**MINUTES OF DAERA STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

**FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER 2018**

**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 Central Services Rural Affairs and Forest Service Group

Alistair Carson Director of Science, Evidence and Innovation Policy

Seamus McErlean Chief Agricultural Economist

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

**Apologies:**

None

**In Attendance:**

Dave Foster Director of Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division

(agenda items 7 and 8)

Brian Ervine Head of Environmental Farming Branch (agenda item 8)

Freda McKibbin Food and Farming Group coordination (observer)

**Secretariat:**

Brian Lamont and Diane Richardson

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| **Item** | **Description** | **Action Owner** |
| 1.0 | **Welcome** |  |
|  | David Small welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the DAERA Strategy Committee (DSC) and gave an overview of the Committee’s purpose. |  |
| 2.0 | **Terms of Reference** |  |
|  | The terms of reference were discussed and it was agreed that these should be amended to include references to Programme for Government and Departmental input to UK strategies.  It was noted that Central Management Branch would be establishing a rota for how the various Committees would be reporting to the Departmental Board – DSC secretariat to follow up.  Brian Lamont circulated a sample decision log table which he proposed to use as part of the governance arrangements to record a summary of the strategies considered at each Committee meeting. The Committee was content with this approach. | **Diane Richardson**  **Diane Richardson** |
| 3.0 | **Papers for Discussion at Future Meetings** |  |
|  | A range of papers to be considered at future meetings was discussed and it was agreed that the following papers would be tabled at the next meeting on 8 February 2019:   * Equine strategy * Air Quality strategy consultation * DAERA Strategic Plan update   Potential papers suggested for the 22 March 2019 were the draft Ammonia Plan, an update on Future Agricultural Policy Framework engagement and the Northern Ireland Animal Health and Welfare framework.  Potential papers suggested for the 2 May 2019 meeting were the Science Strategy and the Northern Ireland Animal Health Surveillance strategy. |  |
| 4.0 | **Schedule of Meetings** |  |
|  | The Committee noted the proposed schedule of meetings for 2019. These are currently scheduled approximately every 6-8 weeks and the Committee agreed that this schedule should be kept under review. |  |
| 5.0 | **Communications** |  |
|  | The Committee noted the requirement to publish the agenda and minutes of each meeting on the DAERA website – Secretariat to take forward. It was also noted that the Terms of Reference will be published as part of the DAERA Corporate Governance Framework. | **Diane Richardson** |
| 6.0 | **DAERA Strategic Plan** |  |
|  | Fiona McCandless briefed the Committee on the proposed approach to developing the DAERA Strategic Plan with the aim of finalising this work by the end of 2019. The Committee agreed the proposed approach and further details will be tabled at the next Strategy Committee in February. |  |
| 7.0 | **Northern Ireland Environment Strategy** |  |
|  | Dave Foster joined the meeting and briefed the Committee on the current approach to developing a draft NI Environment Strategy with a view to eventually securing Executive approval at the appropriate time. The Committee agreed the current course of action and asked that the strategy is brought back to the Committee when it is further developed. |  |
| 8.0 | **Nitrates Action Programme Proposals** |  |
|  | Brian Ervine joined the meeting and briefed the Committee on the current proposals for the 2019-22 Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) which had recently been agreed by the NAP Project Board. Brian explained the proposals and outlined where additional measures are being introduced. The Committee reviewed the proposals and noted the position.  It was agreed that these proposals would need to be taken through the DAERA process for decision making before any public consultation could take place. |  |
| 9.0 | **AOB** |  |
|  | There was no “any other business” discussed. |  |
| 10.0 | **Date of next meeting** |  |
|  | Next meeting will be held on Friday 8 February 2019 from 10am – 12noon in the 11th Floor Conference Room, Dundonald House. |  |