

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### FARMING WITH NATURE WORKING GROUP

The Farming with Nature Working Group (the Group) has been established by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and will meet under its Chairmanship.

#### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of the Group is to ensure that stakeholder views are understood and properly considered, and to involve stakeholders in designing and developing a Farming with Nature Package that will deliver environmental improvement. It also provides a forum for dialogue between DAERA and key stakeholders at each key stage of the development process.

#### **Role of the Group**

2. The main role of the Group is to:
  - a. Understand the immediate and future needs of the environment and agriculture industry sectors and convey what can be realistically achieved by the Department against these needs within the Farming with Nature Package;
  - b. Facilitate partnership working between DAERA and key stakeholder groups to collectively address identified needs;
  - c. Provide evidence to support and justify views and proposals for the development of the Farming with Nature Package; and
  - d. Present research, case studies and lessons learned from other work areas to support Farming with Nature Package development.

All views will be considered equally and taken forward in line with DAERA's key priorities and business needs.

3. **The Group will provide a forum for open and frank discussion and communication. Therefore, it is essential that the stakeholder organisations that are part of this Group fully respect the confidentiality of**

**the discussions and the sensitivity of the topics and papers that may be considered.**

### **Membership**

4. Membership of the Group is by invitation only. Initial membership of the Committee will comprise nominees from each stakeholder organisation. Deputies will be permitted where the Member is unable to attend (**see Annex A**)
5. DAERA will keep membership under review and amend as appropriate and in line with business needs.

### **Secretariat Role**

6. Administrative support will be provided from DAERA's Agricultural Policy Division, to support and maintain the work of the Group.

### **Reporting**

7. The Secretariat will submit a summary report after every meeting which will provide:
  - i. Summary of topics discussed;
  - ii. Actions; and
  - iii. Decisions made.

### **Conflict of interest**

8. Members should declare any conflict of interest to DAERA.

### **Publicity**

9. Any publicity or public communications about the work of the Group shall come only from DAERA or with the express agreement of DAERA.

**ANNEX A**

**Membership of the Farming with Nature Co-Design Group**

NI Agricultural Producers Association

NIAPA

NI Environment Link

NIEL

Ulster Farmers' Union

UFU

DAERA