

2021-2024 Policy/Delivery Co-ordination Group

Thematic Sub-group Chairs Meeting

Wednesday 05 June 2019

Minutes

Attendees

[REDACTED] Andrew Watson (SLURP) [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Welcome and introduction

1. [REDACTED], welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the thematic sub-groups chairs. This meeting was an action point from the 2021-2024 Policy/Delivery Co-ordination Group.

Purpose and background

2. All attendees were at the previous Co-ordination Group meeting so this agenda item was skipped *[for information these are listed below from the terms of reference document]*.
3. *[Purpose] Due to the volume and range of areas to be considered working groups will be formed to consider individual policy areas. These will be short life groups and will report to the Co-ordination Group.*
4. *[Background] It was agreed that a meeting would be set for the proposed sub-group chairs to discuss the scope of the groups, provide consistency of approach and manage the handover of any work from the Simplification Taskforce.*

Remit [see proposed remit paper]

5. [REDACTED] provided a summary of the terms of reference document and a discussion was had about the focus of the groups and where this work sits in the wider policy and delivery context. [REDACTED] reiterated that the primary consideration for this work is to ensure the schemes will run from 2021 (to 2024) with a focus on stability and simplicity within the current legal framework and programme/scheme architecture. The starting assumptions are the same scheme, budget and CAP compliance.
6. Secondary consideration would be given to improvements and policy changes where it fits with policy/stakeholder needs, Ministerial priorities (climate change, etc.) and the future CAP. There would need to be careful

consideration of delivery implications ([REDACTED] noted 18 months for delivery changes which from October is March 2021). Any longer term issues or proposed pilots would be handed over to the future policy group for consideration. Our ability to make changes is dependent on if EU rules apply and if we have the Bill in place. [REDACTED] noted the Committee on Climate Change recommendations state agriculture is already facing a period of considerable change and suggested actions from 2022. It is a priority for the future policy group but we should have consideration for what can be done in pilots during 2021-2024.

7. [REDACTED] noted consideration of impact assessments would be required by the groups as the proposed Bill will only be doing partial ones. The last SRDP had programme level impact assessments and the intent would be for this to continue so while the groups needs to have consideration (and capture this on the project documentation) they would not be expected to undertake the assessments.
8. The question of stakeholder engagement in the groups was raised. It was agreed these groups should be internal. The stakeholder position is known in the individual areas and there will be full engagement when the overall package of proposals is known. A Communications and Handling Plan will be prepared, with the ARD Stakeholder Group being the proposed forum for regular stakeholder updates. [REDACTED] noted timing was key in what we do once we have the final group reports. It needs to be made clear that we are working on these issues and consideration is required about how we do this in October. The proposed Rumbles group was mentioned but [REDACTED] confirmed when this is running it will be looking at the period of 2024 and beyond.
9. [REDACTED]The Co-ordination Group will provide oversight to sense check the group updates and reports with consideration of the policy priorities and the overall package of schemes. [REDACTED] suggested a meeting is arranged with [REDACTED] to sense check our approach based on emerging policy priorities (e.g. climate emergency and PfG) to ensure we are all working together and can feed information to groups and Ministers.
10. The output would be an options table that includes different scenarios for schemes based on Brexit, budgets, economic challenges, policy priorities and what delivers the best outcomes. This would include information on delivery implications and impact assessments. It would need to be evidence based. The baseline would be the schemes continuing, unchanged, with the same annual budget as now.

AP1 – Arrange session with [REDACTED] to sense check (August)

Issues [see remit paper - Annex A]

11. A discussion was had about relevant sources of information that could inform the sub-group work which included: Stability and Simplicity consultation, A

New Blueprint for Scotland's Rural Economy (National Council of Rural Advisers), A Future Strategy for Scottish Agriculture (Agricultural Champions), and the CAP Greening Group discussion paper. [REDACTED] noted the Simplification Taskforce would be a good source of information. It was agreed to collate and summarise these sources of information for the group chairs. [REDACTED] noted we could look at what other Member States are doing.

