning colleagues confirmed that Welsh Government also offered specialist advice and would be able to advise further on what type of survey would be required and who to contact.
- 2.4 Welsh Government colleagues were duly contacted and offered to check the Predictive Map data on their systems for the site.

- 2.5 The results of the consultation with Welsh Government are discussed in further detail in part II of this agenda.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1 The Trusts actions need to comply with Charity law and its decisions are independent of the Council's obligations under the Well-Being of Future Generations Act.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1 Committee are referred to the costs mentioned in the report presented in January 2021 in relation to the surveys recommended in the Conclusions of the Development Site Review Report. There were no costs to the Trust in obtaining the Agricultural Land Classification Survey from the Welsh Government.

Employment

- 4.2 There are no employment implications arising from this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.3 The Trust has a duty to manage lands and property held by them in accordance with the Scheme of Trust and with Charity Law and decisions should be consistent with the Charity Objects and powers.
- 4.4 There is a Legal requirement for Trustees to:
- (a) Act within their powers;
 - (b) Act in good faith and only in the interests of the charity
 - (c) Make sure they are sufficiently informed
 - (d) Take account of all relevant factors
 - (e) Ignore any irrelevant factors
 - (f) Manage conflicts of interest
 - (g) Make decisions that are within the range of decisions that a reasonable trustee body could make

5. Background Papers

None