



East Midlands 5+1 Event
Environmental Protection
CIEH Policy Update

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Session agenda

- What's going on in EP related, practice-related policy?
- Policy specifics:
 - Brexit
 - Air Quality
 - Noise
 - Government's 25 year environment plan
 - Contaminated land
- Your views and questions?



Never start with a negative, but.....

- An apology!
- Any of the issues discussed in this session are worthy of a whole day in themselves!

**“NEVER
RUIN
AN
APOLOGY
WITH
AN
EXCUSE.”**

~ The Fresh Quotes ~



What is policy?

- A **Policy** is a set of beliefs, principles, rules or guidelines developed or adopted by an organisation to help it or guide it to reach its long-term goals
- It can also be a statement of intent to act





So, for CIEH and environmental health

- Our policies are important
- They set out what our core beliefs are on key subjects
- They indicate what we want to achieve and how we intend to get there
- They guide our campaigning activities



Without policy

- We have nothing to say as a professional grouping – we would be directionless





So, what does all this mean for you?

- Opportunity to get involved and to influence:
 - What we campaign on
 - How we do it
 - The policies that we develop and promote
- Opportunity to attend key meetings with Government, its agencies and others on behalf of CIEH and the wider profession
- Opportunity to do media work on behalf of CIEH





The Advisory Panels and Communities

- CIEH has established advisory panels and supporting communities in food, housing, health and safety and AQ – more to follow this year incl. widening the AQ panel to cover EP
- Self nomination and robust assessment
- Panel membership – the best mix of experience across all regions
- Panel role is to advise and direct the organisation's policy and campaigning direction
- To represent CIEH at key meetings
- Communities are simply groups of members with a shared interest



What has emerged from the Communities and panels?

- Newsletters and regular updates
- New policies – AQ, Brexit etc
- Delivered live webinars
- Specific conferences – AQ and noise
- Community reps have already:
 - Helped the CMO to produce the annual report on the state of the nation's health
 - Attended round-table meetings with PHE and DEFRA
 - Attended APPG meetings in Parliament
 - Worked with local and national media



So..

- If you're a CIEH member, this is your opportunity to help shape the political direction of your professional body in respect of EP and beyond
- CIEH has changed
- Don't sit on the side-lines. Please get involved





The current, BIG policy issues

- Brexit, Brexit and Brexit!!
- Air quality
- Noise
- National Planning Policy Framework
- Adoption of ProPG



Brexit – an overview

- Does 'Brexit mean Brexit'?
 - Despite the political rhetoric:
 - There remains a high risk that it WILL all come crashing down at some point
 - Or it may end up mired in the ECJ
 - It is driving deep divisions between Westminster and devolved nations



Brexit overview (2)

- Implications are profound
 - 16 pages of close-typed list of affected pieces of legislation!!!
 - *“As a result of Brexit, by 2030 the UK economy will have shrunk by 8%, costing each UK family £5000 per annum, in comparison with the position had we remained in the EU” OECD*
 - *“The economic contraction will seriously impact on the nation’s ability to provide basic services to protect the public’s health” OECD*



Brexit overview 3

- Implications Cont'd
 - At the moment, the EU imposes tariffs and tax regimes designed, in part, to protect the environment's and the public's health e.g. fuels, and tobacco etc. are taxed to ensure their price remains high
 - Post Brexit and in a free market situation, their price may fall leading to significant public health impacts
 - Free of the EU fetters, UK government lets its political and philosophical ambitions run rife!
 - Free market orientated and totally pro-business!



The Big Brexit issues for EH

- Devolution and Brexit
- Good Friday Agreement
- Withdrawal Bill is just a holding position
- What commitment can we expect to EP issues from Government?
- What standards in the medium to longer terms?





Air quality – scoping the challenge

- UK is a serial non-complier with EU AQ limits
- External air quality heavily influences internal air quality
- Traffic growing and major infrastructure projects
- Biggest current issue is particulate emissions – diesel vehicles, hybrids and ULEVs
- Anthropogenic particulate emissions are responsible for around 29,000 deaths per annum in the UK
- Total number of deaths due to poor air quality ranging from 5,000 to 60,000 with a reliable figure being approximately 40,000 (PHE, 2017)
- **AQ causes more deaths per annum than obesity, alcohol, substance abuse and excess winter deaths combined** (Rob Howard, Consultant in PH at Leicestershire County Council; 2017)



Air quality - scoping the challenge 2

- Still waiting for a new AQ strategy from DEFRA
- DEFRA state that 'AQ in Britain is improving' – wildly optimistic!!!!
- NICE guidance is weak BUT recognises the disconnect between planning and EH
- Many Local Authority EH teams do little other than monitor and some don't do that!
- Weak enforcement of older measures to ensure air quality (Smoke control)
- AQMA's have failed and CAZ are not the answer





So what has CIEH got to say on air quality?

- CIEH believes that the following need to be achieved:
 - Improving air quality to become a priority for UK
 - Recognition that air quality and climate change are inextricably linked AND external AQ heavily influences internal AQ
 - Poor indoor air quality needs to also be addressed
 - A new Clean Air Act
 - A proper air quality strategy from DEFRA!!!
 - Effective strategies to address the health and wider societal effects of poor air quality





So what have we got to say on air quality? (2)

- Public health, environmental health and occ. health teams should be working together to provide advice and guidance
- Tackling poor air quality should be a priority for local authorities
- New guidance for the Planning Inspectorate is urgently needed
- A national transport strategy and infrastructure that seeks to reduce air pollution
- A modal shift towards zero emission vehicles; but.....!!!
- Provision of ultra-low NOx emission boilers in all new developments
- National campaigns and advertising to encourage sustainable and active transport



Our ongoing commitment

- *Inter alia* CIEH will:
 - recognise the contribution to air quality made by all environmental health professionals and will support their work
 - continue to research and advise the public and professionals on matters concerning air quality
 - provide information and support to members to help them work better with other parts of the public health workforce
 - collaborate with partners to further our objectives.
 - lobby for ring-fenced funding for local authorities to tackle air quality and to ensure that at least equivalent standards to EU limit values are embodied in UK legislation post Brexit
 - campaign to address outdated legislation and guidance



...and on the Government's strategy for NO₂

- We took a very robust line and said the plans are:
 - “Woefully inadequate”!!
 - “Unfairly shifts the burden to solve the problem to local authorities, while abdicating themselves of responsibility”





We also said:

- “We are on the cliff-edge of a national public health emergency and these plans are devoid of substantive proposals, timescales for addressing the key challenges, clarity around targets or even availability of resources to support necessary actions”
- “Government’s cost/benefit analysis fails to consider the burden on the NHS and the health implications on people and local communities, concentrating solely on business impacts”
- “Overlook particulate matter as the single biggest contributor to premature deaths and ill-health”



'Uncertainty' is the watchword!

- For UK EP policy – 'uncertainty' is the name of the game
- What will Brexit mean – a new regime certainly; a new Environmental Protection Act is a strong probability and there's still talk about a 'bonfire of regulations'?
- Challenging times for all!!!!!!!!!!



Happy to take questions!!



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