12. The group discussed the issues paper and make suggestions for additional issues to consider. [REDACTED] noted the starting point should be consideration of if the scheme is required. [REDACTED] added we need to strengthen the issue about the implications of annual budgets and also consider the potential economic shock of Brexit. [REDACTED] noted the need to expand on the climate change issue to focus on the climate emergency, biodiversity and adaption. Resilient farming and consideration of the wider UK policy approach were also discussed.

AP2 – Update the issues paper based on the group discussion

AP3 – Collate and summarise relevant sources of information for chairs

Membership [see membership paper]

13. [REDACTED] queried if he could sub-divide his group further and [REDACTED] queried if her group name could be changed to reflect the focus areas. [REDACTED] was content for the group chairs to operate as they saw fit.
14. [REDACTED] raised the issue of cross compliance in relation to the environment and the direct support groups. He will provide names for group membership and asked that the templates includes a section to reflect issues including reducing inspection rates and impacts on deliverability.
15. [REDACTED] asked where technical assistance would sit. [REDACTED] will add it to the project management group. [REDACTED] noted the crossover between forestry and environment but he and [REDACTED] would liaise as appropriate.

AP4 – Change group name and add technical assistance

AP5 – [REDACTED] to nominate members (noting cross compliance)

AP6 – Cross compliance to be added to the template

Secretariat and business support

16. [REDACTED] confirmed each chair would be expected to secure secretariat support from their areas. He volunteered [REDACTED] to provide support to [REDACTED] for arranging internal meetings.
17. [REDACTED] noted PMO would be unable to provide support as they are at capacity. They would provide training, templates and advice as required. It

was agreed groups could run without PMO support provided they had the required templates.

AP7 – Chairs to arrange secretariat support for their groups

AP8 – [REDACTED] to provide meeting support to [REDACTED]

AP9 – PMO to liaise with project management team about templates

Duration and frequency of meetings

18. The Co-ordination Group will meet again on Wednesday 26 June, Tuesday 13 August, Wednesday 11 September, and Tuesday 08 October. The sub-groups would provide monthly highlight reports to the project management team. It would inform the overall project documentation. This would be reported to the Co-ordination Group and Paying Agency Planning and Performance Board. Chairs were reminded the thematic sub-groups were to report back on final options [REDACTED].
19. [REDACTED] proposed the group chairs only meet by exception and noted the possibility to change a Co-ordination Group meeting to a group chairs meeting if required.

Next steps

20. Chairs to approach members and arrange sub-group meetings.
21. Project templates will be created and distributed for comment along with a document containing inputs.

AP10 – Chairs to populate groups and arrange meetings

AP11 – Project templates and inputs to be created and sent to chairs

AOB

22. N/A.

Action Points

AP	Description	Owner	Deadline	Status
AP1	Arrange session with [REDACTED] to sense check (August)	[REDACTED]	August	Pending
AP2	Update the issues paper based on the group discussion	[REDACTED]	07 June	Complete
AP3	Collate and summarise relevant sources of information for chairs	[REDACTED]	w/c 10 June	Complete
AP4	Change group name and add technical assistance	[REDACTED]	07 June	Complete
AP5	[REDACTED] to nominate members (noting cross compliance)	[REDACTED]	w/c 10 June	
AP6	Cross compliance to be added to the template	[REDACTED]	w/c 10 June	Complete
AP7	Chairs to arrange secretariat support for their groups	Chairs		On-going
AP8	[REDACTED] to provide meeting support to [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	N/A	On-going
AP9	PMO to liaise with project management team about templates	[REDACTED]	w/c 10 June	Complete
AP10	Chairs to populate groups and arrange meetings	Chairs		On-going
AP11	Project templates and inputs to be created and sent to chairs	[REDACTED]	w/c 10 June	Complete