

## **ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)**

This note addresses the request from the Board in its September 2016 meeting for a one page summary setting out our objectives, our activities, and the partnerships that will deliver them.

Our overall objective is to make an effective contribution, on matters within the FSA's remit, to the action plan on antimicrobial resistance agreed by the UK Government and devolved administrations. As set out in the Chief Executive's report to the September 2016 Board meeting and agreed by the Board, there are three activities that contribute to this objective.

First, the UK will chair (together with Australia and USA as co-chairs) a Codex Alimentarius physical working group on 29 November to 2 December 2016 which will review and revise terms of reference and project documentation for an Intergovernmental Task Force due to be established in 2017. As the lead department on food safety issues, the FSA will take the responsibility for chairing; the UK delegation (as one of around 50 member country delegations attending) will be chaired by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate with support from Defra. We are co-ordinating closely with VMD, Defra and DH, with the aim of terms of reference and project documentation that are both in line with our national negotiating objectives and are broadly supported by the international community. The costs of hosting the working group will be shared between FSA, Defra and DH.

Second, we are working with Defra, as set out in the Government response to the O'Neill review, to encourage the adoption of clear transparent reporting standards that help consumers have access to and understand information about the responsible use of antibiotics in the food chain. Our contribution is to take the opportunity of scheduled meetings with assurance schemes, major retailers, and other key stakeholders to advocate for the position set out in the Government response, i.e. encouraging those stakeholders to incorporate standards for responsible use of antibiotics into assurance scheme standards; and setting clear expectations about the data on antibiotic usage that should be published openly.

Third, we have a focus on improving the scientific evidence base relating to antimicrobial resistance in the food chain. More specifically, we are commissioning surveillance on antimicrobial resistant bacteria in food as set out in the November 2016 Board paper on surveillance. We are also establishing a short term task-and-finish scientific group to advise on potential research questions and approaches that would provide greater certainty as to the nature of the linkage between overuse of antimicrobials in agriculture and the impact of AMR in human pathogens on public health. We will invite VMD and Defra to be observers on this group.

We will also seek opportunities to take further action that supports our overall objective on AMR where this requires small resources from the FSA, but leverages greater resource from others. We are therefore providing in-kind support, in terms of hosting a workshop in Aviation House, for a joint research initiative by the Universities of Southampton and Newcastle on "Food Retailers, Supply Chains and the Antimicrobial Resistance Challenge". This support has been important in gaining significant Research Council funding for the initiative.