

# Joint Statement by the Farming and Food Partnership Board

The Farming and Food Partnership Board held its first meeting today, bringing together representatives from across the farming and food supply chain to strengthen collaboration, champion domestic production and improve the long-term resilience of England's food system. Members recognised the significant pressures facing farmers and growers, including global shocks and rising input costs, and agreed that strengthening our domestic food production is essential to the nation's food security and economic stability.

The Board confirmed its mission to drive medium to long term improvements in farm productivity, increases in farm profitability and strengthen the contribution of domestically produced food to national food security.

Members agreed to work together as equal partners, drawing on evidence, expertise and influence from across the supply chain to build a strong, shared vision and a clearer understanding of the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Members also agreed how the Board will operate, committing to a collaborative and transparent approach. They endorsed the use of sub-groups and sector led- expert groups to take forward more detailed work including on sector growth plans.

The Board confirmed that Sector Growth Plans will be a core mechanism for driving progress towards the Board's mission. Work will begin immediately on the first of these plans, for the horticulture sector, led by existing sector representative teams, with work on additional sectors, including poultry, to follow swiftly as soon as practicable. These plans will set out how each sector can grow its market share, both in the UK and overseas, of foods we can produce domestically.

The Board committed to rapid, practical action to build early momentum. Members agreed to revert quickly with areas for quick wins for the Board, progress nominations to finalise the full Board membership, and prepare the Board's formal Terms of Reference. The Board will meet again shortly to review progress and continue driving forward this shared programme of work.

## Issued on behalf of the Farming and Food Partnership Board:

The Rt. Hon. Emma Reynolds, Defra Secretary of State  
Dame Angela Eagle, Minister for Farming  
Tom Bradshaw, National Farmers' Union (NFU) President  
Robert Sheasby, Chief Executive of the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)  
Sarah Bradbury, Chief Executive of the Institute of Grocery Distribution (IGD)  
Kate Nicholls, Chair UKHospitality (UKH)  
Emily Norton, Chair of the Agriculture & Horticulture Development Board (AHDB)  
Andrew Opie, Director of Food & Sustainability at the British Retail Consortium (BRC)  
Karen Betts Chief Executive of the Food & Drink Federation (FDF)

