

MINUTES

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON THURSDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 2.30PM AT LISSUE HOUSE

Present:

Mr P O'Rourke (Chairman)
Mr I Mark
Mr J Noble
Mr P O'Neill
Mr K Sharkey

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson
Miss S Blain

Mr T O'Neill joined the meeting at 2.30pm

2013/8/1 Meeting with the Chairman of the Agri-Food Strategy Board

The Chairman introduced Mr T O'Neill, Chairman of the Agri-Food Strategy Board, and welcomed him to the Board Meeting.

The Chief Executive gave a brief presentation on what LMC is about, and demonstrated, with some examples, how LMC activities dovetail with recommendations in the "Going for Growth" report produced by the Agri-Food Strategy Board.

The Chairman commented that LMC welcomed the report, and its ambitious recommendations. LMC is keen to engage with AFSB in the delivery of the "Going for Growth" report and its findings, and is interested to know what progress has been made in the implementation of the report.

Mr O'Neill updated the Board on the progress of the report. The NI Executive is expected to endorse the report and its findings at its meeting in November 2013.

In the meantime, work is going on in the background as to how different Government departments will contribute to the implementation of the report's recommendations. The aim is to have a lead name from Government, or industry who will take ownership of each recommendation.

The Board had some discussion following the update from Mr T O'Neill.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked Mr O'Neill for his attendance at the Board Meeting, and felt that it had been useful to have the discussion on the "Going for Growth" report, which will have a far reaching impact on the Agri-Food industry in Northern Ireland.

Mr O'Neill left the meeting at 3.45pm

2013/8/2 Apologies

An apology had been received from Mrs M McCormack.

2013/8/3 Minutes

The minutes of a meeting held on 24 July 2013 were approved by the Commission, and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr I Mark
Seconded: Mr K Sharkey

2013/8/4 Matters arising

(i) *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*

(ii) **LMC Annual Report and Accounts**

Action Point: The Board agreed to discuss the publication format of next year's Annual Report 2013/14 at the December 13/January 14 Board Meeting.

(iii) *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*

(iv) *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*

(v) **DARD/LMC Joint Event**

The Chief Executive advised that the joint event will be the launch of Food Fortress on 27 November 2013 at Greenmount. The Board Members will have the opportunity to meet privately with the DARD Minister immediately prior to the event.

(vi) **GB/NI Price Differential Project**

The Chief Executive advised the Board that the new target date for publication of the final report will be October 2013, pending receipt of some final important data, and editorial agreement with Oxford Economics and the Steering Group.

2013/8/5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on meetings he had attended since the last Board Meeting.

(i) Meeting with DARD Permanent Secretary

The Chairman and Chief Executive had met with the DARD Permanent Secretary. A range of topics were covered, including a discussion on outstanding implementation group issues.

(ii) Meeting with HCC

The Chairman and Chief Executive met with HCC, and had a very useful discussion on how LMC and HCC compare and contrast.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will provide a more detailed note on these discussions for the next Board Meeting.

2013/8/6 Chief Executive's Report

(i) Red Meat Levies

The Board discussed a letter received from Mr D Heath MP (Minister of State for Agriculture and Food) regarding red meat levies.

Action Point: The Board agreed a response to the letter which would support LMC's participation in a new forum instigated by AHDB.

(ii) Live Export Levy Options

The Board discussed several issues in relation to live export levy.

Action Point: The Board asked the Chief Executive to identify current or new activities which LMC could fund through a live export levy, and subject them to a state aid test.

Action Point: The Board also asked the Chief Executive to investigate how Bord Bia dealt with live export levies.

2013/8/7 Any Other Business

(i) Anuga 2013

The Chairman and Chief Executive will be attending a number of meetings/functions when they visit the Anuga 2013 exhibition in October.

(ii) Management Accounts

The Board was circulated with a copy of Management Accounts to June 2013, and a revised forecast for the year to March 2014.

Action Point: The Chief Executive and management team will consider the impact of the revised forecast on existing activities, and if any reallocation of funding is necessary.

2013/8/8 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Board Meeting would be held at 11.30am at Lissie House on Wednesday 23rd October 2013.

The meeting ended at 6.00pm