

**SUMMARY OF THE PORK SECTOR COUNCIL
MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2022
VIRTUAL**

PRESENT: Mike Sheldon (MS) – Chair, Robert Beckett (RBe), Robert Mutimer (RM), Mark Houghton (MH), William De Klein (WDK), Jodie Bolland (JB), Hugh Crabtree (HC), Tim Bradshaw (TB), Rupinder Ashworth (RA),

APOLOGIES: Chris Aldersley (CA), Robin Thompson (RT)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Angela Christison (AC)
David Eudall (DE)- specific item
Tom Dracup (TD) – specific item
Chris Gooderham (CG) – specific item
Phil Hadley (PH) – specific item
Ouafa Doxon (OD) - specific item
Lauren Cordingley (LG) – specific item
Caroline Burniston (CB) – minute taker

Apologies for absence

The Chair opened the meeting at 8.30am and welcomed those in attendance.
Apologies were received from Chris Aldersley and Robin Thompson.

Declarations of Interest

There were no new declarations of interest.

Minutes from the meeting held on 6th October 2022

The minutes from the meeting held on the 6th October were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

Matters arising

AC updated on all actions, clarifying all complete with the exception of Slaughter numbers which featured later today on the agenda.

Sector Report/ Management Accounts

There was discussion over the number of sows/pigs likely over the next few years. MS confirmed that it was not possible to be accurate in forecasting as there was not mandatory reporting of services/pigs in the pipeline currently. AC said that existing data sources were being re-examined by the MI team to review expected pig numbers/levy income, this would be shared as part of the budget review (in Feb 23).

Budget

AC confirmed that the budget would be shared at the February meeting ready to sign off for the new financial year. The budgets are being developed in line with the direction of travel agreed by the council (via the Prioritisation grid) to the extent that it varies considerably from that calls may be needed with the council in the new year to discuss.

AHDB pork and vote eligibility discussion

AC referred to the paper which intended to make the council aware of this change to the Pork sector (only) in relation to the criteria that enables people to vote from a keeper to a person that pays the levy. The paper confirms that changes to the Statutory Instrument have been requested. The Council were supportive of this.

Pork Roadmap – Chris Gooderham

The council supported this sensible and clear paper which described how the pork road map would be developed to add value to that already developed within the industry. The aim is to enable the industry to explain what had and will be done to minimise the impact of pig production on the environment. It was agreed that it would be ideal if there was alignment across GB.

The council approved the paper.

Export update – Phil Hadley

PH delivered a presentation covering Export activity within the sector. Key points raised: -

- China will lift Covid restrictions after Jan 2023 (Chinese New Year) which will improve domestic price, then overseas visitors will be welcomed.
- Trade with EU has risen this year (YTD Jan – Aug) to account for 44% of pigment export.
- Trade in Europe pre-Brexit/Covid compared to now - 178,000T worth £269M in 2019 v 129,000T worth £199M for the current year.

MI update – David Eudall/Tom Dracup

Revised draft standard and nonstandard pig definitions given by DE to the council. It was agreed that validation and audit procedures should be reviewed given the recent changes in the industry.

MS confirmed there was no appetite currently to introduce an additional pig price but was grateful for the work that had been carried out.

MS clarified that the Council are happy to agree the definitions descriptions on the basis that the suggested tweaks are adopted (current wording too complex)

The team to carry on reporting as standard for the time being.

CCIR - Ouafa Doxon

OD introduced herself to the Council and gave an overview of her role and responsibilities. MS thanks OD for the work that had gone into this area particularly the tidying up of data flows.

MS stated that significant challenges remained to improve CCIR, many of which must be led by the FSA. Mike has written to the CEO of the FSA to offer our continued support to make CCIR a success, especially in the light of the Pig Health Scheme no longer being levy funded.

Primo Report update – Lauren Cordingley

AC referred to the enclosed report (that had been originally shown to the council several months ago). There had been no developments whilst Defra considered its response to the report (that it had commissioned AHDB to do).

MS stated the importance of clarifying that the recommendations within the report are not being generated from the Sector Council. LG confirmed once the response is finalised from Defra it can then be shared to the Sector Council prior to the report being publishing.

AOB

Competition Law – relates to, for example, the Councils discussion on prices, to ensure groups cannot get together and fix a price on market. This will be a standing item on the agenda as part of governance.

Ministerial approval is being sought for Chair and Sector Council members vacancy advertising.

HC requested if there was an Agri Advisory group associated with AHDB

Regarding 2023 meeting dates, until clarification is available for whether the meetings will be either face to face or virtual, it was suggested to secure in diaries on the assumption that each meeting would be face to face. Confirmation that the 28th of February 20203 meeting will be MS final

meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting at 12.12pm and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Signed:

Date:

