

## Terms of reference

### Overview

The Food and Drink Sector Council (FDSC) has been established to act as a Sector Council for the entire farm to fork food chain, covering farming, manufacturing, retail, hospitality and logistics. Its objective is to improve the productivity and sustainability of the industry. It will do this through providing a mechanism for the sector to develop industry led approaches and solutions to boosting growth and productivity across the food chain. It will also strengthen partnerships between the UK Government and the industry. Government will facilitate in removing barriers where appropriate, ensuring that relevant departments and public sector organisations are engaged.

### Aims and Objectives

The FDSC seeks to forge an equitable, responsible and forward-looking agenda for the industry, capable of boosting the UK's productivity, GVA and securing the UK's position as a global leader in affordable, safe, sustainable and high-quality food and drink.

The creation of this partnership between Government and Industry will support the:

- Creation of a resilient food system, able to withstand domestic and international volatility
- Provision by industry of high quality, affordable products
- Contribution to improving public health through better nutrition and diet
- Reduction of industry's environmental impacts through reductions in waste and emissions
- Development of new opportunities for a skilled workforce
- Growth of food and drink exports

### Chairing of the FDSC

The FDSC will be jointly chaired by industry and Government.

The industry Chair will be appointed for a one year period. This may be extended on a rolling year-by-year basis, subject to agreement by members of the Council.

### Membership & Governance

The Council is made up of senior figures from across industry and government.

Membership is by invitation only and is subject to final agreement by the joint Chairs.

Members will be formally appointed by Defra on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Those invited to be members do so primarily on an individual basis, not on behalf of the organisations they represent.

The FDSC shall not to be used to address individual company issues or to directly pursue commercial interests.

Members are expected to attend and make an active contribution to the Council meetings wherever possible. Failure to attend three consecutive meetings will lead to a review of membership. Continued failure to attend may lead to a withdrawal of membership, subject to agreement by the Chair.

Members will not be paid for their participation in the FDSC. Members will bring with them the authority, resources and commitment necessary to help fulfil the work of the Council.

## **Operational activities**

The key activities of the FDSC will be delivered through a number of working groups, which will have representation from both industry and the Government Departments that have an interest in the subject matter. Both the Council and these working groups will work closely with the relevant departments from across Government.

Each working group will have a Chair appointed, whose role it will be to lead the area of work and report on progress to the main body of the Council on a regular basis.

The Council will have meetings four times a year. Working group meetings will be set up by the Chair on a needs basis to deliver priorities agreed by the Council.

The working group Chair is responsible for developing proposals, conducting meetings and for capturing, communicating, and tracking agreed actions including deliverables.

All documents marked confidential should be treated as such and are not for circulation beyond the members of the Council.

## **The FDSC Secretariat**

The roles of the Secretariat will be split between the Defra Industrial Strategy team and the food and drink industry's own mechanisms. The Secretarial functions will work together to ensure the working groups operate as efficiently and effectively as possible. Industry will provide full secretariat support for the working groups.

## **Food and Drink Sector Council Priorities**

*“This new Food and Drink Sector Council will lead the work to secure the UK’s position as a global leader in sustainable, affordable, safe and high-quality food and drink. An early task for this sector council will be to build on emerging proposals for a sector deal in food and drink manufacturing, including support to transform exports and capitalise on its unique innovation opportunities in sustainable agriculture and food manufacturing.”*

Industrial Strategy: building a Britain fit for the future – November 2017

The priority areas that the FDSC will look to address include:

### **1. Agricultural productivity**

#### **Vision:**

A competitive, sustainable agricultural and horticultural production base in the UK that underpins our domestic supply chain, meets the demands of British consumers and helps grow our exports.

#### **Objective:**

Accelerate the growth of UK agricultural and horticultural productivity to overtake our major competitors by 2030.

### **2. Nutrition: balanced diets and wellbeing**

#### **Vision:**

A coherent nutrition agenda which advances balanced diets, tackles obesity and provides for the poorly nourished while giving wide choice to consumers and ready and clear information about their food and drink.

#### **Objective:**

Delivering safe, high-quality food and drink options for the UK’s consumers and shoppers, with targeted innovation, education and marketing to enable consumers to make informed purchasing decisions and enjoy balanced diets.

### **3. Logistics and distribution**

#### **Vision:**

Supporting the UK’s food and drink supply chains by enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of the UK’s food and drink logistics operations.

**Objective:**

Developing a roadmap for the future of UK food and drink logistics, to secure supply chains, increase capacity and catalyse increases in exports, trusted by consumers, retailers, manufacturers and farmers.

**4. Packaging: recycling and waste****Vision:**

Building a path to a truly circular system of food and drink packaging, ensuring the environmental sustainability of food and drink products.

**Objective:**

Develop a food packaging strategy, with as high a proportion of recyclable packaging and packaging made from recycled material, as possible.

**5. Workforce: developing skills and labour****Vision:**

A secure supply of skilled and seasonal labour, driving productivity gains and continuing to produce world-class products for domestic and international markets.

**Objective:**

Securing a world-class workforce capable of enabling the food and drink industry to continue to be world-leading producers of quality, affordable and sustainably-produced food and drink.

**6. Innovation and technological advancements****Vision:**

Seizing the opportunity to lead the world in food and drink innovation, including through artificial intelligence, blockchain and data-embedded barcodes.

**Objective:**

Accelerating innovation opportunities to enhance productivity, transparency, legal compliance in value chains and communications with consumers.

**7. Exports****Vision:**

Becoming a world-leading exporter of high-quality agri-technology and sustainably produced food and drink products.

**Objective:**

Boosting exports in all food and drink categories, doubling the value of the UK's food and drink exports by 2025.

**8. Sector Deal**

The Council will work to develop emerging proposals in food and drink manufacturing into a Sector Deal. It will also play a central role in the developing of other sector deals within the food chain where appropriate.