



**Minutes of an update meeting of the Directors of Hybu Cig Cymru (HCC)
held at 9.30am via Microsoft Teams on Thursday 4 April 2024**

- Present:** Cath Smith (Chair)
John T Davies, Jack Evershed, Gareth Wynn Davies, Hugh Hesketh-Evans, Mike Humphreys, Prys Morgan, Emlyn Roberts, Caroline Sanger-Davies, Vicki Spencer-Francis
- By Invitation:** Maria Richards, Welsh Government (WG)
- Executive in attendance:** Heather Anstey-Myers (Interim CEO)
Julie Davies (Secretariat)
Rachael Madeley-Davies (Head of Sustainability & Future Policy)

1. **Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were noted from Board Member Rhys Davies, Gwyn Howells, CEO (who remained on sick leave), Gareth Jones, Head of Finance and Corporate Governance and Laura Pickup, Head of Strategic Marketing and Connections.

2. **Update on HCC's Business Plan 2022 / 2026 and Operational Plan 2024 / 2025**

The Chair thanked the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) for the prompt turn around with the additional work needed with the budget adjustments and finalising the draft Business Plan 2022 / 2026 and Operational Plan 2024 / 2025.

The Interim CEO thanked the Board for their feedback and approval of both Plans and informed that the documents had been shared with WG for Ministerial consideration.

In relation to an action from the 7 March 2024 Board meeting, it was confirmed that HCC was complying with the WG's requirements in relation to content and structure of a Business Plan. It was reassuring to note that a representative from the WG's Public Bodies Unit had stated at the WG / HCC Quarterly Governance meeting on the 20 March 2024 that HCC's Business Plan was clear and concise and one of the best he had seen from an arms-length body.

3. **Activities and Industry updates**

The Head of Sustainability and Future Policy gave the following update:

- **Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS)**

The Head of Sustainability and Future Policy had represented HCC at the Senedd's Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure (CCEI) Committee stakeholder event on the 13 March 2024. Attending this event

had proven worthwhile in order to further engage with key stakeholders on the WG proposals for a Sustainable Farming Scheme.

- Beef and Lamb Industry Roadmap

Work was ongoing with the above in liaison with other stakeholders. Objectives were currently being set. The development of this Roadmap would be a lengthy exercise and the Board would be kept updated on its development.

- Schmallenberg

No data or evidence was available for the impact of Schmallenberg disease on the later lambing flock however anecdotal evidence suggested that the impact was lower than the early lambing flocks. HCC would monitor the situation during the lambing period, and into the calving period. However, it was understood that the continuous wet weather appeared to have impacted this year's lamb crop.

- Levy Increase

It was noted that the communication and administration work with the processors, abattoirs and livestock markets in relation to the above had been undertaken by the Finance and Corporate Governance department.

- HCC VAT Status

The SLT were currently working on industry communication in relation to the above. Any queries received by the Board on this matter could be referred to the SLT if needed.

- HCC Communications

Anne Dunn, had been appointed Communications and External Affairs Lead.

4. Finance Update

A financial update as well as detail on slaughtering and the Levy for March 2024 would be shared with the Board in due course.

Action: Head of Finance and Corporate Governance

5. Any other business

Ministerial changes

It was noted that letters of congratulations from the Chair had been issued to the newly appointed First Minister, Vaughan Gething, MS and also to Huw Irranca-Davies, MS on his appointment to the role of Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs.

In addition, a letter of thanks had been issued to Lesley Griffiths, MS for her services to the industry and support to HCC during her tenure as Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales and Trefnydd.

It was agreed for Maria Richards, WG to engage with the Cabinet Secretary's office to organise an initial introductory meeting with the Chair and Interim CEO. The Cabinet Secretary would also be invited to join a forthcoming Board meeting.

6. **Dates of upcoming meetings:**

Thursday 2 May 2024 – HCC Board formal meeting at 10am
Thursday 6 June 2024 – HCC Board Teams update at 9.30am

The Chair, Board and Interim CEO remained on the Teams call for Item 7.

7. **A Closed Session of Board followed**

Signed.....
Chair of HCC