**MINUTES OF DAERA STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

**FRIDAY 2 MAY 2019**

**ROOM 229 DUNDONALD HOUSE**

**Members:**

Norman Fulton (Chair) Deputy Secretary Food and Farming Group

David Small Deputy Secretary Environment, Marine and Fisheries Group

Fiona McCandless Deputy Secretary Rural Affairs, Forest Service 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)

Seamus McErlean Chief Agricultural Economist

Brian Dooher Director of Trade, Contingency, Compliance and Public Health (deputising for Robert Huey)

**Apologies:**

Robert Huey Deputy Secretary Veterinary Service and Animal Health Group

**In Attendance:**

Pauline Rooney Grade 6 Science Evidence and Innovation Policy Division (for agenda item – Draft Science Strategy)

**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 22 March 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 ongoing action point in relation to the DAERA Strategic Plan was discussed as a separate agenda item later in the meeting. |  |
| 4.0 | **Papers for Future Meetings** |  |
|  | The Committee discussed the list of potential papers and agreed that the Knowledge Framework was a more appropriate topic for discussion at the DAERA Senior Civil Service Group (SCSG). It was originally suggested as a paper for the Committee’s information and awareness but it was agreed this would be duplication to include as SCSG will cover it. The Committee also agreed to consider the draft Air Quality at its next meeting in June. |  |
| 5.0 | **DAERA Strategic Plan** |  |
|  | David Reid provided a brief update on the current status of organisational development work which has set out the need for a central strategic planning unit to take forward the DAERA Strategic Plan. It was acknowledged that this requires dedicated staff resources to enable significant development of the Plan to be taken forward and this would take time. David Reid agreed to provide the Committee with a further update on the process for taking forward the Plan by early Autumn. |  |
| 6.0 | **Future Agriculture Policy Framework** |  |
|  | Norman Fulton updated the Committee on progress with the consultation responses as well as the various policy strands of the programme. |  |
| 7.0 | **Draft Science Strategy** |  |
|  | Alistair Carson and Pauline Rooney briefed the Committee on the draft DAERA Science Strategy. This takes the form of a framework outlining a set of high level principles for DAERA to optimise its use of science in order to help deliver Departmental and Programme for Government objectives. The draft Strategy also outlines key actions for DAERA to better identify, prioritise, commission and evaluate scientific services required.  The Committee had a wide ranging discussion about various aspects of the draft Strategy covering links with DAERA vision and strategic alignment, peer review, intellectual property rights, timespan of strategy, the consultation process with internal and external stakeholders including other NICS Departments, IT platforms and scientific data, and potential financial implications or cost savings. One action point was agreed:   * Amend the reference to draft Programme for Government outcomes from 14 to 12.   Following the discussion, the Committee noted the position and agreed that this should proceed to the Senior Decision Making Forum in relation to pre-consultation engagement with external stakeholders.  Alistair concluded by thanking Pauline Rooney and her team for their work in drafting the strategy, and also acknowledged the significant input of many DAERA staff throughout the process of developing the strategy, including the internal stakeholder workshop in December 2018. | **Alistair**  **Carson** |
| 9.0 | **AOB** |  |
|  | Nothing was discussed under “any other business”. |  |
| 10.0 | **Date of Next Meeting** |  |
|  | Next meeting will be held on Thursday 6 June 2019 from 2pm – 4pm in the 11th Floor Conference Room, Dundonald House. |  |