**MINUTES OF DAERA STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

**FRIDAY 22 MARCH 2019**

**11th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

**DUNDONALD HOUSE**

**Members:**

David Small (Chair) Deputy Secretary Environment, Marine and Fisheries Group

Norman Fulton Deputy Secretary Food and Farming Group

Robert Huey Deputy Secretary Veterinary Service and Animal Health Group

Fiona McCandless Deputy Secretary Forest Service, Rural Affairs and Estates Transformation Group (via video conference, Ballykelly House)

Brian Doherty Deputy Secretary Central Services and Contingency Planning Group (via video conference, Ballykelly House)

Alistair Carson Director of Science, Evidence and Innovation Policy

David Reid Director of Finance (via video conference, Ballykelly House)

**Apologies:**

Seamus McErlean Chief Agricultural Economist

**In Attendance:**

Dave Foster Director of Regulatory & Natural Resources Division (for agenda item – Draft Ammonia Action Plan)

Paddy Savage Acting Head of Ammonia Strategy (for agenda item 7 – Draft Ammonia Action Plan)

Jackie Robinson Director of Animal Health and Welfare Policy (via teleconference, Lisburn) (for agenda item – NI Animal Health and Welfare Framework)

**Secretariat:**

Diane Richardson

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| **Item** | **Description** | **Action Owner** |
| 1.0 | **Conflict of Interest** |  |
|  | No conflicts of interest were declared. |  |
| 2.0 | **Minutes of Previous Meeting** |  |
|  | The minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2019 were agreed. |  |
| 3.0 | **Action Points from Previous Meeting** |  |
|  | Most of the action points from the meeting held on 8 February 2019 were noted as complete. The outstanding action points in relation to the draft guidance note for staff and the Equine strategy paper were discussed later in the meeting. |  |
| 4.0 | **Papers for Future Meetings** |  |
|  | Robert Huey advised that the Equine Strategy paper was still under considered pending the report from Deloitte and an indicative timescale for discussing this with the Strategy Committee would be confirmed at a later date. The Committee also discussed the Internationalisation Strategy which is in the early stages of development and it was agreed that this should be tabled at a future meeting of the Strategy Committee.  The DAERA Knowledge Framework, consisting of seven different projects, was raised as another potential item for consideration by the Committee and this was agreed. Alistair Carson confirmed that the Science Strategy paper would be tabled at the next Strategy Committee on 2 May. The following action points were agreed:   * Confirm with Dave Foster when the Air Quality strategy paper will be tabled * Check with Perpetua McNamee regarding status of Internationalisation Strategy | **Diane Richardson**  **Robert**  **Huey** |
| 5.0 | **DAERA Strategic Plan** |  |
|  | David Reid updated the Committee on recommendations arising from the Senior Civil Service Group organisational development work which has sets out the need for a central strategic planning unit to take forward the DAERA Strategic Plan.  The Committee agreed that the DAERA Strategic Plan will be a key document guiding the work of the Strategy Committee in the future and in telling the DAERA story. It should provide the key principles for direction of travel both externally and internally. The following action point was agreed:   * Explore options for resources to enable development of DAERA Strategic Plan to commence | **David Reid** |
| 6.0 | **Draft Ammonia Action Plan** |  |
|  | Dave Foster and Paddy Savage joined the meeting and briefed the Committee on the approach being developed for addressing the challenge of ammonia emissions and the subsequent impact of nitrogen deposition on sensitive environmental sites. They updated the Committee on the cross-cutting work within DAERA and with external stakeholders that had led to the development of a draft Ammonia Action Plan, and discussed the challenges and proposals for next steps in terms of a public consultation.  The Committee endorsed the direction of travel and the need to proceed to the Senior Decision Making Forum regarding the public consultation. The Committee also reflected on the need to ensure that the Department for Infrastructure and Councils were consulted, and also commented on the need to articulate the significance of the environmental sites affected. |  |
| 7.0 | **NI Animal Health & Welfare Framework** |  |
|  | Jackie Robinson joined the meeting (via teleconference) and briefed the Committee on the draft strategic framework for animal health and welfare policy in Northern Ireland and proposals for public consultation.  The Committee noted the progress which had been made in developing the draft framework and endorsed the need to take this through the Senior Decision Making Forum regarding public consultation.  The Committee reflected on the importance of ensuring links exist between this draft framework and the DAERA Knowledge Framework to help with any behaviour change. The Committee also discussed the care needed when selecting indicators for monitoring progress, to ensure that measurements focus on animal health and not on broader factors which would have other external influences. |  |
| 8.0 | **Departmental Board Report** |  |
|  | The Committee discussed the draft report and recommended some content and presentational changes to ensure that DB were adequately informed regarding the Committee’s work to date. The following action point was agreed:   * Revised draft of DB paper to be circulated for clearance and final version submitted by 12 April | **Diane Richardson** |
| 9.0 | **AOB** |  |
|  | The Committee discussed the draft guidance note for staff and agreed the general content with some presentational changes. The following action point was agreed:   * Guidance note to be amended and then issued to Grade 3s for dissemination to staff | **Diane Richardson** |
| 10.0 | **Date of Next Meeting** |  |
|  | Next meeting will be held on Thursday 2 May 2019 from 1pm – 3pm in Room 229 Dundonald House. |  |