

<b>Report on</b>	DAERA consultation on a Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McClements

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>  If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	This report is to inform Members about DAERA's consultation on a Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Food contributes to Northern Ireland's regional economic prosperity and can help to address many of its significant societal challenges. There is growing international acceptance of the interconnectedness between food, health and the environment. There is an expectation that a food system should ensure environmental, social and economic sustainability. There is also a growing interest in sustainable healthy diets.
2.2	The draft Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework recognises the interconnectedness around food and proposes an innovative strategic food systems approach. It sets out a long term vision, high level principles and areas for strategic focus to optimise cross-departmental working on food matters in Northern Ireland to deliver Programme for Government and departmental objectives. The vision is a transformed food system that protects natural resources for future generations, is economically and environmentally sustainable and provides safe, nourishing, accessible food to people, who make informed healthy choices. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has been leading on the development of this cross-departmental Framework with input from other Departments and a wide range of external stakeholders.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>During the development process of the Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework, six strategic priorities were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Priority One:</b> Building connections between health /wellbeing and food Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.</li> <li>• <b>Priority Two:</b> Building Sustainable Economic Prosperity</li> <li>• <b>Priority Three:</b> Building a Food Culture and Food Conscious Society</li> <li>• <b>Priority Four:</b> Protecting and Enhancing our Natural Resources</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Priority Five:</b> Building Healthy Lives through Food Education</li> <li>• <b>Priority Six:</b> Building and maintaining appropriate Emergency Contingency plans across the supply chain.</li> </ul>
3.2	This consultation welcomes views on the proposals for a cross-departmental Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework. In particular, views are sought on the proposed vision, principles and goals of a Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework (see attached in Appendix 1).
3.3	Northern Ireland Food Managers Group, which sits under Environmental Health Northern Ireland (EHNI), has prepared a response to DAERA's consultation on a Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework. This consultation response has been considered and reviewed by the Environmental Health Department and is attached at Appendix 2.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: N/a
	Human: N/a
	Risk Management: N/a
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/a
	Rural Needs Implications: N/a
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	It is recommended that Members note the content of the attached response from the Environmental Health department on this consultation and if in agreement, the consultation response to be returned to DAERA in advance of the deadline (19 <sup>th</sup> November 2021).
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 – Consultation letter to stakeholders and Consultation document on the Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework.
6.2	Appendix 2 – Response to DAERA's consultation on a Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework.