

## AHDB Horticulture Board meeting

### SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE INTERIM MEETING OF THE HORTICULTURE BOARD HELD AT 12PM ON 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021

#### Teleconference

**PRESENT:** Hayley Campbell-Gibbons (HCG), Mark Eves (ME), Roma Gwynn (RGw), Keston Williams (KW), Michael Barker (MB), Rob Saunders (RS), Peter Judge (PJ), Robert James (RJ)

**APOLOGIES –** Jamie Dewhurst (JD), Rob James (RJ)

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ken Boyns (KB) – Divisional Director – Services, Finance & Operations, Lenka Rihova (LR) - Minutes

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1 – Welcome & Apologies for absence**

The Chair opened the meeting at 12pm and welcomed those in attendance. The purpose of this call was to give the Board an update on key meeting with DEFRA and an update on legacy project/ options for transfer of legacy products and services to third parties.

There were apologies from JD and RJ.

The Chair's term finishes on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021. There is a number of board members that are due to finish in September/October. The aim was to discuss the Horticulture governance required on an interim basis and beyond.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 2 – Update from KB**

A meeting between the Secretary of State and officials had been held. Progress made, some clarity received around direction of travel. There might be a consultation/update on statutory instrument in October.

AHDB will share the consultation document with the Board once received an approval from Defra. All is subject to HM Treasury approval and the devolved governments. It is expected that the Horticulture and Potatoes levies will end in March 2022, however at Defra's request, AHDB will keep the EAMU system operating in 22/23. That will allow Defra and industry to work out how to run & fund the EAMU service in the future. KB reported on the key questions that will be included in the consultation (e.g. ability to reintroduce the Hort/Potatoes statutory levy by the industry).

KB reported on levy rates. Funding for the EAMU 22/23 would come out of the Horticulture sector reserves.

KB reported on Horticulture governance. AHDB are collecting levy 21/22. There will be a new way of appointing to Sector Councils. There are a number of Board members who are due to finish in September/October. A 6 month extension will be offered to these members (to be discussed on 21<sup>st</sup> September at the AHDB Board meeting). There might be a possibility for one of the current Board members to take on an interim Chair position and act as an observer at the main AHDB Board meeting.

A discussion took place around the current role of the Horticulture Board. It is important to execute the wind down and the exit in line with what has been agreed and determined by the AHDB Board. Further discussions to be held (mandate, function and requirement the Board need to meet). Key is to identify the fundamental direction of travel and responsibility of this Board (Terms of Reference). This is important in order to support the AHDB Board.

The Board discussed research work and its importance. A monitoring process against the commitments made is required.

Panels – meeting pencilled in for Sept/October to give an update on research projects (Defra involved) and an update on financials of the projects.

KB reported on legacy wind down arrangements. The key is to ensure that the research remains available in the future (benefit to the levy payers, open access).