

Food and Drink Sector Council

## 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, Monday 2 July 2018

Defra, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, Westminster, London

### **Attendees:**

#### **Food and Drink Sector Council Members:**

Judith Batchelar	Sainsbury's
Ian Wright	Food and Drink Federation
Dame Fiona Kendrick	Nestlé UK & I
Sir Peter Kendall	AHDB
Iain Ferguson	Stobart Group Ltd.
Gavin Darby	Premier Foods
The Rt Hon. John Gummer, Lord Deben	Sancroft
Cassandra Stavrou	Propercorn
Andy Richardson	Volac
Ursula Lidbetter	Greater Lincolnshire LEP; LEP Network
Nick Whelan	Dale Farm
Minette Batters	NFU
Jo Whitfield	Co-op
Jamie Phillips	ABF (standing in for George Weston)
Ian Rayson	Nestlé (Industry Secretariat)

#### **Government:**

The Rt Hon. Liam Fox, Secretary of State for International Trade

Minister George Eustice

Minister of State, Defra

David Kennedy	Director General Food, Farming and Biosecurity, Defra
John Bourne	Director Biosecurity and Food Projects, Defra
Mark Davis	Director, Population Health, DHSC
Jenny Oldroyd	Deputy Director, Obesity, Food and Nutrition, DHSC
Sue Bishop	Director of Creative, Consumer, Food, Drink and Sports Economy, DIT
Deb Hankins	Deputy Director of Food Chain, Defra
Bal Dhoot	Industrial Strategy Team Lead, Defra
Alex Williams	Head of Sector Deals, BEIS
Rory Wallace	Deputy Director, Agritech, BEIS
Hannah Ashley	Defra Secretariat
Ben Clayton	Defra Secretariat

**Additional:**

Angela Coleshill	Director, FDF
Judy Buttriss	Director General, British Nutrition Foundation

**Apologies:**

Nick Varney (Merlin Entertainments), George Weston (ABF), Leendert den Hollander (Coca-Cola European Partners) Graham Hutcheon (Edrington)

**Item 1 – Welcome and update from chairs**

The Chairs welcomed Secretary of State Liam Fox and Minister George Eustice to the meeting.

The Chairs opened the meeting with a review of progress to date, which included:

- The Council has been operational for 6 months

- The majority of the workstreams are up and running
- An interim industry secretariat is in place with formal systems (IT, branding, and a communication portal) being set up for the Council.

## **Item 2 - Food and drink manufacturing sector deal exports proposal**

Ian Wright updated Secretary of State Liam Fox and Minister George Eustice on the exports proposal of the food and drink manufacturing sector deal.

Secretary of State Liam Fox voiced his support for the proposals in principle and highlighted the importance of inward investment and outward FDI to boosting exports.

## **Item 3 – Agri-food sector strategic challenges and opportunities**

Nick Whelan made some key points on behalf of the Agricultural Productivity workstream:

- Agricultural productivity is key to any food and drink strategy
- Bringing 50% of farmers up to the top 25% of farmers would generate £1.2 billion GVA

The Agricultural Productivity working group would like to write proposals for an industry and Government partnership including data collection and knowledge exchange.

### **Action:**

- Agricultural Productivity working group to bring forward initial proposals for discussion. The intention being to have a 15 minute agenda slot at the next council meeting

Cassandra Stavrou highlighted the need for SME support through tangible initiatives:

- Improving the access and visibility of more boutique manufacturers to young brands
- Guidelines on evaluating the suitability of new markets for exports
- A matchmaking service for businesses and distribution partners
- Standardising packaging into substrates, so that they can be recycled more easily

Minette Batters proposed that the Government should use the Council as a key resource on the development of the food strategy. Minister Eustice said Government want industry to be fully engaged in this process, though it is currently at a very early stages.

Secretary of State Liam Fox and Minister George Eustice depart.

## **Item 4 – Food and drink manufacturing sector deal learnings**

Angela Coleshill presented learnings from industry's work on a food and drink manufacturing sector deal. Challenges included the fragmentation of the sector and need for long term investment. The key learnings were:

- There is a need to prioritise. The process started with very broad ambitions that were then cut down
- A successful sector deal requires a strong business and economic case, which takes a lot of resource
- Third party and industry support is essential (e.g. for commissioning research).

## **Item 5 – Communications and engagement strategy**

Ian Rayson presented on the progress of the Council's communications and engagement strategy. There are three main objectives:

- To raise awareness and understanding of Council and its role
- To mobilise the industry, farm to fork, to support and engage with the Council
- To raise awareness and gain support from parliamentarians and stakeholders

## **Item 6 – Discussion with Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on obesity**

Gavin Darby gave an update on the Nutrition workstream. The working group has set three principles:

- Additional value that the Council can add to existing work
- Leverage across the supply chain
- Focus in on key areas to ensure effective progress

Judy Buttriss updated on the scope for the Nutrition workstream. The emerging themes were around childhood obesity and improving child nutrition and adding value to healthy food.

Judith Batchelar highlighted the link to innovation, which through the working group can help join up soil, plant, animal and human health. There is also a role to join up the cross-sector councils within this space.

Mark Davis and Jenny Oldroyd presented on the Childhood Obesity Plan Chapter 2 (COP2), covering why it is important and what progress has been made. DHSC have arranged consultations that should capture all of industry and invited Council members to feed in views.

## **Item 7 – Workstream updates**

Each Council member was provided with a two-page update on all of the working groups.

## **Item 8 – Final comments**

The next meeting is on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 9:00.