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**WORKING GROUP 3
FOOD SYSTEM RISKS AND
HORIZON SCANNING**

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Report to the Science Council

13 December 2017

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**OVERALL PACKAGE TO
DELIVER**
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Question set by FSA Chairman Heather Hancock

What should the FSA do to improve its horizon scanning and its understanding of global food systems risks (and opportunities)?

Why – Part of the rationale for our Regulating our Future approach is that we want to be more on the front foot, anticipate future risks and harness innovation.

When – next 12 months to input into future strategic plans.

Overall package to deliver

The WG is taking a phased approach across two related streams:

1. How can FSA get a sound and useful understanding of global food systems risks and opportunities and of how it can respond to these?
2. What should the FSA do to improve its horizon scanning capability in the longer term?

Overall package to deliver

In Phase 1 the Working Group will:

- Define scope and approach for desk study to synthesise data on food system risks
- Initial advice on what FSA should seek to achieve from horizon scanning and ways to improve

In Phase 2 the Working Group will:

- Review desk study report and identify implications + actions for FSA, based on a workshop with experts + stakeholders.
- Finalise recommendations on how FSA can strengthen its horizon scanning capability .

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**WORKING GROUP PROGRESS
PHASE 1**

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Progress

The Working Group has produced:

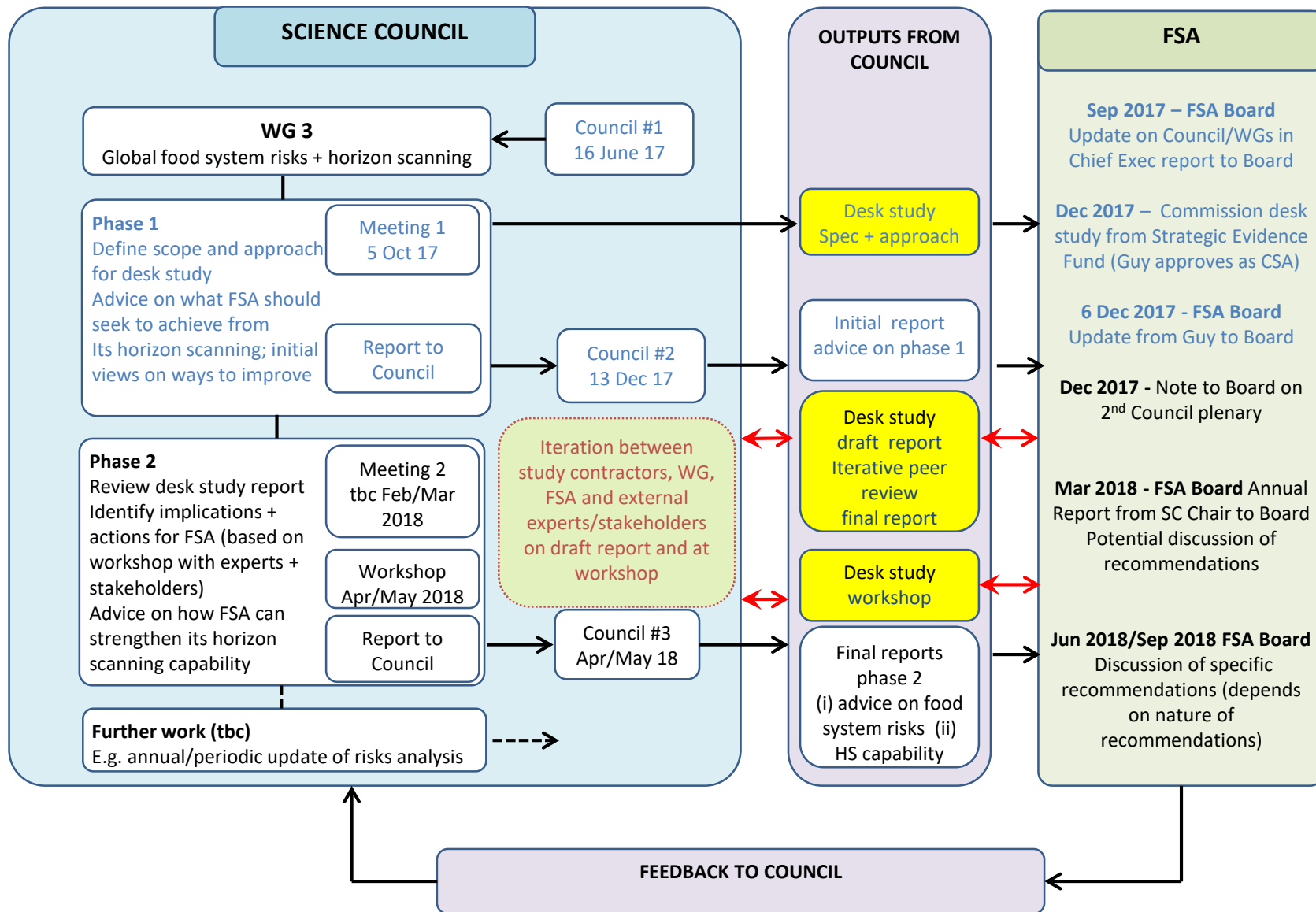
- Specification and approach for desk study (tender issued 27 Oct 2017)
- Plans for wider engagement with experts and stakeholders to optimise quality of study report and relevance and robustness of recommendations for FSA
- Initial advice on how FSA can strengthen its horizon scanning

