

Statement from the Livestock Market Company for Livestock Market Working Party Members

Members of the Working Party will be aware that representatives of the Livestock Market Company have previously expressed an interest in attending the Working Party. Members have opted not to invite them to attend at this stage and the Livestock Market Company have requested that the following information is passed to Working Party Members:

The Chairman would like to have the following statement passed to the members of the Working Party in order to present our current position and to highlight our objectives: of course within our democratic right to be heard, and indeed without prejudice:

“Within sight of the community – farmers and the social fabric within Ryedale – we should like to thank the members of the Livestock Working Party for all the work that they have put in to take forwards the project – it is understood that the existing Livestock Market Company may not prejudice the discussion nor influence the RDC in any form. The evidence before the Council stands for itself, land discussions are taking place, the audit trail and transparency is being followed and officers have been duly diligent in that regard.

We wish to continue to offer support and advise as we are able, indeed within difficult economic times, and our statement is to say that we have been – as key stakeholders – well represented by officers, and our wish to inform the working party that we adopt a balanced view of the circumstances and continue to work equally with colleagues in the wider public sector, grant bodies, central government and commercial funding to bring to fruition this important community project : indeed we wish to explain our wider initiative of developing the Livestock Market Company into a Community Interest Company (CIC).

The working party, and the full RDC council will be well aware of the remit of a CIC, expressed in brief as “A CIC will get most of its income from trade, selling something then reorienting the money into the social enterprise”. We have a duty to respond to the community, who form our ‘pledgees’ or ‘shareholders who have promised to put their own funds forward’ who will ultimately benefit from a new market, as will our future generations. We seek not to profit from the project, we seek to return surplus to the social enterprise, and secure community well being, jobs, families futures, and maintain Ryedale as the focus for food security.”