**MINUTES OF DAERA STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY 6 JUNE 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

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

Perpetua McNamee Director of International Trade Facilitation

(deputising for Robert Huey)

**Apologies:**

Brian Doherty Deputy Secretary Central Services and Contingency Planning Group

Robert Huey Deputy Secretary Veterinary Service and Animal Health Group

**In Attendance:**

Jackie Robinson Director of Animal Health and Welfare Policy

(for agenda item – TB Eradication Strategy)

Dave Foster Director of Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division

(for agenda item – Clean Air Strategy)

Barry McAuley Environmental Policy Advisor, Air and Environmental Quality Branch

(for agenda item – Clean Air Strategy)

**Secretariat:**

Administrative Staff

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| **Item** | **Description** | **Action Owner** |
| 1.0 | **Conflict of Interest** |  |
|  | No conflicts of interest were declared. |  |
| 2.0 | **Northern Ireland Clean Air Strategy** |  |
|  | Dave Foster and Barry McAuley briefed the Committee on their proposals for a review of evidence, policy and legislation relating to air quality in Northern Ireland.  This would take the form of a public discussion document designed to invite views from stakeholders, with the aiming of issuing this later in the Summer. Following that, future policy proposals resulting from further consultation on the draft Strategy would be presented to a future minister.  The Committee discussed the strategy’s alignment with broader issues including the Programme for Government and the important links with other Departments and with local Councils. The Committee also discussed the format of the document and the following action point was agreed:   * Draft Clean Air strategy public discussion document to be shared with the Strategy Committee indicating how the business area intends to address comments raised by the committee relating to format and content. Also to consider engagement with local government as key stakeholder with responsibility for air quality. | **Dave Foster &**  **Barry McAuley** |
| 3.0 | **Bovine TB Eradication Strategy** |  |
|  | Jackie Robinson briefed the Committee on the development of a long term strategy to achieve eradication of bovine tuberculosis (bTB) from Northern Ireland. The Committee discussed its alignment with other strategies as well as linkages with other DAERA programmes. The Committee endorsed the broad direction of travel (rather than the specific recommendations) and agreed that Departmental Board approval should be sought regarding agreement on next steps.  The following action points were agreed:   * Incorporate links with knowledge transfer and education into the strategy; and * Options for behavioural change to be included in the consideration of finance and funding recommendations. | **Jackie Robinson**  **Jackie Robinson** |
| 4.0 | **Minutes of Previous Meeting** |  |
|  | The minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2019 were agreed. |  |
| 5.0 | **Action Points from Previous Meeting** |  |
|  | The one action point from the meeting held on 2 May was noted as complete. |  |
| 6.0 | **Decision Log from Previous Meeting** |  |
|  | The decision log was reviewed and the Committee was content. |  |
| 7.0 | **Papers for Future Meetings** |  |
|  | The Committee discussed the list of potential papers for future meetings and the following action point was agreed:   * Paper on Rural Strategy (early stages of development) to be tabled at the September meeting. | **Paul**  **Donnelly** |
| 8.0 | **Handover of Secretariat Function** |  |
|  | Diane Richardson explained that the co-secretariat from FFG would be taking over secretariat duties from the next meeting as EMFG and FFG are sharing this function. |  |
| 9.0 | **AOB** |  |
|  | The Committee discussed the need to set aside time for consideration of the DAERA Strategic Plan following on from future planned discussions by the Departmental Board. The Committee also discussed the hierarchy of DAERA strategies and the importance of these linking in with the Strategic Plan.  The following action point was agreed:   * Strategy Committee meeting date on Friday 26 July to be held for a discussion on the DAERA Strategic Plan and the secretariat to confirm agenda nearer the time.   David Reid updated the Committee on progress with resourcing the business planning and strategic alignment work that had emanated from the DAERA Senior Civil Service Group sessions. | **FFG Secretariat** |
| 10.0 | **Date of Next Meeting** |  |
|  | Next meeting will be held on Friday 26 July 2019 from 10am – 11.30am in the 11th Floor Conference Room, Dundonald House. |  |