**MINUTES OF DAERA STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY 05 DECEMBER 2019**

**ROOM 233, DUNDONALD HOUSE**

**Members:**

Brian Doherty (Chair) Deputy Secretary Central Services and Contingency Planning Group

Norman Fulton Deputy Secretary Food and Farming Group

Robert Huey Deputy Secretary Veterinary Service and Animal Health Group

Alistair Carson Director of Science, Evidence and Innovation Policy

Roger Downey Director of Finance

Seamus McErlean Chief Agricultural Economist

**Apologies:**

David Small Deputy Secretary Environment, Marine and Fisheries Group

Fiona McCandless Deputy Secretary Rural Affairs, Forest Service and Estates Transformation Group

**In Attendance:**

Briege Lafferty Head of Strategic Planning Branch (via VC from Ballykelly)

**Secretariat:** Hugh Quinn, Strategic Planning Branch (via VC from Ballykelly)

Ronan Gunn, Strategic Planning Branch

| **Item** | **Description** | **Action Owner** |
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| 1.0 | **Conflict of Interest** |  |
|  | Apologies were noted as above and no conflicts of interest were declared. |  |
| 2.0 | **Minutes of Previous Meeting** |  |
|  | The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2019 were agreed. |  |
| 3.0 | **Action Points from Previous Meeting** |  |
|  | The Committee noted that of the four action points from the December meeting one was complete, another was completed at the meeting on presentation of the DAERA Strategic Plan and the other 2 are ongoing. |  |
| 4.0 | **Decision Log from Previous Meeting** |  |
|  | The decision log was noted and the Committee was content. |  |
| 5.0 | **DAERA Strategic Plan** |  |
|  | Roger Downey briefed the Committee on an early draft of the DAERA Strategic Plan which will set out the Department’s strategic priorities and planned outcomes for the next 10 years.  Roger advised that Briege Lafferty in Strategic Planning Branch has undertaken research and engagement with other public sector organisations by way of benchmarking a longer term plan. The DEFRA Strategy in particular was very high level and was not time bound and included no figures.  The Strategic Plan aims to bridge the gap between the vision and our activities by developing overarching outcomes, supported by high level metrics to guide our future activities and prioritisation of resources.  The new strategy will set out the Department’s strategic priorities and planned outcomes for the next 10 years and will provide further details for the 3 years from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023.  Roger asked that the Committee note and approve the timeline to deliver the new Strategic Plan in place for end June 2020.  The Committee discussed the draft Strategic Plan and agreed that the strategic plan needs to think globally and deal with the big issues facing DAERA over the next 10 years e.g. climate change, sustainable development, circular economy. The strategic priorities should then be built around these.  **Action Point:**  Strategy Committee members to put forward thoughts on the key strategic priorities which should underpin all DAERA’s actions over the next 10 years to 2030.  In order to provide alternative perspectives and the evidence to support the strategic objectives, a separate horizon scanning event should be undertaken. Representatives will include relevant stakeholders and university representatives.  **Action Point:**  Alistair Carson to lead on horizon scanning work stream, including potential providers and suggested membership. Expected timeframe end Jan/mid Feb.  **SABI Working Group Update**  Briege Lafferty presented the findings from the work of the SABI Working Group and identified that 4 pilots had been suggested as pilots to inform Strategic Alignment and Business Integration.  The Committee considered the four pilots, noting that work on strategic objectives was the first priority. Consideration was given to slipping the SABI pilots until the strategic direction piece was complete however it was agreed that there were a number of quick wins from proceeding. Ballynahone Peatland Restoration is currently underway and would inform the larger peatland restoration programme. Castle Archdale should also progress as a SABI pilot as it may provide different lessons to inform strategic alignment processes.  **Action Point:**  SABI Secretariat to write to Grade 3s requesting:   * any additional actions within their area which will increase the impact of the two SABI pilots and deal with any difficult tensions and * Who in their business area is best placed to progress the pilots. (Each Group to nominate at least one rep per pilot and no more than 2 ) | **Strategy Committee Members**  **Alistair Carson**  **SABI Secretariat** |
| 6.0 | **Papers for Discussion at Future Meetings & Next Agenda** |  |
|  | **Action Point:**  The Committee reviewed the list of potential papers for future meetings and agreed that Groups Heads should ask business areas to check the list and provide an update on timings and any new papers to be included.  **Action Point:**  The Committee also agreed that an update on the DAERA Data Strategy (Paul McGurnaghan) and the Agri-Environment Policy Framework (Paul Caskie) be presented to the next meeting. | **Group Heads**  **Paul McGurnaghan/**  **Paul Caskie** |
| 7.0 | **AOB** |  |
|  | **Frequency of meetings**  The Committee noted that a meeting every 2 months should be sufficient and it can be reviewed again if the need arises. |  |
|  | **Date of Next Meeting** |  |
|  | The next meeting will be held on 13 February 2020 in Forest Glen Ballykelly House and Room 117a Dundonald House from 10.00am – 11.30am. |  |