Report to:	Lead Member for Resources
Date of meeting:	24 May 2018
By:	Chief Operating Officer
Title:	Lands alongside Holmarsh Bridge, Hailsham
Purpose:	To seek Lead Member approval to declare this property surplus to Council requirements to enable its disposal.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Lead Member is recommended to:

- (1) declare the property known as Land at Holmarsh Bridge, Hailsham surplus to Council operational requirements; and
- (2) delegate authority to the Chief Operating Officer to agree the terms in accordance with s. 123 of the Local Government Act 1972.

# 1 Background

- 1.1 The land was originally acquired in 1938 by the County Council for highway purposes but the scheme was rescinded in the early 1970's.
- 1.2 The land was let under a Farm Business Tenancy which expired in February 2018, thus enabling this proposal.
- 1.3 It has been confirmed that no further road safety works are required in this vicinity and thus this residual land parcel can be released.
- 1.4 The land comprises farmland and is accesible by foot and vehicle from Hailsham Road.

## 2 Supporting information

- 2.1 The land parcel is shown hatched black on the attached plan at Appendix 1 and comprises approx. 3.5 acres.
- 2.2 An internal consultation with all Council Services has concluded there is no operational requirement for this property.
- 2.3 The property will be placed in the open market through a marketing agent, to be appointed, to secure best value bids as per our obligations under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972. Whilst there are no development proposals that might release added land value, covenants will be negotiated and placed on the land sale linked to agricultural and/or horticultural and/or paddock and stabling uses, together with appropriate fencing obligations
- 2.4 The Local Member has been updated on this issue and raises no objection to disposing of this property.

## 3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 The land offers no future operational use for the Council.
- 3.2 It is recommended that this land parcel be declared surplus to County Council requirements and terms for any disposal delegated to the Chief Operating Officer in accordance with the requirements of Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972.

# KEVIN FOSTER Chief Operating Officer

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Bowdler

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Appendix I – Site Plan (not to scale)

