

A clean bill of health: How councils' environmental protection work improves health and well-being

Local Government Regulation

- Formerly called LACORS
 - Part of the Local Government Group
 - LG Regulation remit
 - Environmental Protection
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Why did we produce clean bill of health?

- Discussions with our policy forum
 - Identified a need to 'make the case' for environmental protection services
 - Importance of engaging elected members
 - Informing decision making at local level
 - Air quality = a very complex, technical subject
 - Since we started work on the doc, LAQM Review & EAC inquiry have highlighted need for better communication on air quality
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Development of the document

- Took on-going advice and input from advisers (officers) and tested with some councillors
 - Considered including links to other local priorities, but focused on health message
 - Health impact of environmental protection doesn't grab headlines like other public health issues such as obesity
 - Key was to make it easily understandable to non-experts
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What it includes

- Air quality, industrial pollution, contaminated land
 - Key points about the health effects of pollution, including health inequalities
 - ‘Did you know’ fact boxes
 - Outline of councils’ role and responsibilities
 - Brief examples of what can be done e.g. through planning, transport planning etc.
 - Councillors’ checklist
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How can it be used?

- Document posted to all councils in England and Wales.
 - By officers, to communicate with councillors or senior management/decision makers.
 - Can be used alongside PowerPoint presentation with suggested speaker notes and quiz.
 - Not intended to tell councillors that EP services are more important than others, but help to make informed decisions.
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Example PowerPoint slides



Key points

- Pollution can seriously damage your health and well-being and increases health inequalities
 - The council's work to combat pollution can often be overlooked among other important health issues
 - The council works to prevent and reduce pollution by:
 - improving air quality
 - decontaminating land
 - reducing industrial pollution
 - tackling noise
 - The council needs to be aware of its own responsibilities in reducing health, reputational and financial risks
 - The environmental protection team needs to be involved in tackling health issues across the council
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Some facts

- Up to 35,000 people in UK died prematurely in 2005 from exposure to air pollution and deaths occur 9.8 years earlier on average *[Consider adding or replacing some of this with local fact/ example]*
- Road transport is the major source of air pollution but industry and domestic sources also contribute
- Up to 2% of land in England and Wales may be contaminated yet government grants to remediate contaminated land are underspent *[Consider adding or replacing some of this with local fact/ example]*



Health effects of pollution

- The most vulnerable are worst affected
- Quality of air and land affects whole communities
- Air pollution linked to worsening:
 - asthma
 - chronic bronchitis
 - heart and circulatory disease
 - cancer
- Recent cases have emphasised the harm and councils' responsibilities



Our local role

- Containing and reducing existing pollution
- Preventing pollution from occurring
- Achieving the above includes:
 - Monitoring and improving air quality
 - Regulating businesses
 - Identifying and remediating contaminated land



Containing & reducing existing pollution



Measures to reduce traffic emissions



Issuing permits and giving advice to businesses

Preventing pollution from occurring

- Working with developers
 - Integrating land-use planning and transport
 - “Liveability” and “walkability”
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Planning that reduces car use



Public transport routes near where people live and work



Greening the council's own vehicle fleet

Improving health through environmental protection: tools

- Air quality action plans
 - Joint Strategic Needs Assessments
 - Health Impact Assessments
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And other slides covering...

Improving health through environmental protection:

- Planning
 - Transport
 - Working with the NHS
 - Working with business
 - Community leadership
 - Local authority health scrutiny
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Current context

- Comprehensive Spending Review
 - “Localism”
 - Public Health White Paper
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Thank you

Any questions?

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