The Working Group will work with the FSA to

- Develop a process for extended expert and stakeholder review of the draft report from the desk study
- Hold a workshop with key experts and stakeholders to identify implications and recommendations for FSA, based on the study report.
- Deliver final recommendations on how FSA can strengthen its horizon scanning

The Working Group will progress phase 2 at its second meeting [date to be confirmed, aiming for February/March 2018]

Process flow for WG3



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**WORKING GROUP'S INITIAL
ADVICE**

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Initial advice from phase 1

- ✓ FSA is linked to relevant activities across government/more widely, but capacity to engage is limited under current resource, and is more reactive than proactive.
- ✓ FSA has limited intelligent customer capacity and no specialist staff in HS
- ✓ To expand capability, FSA would need a more strategic approach (which could mirror elements of the approach to surveillance).
- ✓ WG will revisit this in light of the outputs of the desk study and workshop, which in themselves will make a significant contribution to developing FSA capability - but likely that more resource would be needed to significantly increase capability.
- ✓ FSA to explore more work with other government departments who face similar drivers and challenges
- ✓ Use Strategic Evidence Fund to support ongoing activity and investment in HS.
- ✓ WG noted some points on surveillance which might also be relevant to HS

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Working Group comments on surveillance – could also be relevant to HS

- Should embed beyond science teams + highlight to/develop with customers
- Algorithms should be open and adaptable/usable by others/in other contexts.
- Outputs will reflect quality of data: underlines importance of process to assess and grade quality.
- Selection/analysis of data should ensure that events without a precedent in the data don't get missed
- Surveillance could provide insights useful for HS and is also one mechanism for taking action to follow up insights from HS
- May be useful to discuss with those working in the security area who are likely to have well-developed approaches.

[Note: FSA Surveillance team are represented on WG Secretariat]

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PRODUCTS PHASE 1

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Desk study: *Insights on global food system risks and their implications for FSA*

Aim This study will gather, synthesise and analyse evidence and insights on global food system risks to 2030 from existing studies, reports and scans and draw out the key issues and their implications for the UK and for food safety and authenticity.

Five key questions:

- 1. What are the key novel or emergent features of the potential future food system to 2030?*
- 2. Which potential features, changes, trends or dynamics in the system have the most significance for the UK and why?*
- 3. What are the main challenges and opportunities relating to food safety and authenticity in response to the issues identified in Q1 and Q2?*
- 4. What sources of evidence can the FSA draw on to better understand, prioritise and respond to these issues?*
- 5. What approaches and inputs could FSA have access to in order to implement an ongoing capability for horizon scanning and foresight?*

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Desk study: *Insights on global food system risks and their implications for FSA*

Contractor selected, contract agreement in progress

Timeline

Agree final project details with selected contractor	End December 2017
Submission of draft report	by end month 2
Iteration to refine draft report	Month 3
Submission of final report	Mid-month 4
Participation in workshop	Month 4 or 5
Finish	By end month 5

Input invited from Council:

Please suggest people/organisations to be invited to provide input to:

Iteration to refine draft report

Participation in workshop

Wider expert advice to FSA on HS and foresight

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NEXT STEPS

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To do

[All dates TBC]

- **WG meeting #2** **Mar/Apr 2018**
review desk study report /agree plans for workshop?)

- **Workshop** **April/May 2018**

- **WG meeting #3** **Jun/Jul 2018**
Agree final report and recommendations

[Ongoing role for Council/WG on HS – e.g. updating study/analysis]