

Food and Drink Sector Council

## 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, Monday 23 April 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
Leendert den Hollander	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
Minette Batters	NFU
Jo Whitfield	Co-op
Graham Hutcheon	Edrington
Ian Rayson	Nestlé (Industry Secretariat)

#### **Government:**

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

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
Henry Dimbleby	Non-Executive Director, Defra
Hannah Ashley	Defra Secretariat
Ben Clayton	Defra Secretariat

### **Observers:**

Jamie Phillips	ABF
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### **Apologies:**

Nick Varney (Merlin Entertainments), George Weston (ABF), Alex Williams (BEIS)

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

The Chairs opened the meeting with a review of the meeting objectives, which included:

- Updates on activities including the workstreams
- Capturing what is working well
- Update on the sector deal for the Secretary of State

The Chairs introduced Minette Batters, Jo Whitfield and Graham Hutcheon to their first Council meeting.

Henry Dimbleby and Jamie Phillips were there to observe the meeting. Ian Rayson was in attendance as the interim industry secretariat.

Two frameworks were presented to the Council, which aimed to describe the activities and structure of the Council. It was agreed that the framework needed to develop:

- Overarching aims of the Council
- Displaying where consumers sit within the framework
- How Government departments cut across all of the workstreams
- The roles of the working groups, how they interact with each other and what success looks like
- Adding the secretariat function to the working groups
- Identifying cross-cutting issues relevant to all working groups e.g. block chain and AI
- Reasons why there is a Sector Council

**Action:**

- Bal Dhoot and Ian Rayson to alter the framework to include the changes mentioned by Council members

The Chairs updated the Council on operational changes. There is an anchoring system in place for three of the workstreams: Agricultural Productivity (AHDB), Nutrition (BNF) and Workforce (FDF). Each workstream will look to extend its membership from its core group to bring in individuals from industry to act as a wider advisory group.

Ian Rayson of Nestlé is the new interim industrial secretariat, supported by the Food and Drink Federation (FDF).

The Council needs to ensure that it forms linkages with the work of other sector councils, especially retail.

**Action:**

- Defra to link in to the Retail Sector Council

## **Item 2 – Synopsis of work to date**

Secretary of State arrives.

The Chairs provided an update for the Secretary of State on the progress of the Council.

## **Item 3 – Sector deal progress**

Ian Wright presented to the Council and the Secretary of State on the food and drink manufacturing sector deal. The key points were:

- The main ambition is to drive growth 1.5% above trend up to 2030 and add an additional £8bn gross value to the economy through exports and innovation
- FDF have engaged not only with industry but many other key stakeholders including universities and business councils
- Exports proposal: a new web portal for food and drink exporters, increased specialist support for food and drink exporters in priority markets, market intelligence
- Innovation proposal: a network of demonstrators across the country to support the take up of engineering innovation, linking academics to those in the field and manufacturers interested in innovating
- Funding will come from a mix of industry, government and R&D tax credits

The Secretary of State recommended that there should be an 'awkward customer' in place, the point of view of an innovator, to challenge and better the sector deal. He also recommended having measurable, reasonable projections for where export growth should go.

The Secretary of State voiced his support for the sector deal.

He would also drive to get other people from across Government to the Sector Council to rally support.

## **Item 4 – Workstream updates**

### **1. Agricultural Productivity**

Peter Kendall presented on the Agricultural Productivity workstream. We need to recognise the scale of the challenge. There needs to be a strong campaign from retailers, processors, banks and others to help communicate this to industry.

An industry collaboration has been established to improve productivity in the dairy sector by focusing on identifying first limiting factor KPIs for individual farms, improving cow longevity and encouraging investment across the supply chain.

### **2. Workforce**

Fiona Kendrick presented on the Workforce workstream. The working group will operate in three phases. The first will identify and map the current workforce in the UK. The second will map out opportunities and challenges for the workforce. The third will engage in future planning and develop longer term thinking.

Fiona confirmed that they are engaging with universities who are interested in making industry links.

### **3. Nutrition**

Gavin Darby presented on the Nutrition workstream. The working group has scoped a range of areas where industry could focus its efforts. It will now look to identify which area to prioritise. Once this has been decided the working group will be populated with expertise. Gavin provided a table of scope for the Council.

Defra will facilitate engagement with DHSC. Gavin will see if the British Nutrition Foundation (BNF) can provide the resourcing for a secretariat.

#### **Action:**

- Judith Batchelar to use a British Nutrition Foundation (BNF) assembly to have a slot on the Council and Nutrition workstream
- Defra to set up a meeting with the Nutrition working group and the Department of Health

## **Item 5 – Workstream best practice**

The workstream convener meeting was cancelled due to availability, but for best practice going forward the conveners will meet before every Council meeting.

### **Action:**

- Industry secretariat to arrange a workstream convener meeting in 4-5 weeks' time

## **Item 6 – What does success look like?**

Ian Rayson and Bal Dhoot presented on what success looks like for the Council, with a timeline of different phases over 18 months. This included a 2025 ambition for the Council:

To increase the productivity and sustainability of the UK food and drink sector to secure its competitive position as a global leader in safe, sustainable, high quality food and drink\*

\*Ambition to align to delivery of key Government strategies and plans for the sector

This ambition was discussed it was agreed that it should be inspirational. It should evoke the attention of key stakeholders including customers, industry and Government.

### **Action:**

- Ian Rayson and Bal Dhoot to incorporate changes to the ambition statement

## **Item 7 – Final comments**

The Chairs highlighted that a successful Council will need to attract the right people, and have a clear definition on the Council ambitions.

The next meeting is on the 2 July 2018 at 14:30 in Nobel House.