

## FOOD AND DRINK SECTOR COUNCIL

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January

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
Leendert den Hollander	IGD, Coca-Cola European Partners
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

#### **Government:**

The Rt Hon. Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

George Eustice MP, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Sally Warren	Director of Food Chain, Defra
Niall Mackenzie	Director of Infrastructure & Materials, BEIS
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

**Apologies:**

Nick Varney (Merlin Entertainments), Graham Hutcheon (Edrington), Jo Whitfield (Co-op Food), George Weston (ABF), Alex Williams (BEIS)

**Item 1 – Welcome and introductions**

Co-chairs Sally Warren (SW) and Iain Ferguson (IF) welcomed attendees and introduced the Secretary of State and Minister of State to all Council members.

Both the Secretary of State and Minister of State made opening remarks on the importance of the Council. They outlined the need and opportunity for industry to challenge themselves and Government, whilst working closely together to effect change. The Secretary of State will support and be an advocate for the Council, and believes that it is important for Ministerial and senior level representatives from across Government to be involved and support the Council's work.

**Item 2 – Summarising the role of the Council**

a. The vision of the Council

It was agreed that the proposed Council vision presents a good framework.

b. Terms of Reference

It was agreed that the industry chair will be in post for one year. The Government chair will be ongoing. Iain Ferguson will continue as the industry co-chair.

It was agreed that the responsibility for the Council members appointment should be clarified, appointment by Defra on behalf of the Secretary of State would seem appropriate to the seniority of the appointees.

It was agreed that the Council will meet on a quarterly basis and membership of the Council will be kept under review in coming months to ensure appropriate representation from across the sector. Invites to any future members will come from Defra.

Relevant Whitehall policy departments will be invited to Council meetings. The Terms of Reference will make clear that, as well as looking at the entire sector from farm to fork, the Council is working across Government and will need to interact with multiple departments.

Working groups will be set up by the Council to take forward work in key priority areas. Each working group will be chaired by an industry member of the Council.

**Actions:**

- Defra to confirm dates for the next meetings and put in diaries

- Defra to alter wording of the ToR to add greater emphasis on the need for cross-Government working

### **Item 3 – Council agenda for the year**

#### a. Sequencing working groups

The sequencing of the working groups was agreed, with the first three being Workforce, Agricultural Productivity and Nutrition. Fiona Kendrick (FK) is the Workforce lead, Gavin Darby (GD) is the Nutrition lead and Peter Kendall (PK) is the Agricultural Productivity lead.

The exports workstream will also begin with a scoping discussion between Graham Hutcheon, the Council lead on exports, DIT and Defra.

#### b. Cross-Council priorities

The Council discussed how the working groups will operate and report into the Council.

Each working group will bring together industry expertise and knowledge to scope and deliver recommendations for the Council. They will build on existing work and networks where possible. Working groups will need to be balanced in their make-up and impartial in their approach. They will include relevant Government representatives, SMEs and LEPS.

Working groups will need dedicated project managers to oversee delivery alongside the working group chair. It is envisaged that project managers may be secondees from industry.

#### c. Operating model of the working groups

The industry working group chairs will develop proposals to take forward the priority areas identified for their workstreams. They will also set out a plan to resource their workstream, drawing on industry resource, and will set out how they will interact with the Council and with relevant Government representatives.

Working groups will need to be balanced in their make-up and impartial in their approach. Working groups will involve SMEs and LEPS.

Actions:

- Each working group lead to develop a one page proposition to be submitted to the Council by the end of February.

### **Item 4 – Working groups**

#### a. Review of three prioritised working groups

Each lead from Agricultural Productivity, Nutrition and Workforce gave an update on their work stream.

b. Reviewing papers on each work stream

The first three work stream leads produced one-page summaries for the meeting, which were discussed.

**Item 5 – Sector deal**

Sector Deals are one potential vehicle to achieve the aims of the Sector Council. The Council agreed that proposals for sector deals could be developed from sub sectors or cross cutting themes – and any sector deal proposal should align with the vision of the Council and the Council should be given an opportunity to help shape the proposals.

The FDF had been developing a sector deal proposal during 2017 on food and drink manufacturing. The Council agreed that this work should continue, and that a challenge panel should be set up to ensure Council members could scrutinise and inform the proposals. This could become the model for consideration of any further proposal.

Action:

- FDF will circulate the latest draft of their proposal to Council members
- The Council will arrange a challenge panel in the third week of February

**Item 6 – Communications**

The secretariat will produce a document setting out the Council operating model, including how the Council will act as an overarching body to oversee a range of activities and projects, including but not limited to Sector Deals. This will include how the Council works across policy areas, departments and programmes.

Action:

- Defra to provide a framework document to the Council

**Item 7 – AOB**

A summary of key actions as outlined above was given.