

## **Growers' Better Levy Group Response to AHDB Horticulture ballot result**

**For immediate release 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

The Growers' Better Levy Group ("GBLG") was established voluntarily by businesses from within the UK Horticulture and Potato sectors to work together for the benefit of all levy paying businesses in support of the fairness and value of a statutory levy.

The GBLG notes that 61% of levy payers participating in the Horticulture ballot voted against the continuation of the Statutory Levy (details of which can be found [here](#)). The Group believes the ballot result reflects widespread levy payer discontent with the performance of the AHDB. This does not change our view on the importance and principle of a statutory levy and the value that applied research and development can deliver.

The GBLG believes that UK Horticulture and Potato businesses continue to require an organisation to provide some of the services that the AHDB currently offer. It intends to engage with the wider community of growers, irrespective of how they voted, to identify a solution that will be more widely acceptable than the status quo.

It is important that the business innovation that comes from research and development programmes and business-critical work on plant protection products and services which all UK Horticulture and Potato businesses rely on, are not compromised in both the immediate future and the longer term as a result of the ballots.

**The Growers' Better Levy Group**