Protecting Our Most Precious Resource:
Tackling Water Pollution and Improving Water Quality

A Public Policy Exchange Symposium

Thursday 11th September 2014
10:15am – 4:30pm

Central London

Public Policy Exchange holds regular interactive seminars which provide an invaluable interface for policy discussion, debate and networking. These special events offer local practitioners, civil servants and other stakeholders not only an insight into current policy thinking, but also the opportunity to feed into future development across all areas of public policy.
Protecting Our Most Precious Resource:
Tackling Water Pollution and Improving Water Quality

Overview

England’s lakes and rivers play a vital role in water provision, our leisure, recreation, health and well-being. They are critical for wildlife habitats and are enjoyed by foreign tourists and much valued by all who live in this country including walkers, anglers and cyclists.

However, the quality of our open waters needs to be improved – according to the Government only 27% of our water-bodies in England are of ‘good status’ under new standards set by the EU Water Framework Directive.

There is also a problem with urban diffuse water pollution; a type of diffuse pollution from urban areas where road runoff, poorly plumbed drainage systems, old polluted sediment deposits and runoff from industrial areas in rivers and waterways damage ecosystems in rivers, streams and ponds.

This is a concern not only for us, but potentially for generations to come, as a better water environment supports urban regeneration and improves quality of life.

The Government strategy to tackle this was set out in two White Papers (June 2011 and December 2011). This was followed by a consultation ‘Tackling Water Pollution from the Urban Environment’, which began 22 November 2012, to inform and influence the development of Government strategy in this area in 2013. A summary of responses to the consultation followed. The Government strategy is to be published in due course.

This special symposium provides an invaluable opportunity for local authorities, central government including non-departmental public bodies, water companies, businesses, the environmental sector, regulators, civil society groups, third sector organisations and other key stakeholders to discuss how we can help to protect and improve water quality for ourselves and generations to come.

Why Attend?

- Discuss the proposed Government strategy to tackle water pollution from the urban environment in the future
- Consider the future role of local authorities, the Environment Agency and other regulatory bodies in dealing with water pollution
- Assess where we are in planning for better quality of water in rivers, bathing waters, other bodies of water and in meeting new standards set by the EU Water Framework Directive

Who Should Attend?

- Local Authorities
- Central Government
- Water Companies
- Water Sector Professionals
- Regulators
- Civil Society Groups
- Consumer Councils
- Regional Development and Natural Environment Specialists
- Planning Committees and Planning Officers
- Local Authority Flooding and Drainage Professionals
- Local Authority Green City Teams
- Local Authority Waste and Recycling Professionals
- Local Authority Waterways Professionals
- Sustainable Development Stakeholders
- Transport Leads
- Green Groups
- Conservationists
- Academia
- The Environment Agency
- Environment and Water Supply Interest Groups
- Sustainable Tourism Professionals
- Directors Heads of Parks and Public Spaces
- Wildlife Trusts
- Environment Boards
- Environmental Services and Policy Professionals
- Environmental Services Sustainability Professionals
- Environmental Services Urban Design Professionals
- Environmental Planning and Design Officers
- Conservation Professionals
- Environmental Campaigns Professionals
- Environmental Enforcement Professionals
- Farmers and Fairtrade Stakeholders
- Farming Organisations
- Aural Organisations
- Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Professionals
- Agricultural Research Professionals
- Heavy Industry and Businesses
- Energy Leads
- Biodiversity Leads
- Renewable Leads
- Horticultural Managers
- Energy Efficiency Professionals
- Green Energy Professionals
- Green Education Professionals
- Regeneration Professionals
- Pollution Professionals
- Private Sector Environmental Organisations
- Business Development Professionals
- Finance Leads
- Greening Retail Organisations
- Greening Industry Professionals
- Third Sector Environmental Organisations

Water is essential for life. It allows the natural environment to flourish, and businesses, agriculture and the economy to grow and prosper. The water environment provides many different benefits to society - from supplying drinking water and supporting fisheries to providing an essential resource for business and agriculture, transport routes and a source of recreation that promotes wellbeing. It is critical that this precious resource is managed properly to ensure that the needs of society, the economy and wildlife can be met and maintained in the long-term…”

- Environment Agency Chief Executive, July 2013

Accommodation

Through our partnership with HotelMap, we are able to offer our delegates heavily discounted hotel rates at a wide range of London hotels. To view hotel availability and rates and to book online, visit www.HotelMap.com/MSNUZ/

Alternatively, if you would like to book your accommodation by phone, you can call Daniel Spinner at HotelMap, on 020 7292 2335 quoting Special Reference Code MSNUZ.

Enquiries: 0845 606 1535

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Programme

09:30 Registration and Morning Refreshments
10:15 Chair’s Welcome and Introduction
10:30 Panel Session One: Planning for the Future – Improving Water Quality in Rivers, Lakes, Estuaries, Coastal Areas and Groundwater
- Planning for better rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwater – understand the EU Water Framework Directive and its relevance to improving the quality of open waters in England
- Managing river catchments – assess the strategy to help meet targets of the Water Framework Directive
- Bathing water – learn more about the new bathing water classifications from 2016, the Bathing Water Directives in England and what needs to be done further to improve the quality of bathing waters
- Discuss potential synergies between water quality improvements and natural flood attenuation
11:15 Morning Refreshments
11:30 Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel One
12:30 Networking Lunch
13:30 Panel Session Two: Tackling Urban Diffuse Water Pollution – The Next Steps
- How are we presently reducing and controlling urban pollution?
- Discuss the proposed Government strategy to tackle water pollution from the urban environment in the future
- Consider what steps need to be taken for Government departments to have an integrated approach and to achieve multiple benefits from future development planning action, such as river restoration and sustainable drainage systems
- What is the future role of local authorities, the Environment Agency and other regulatory bodies in dealing with water pollution generally?
14:15 Afternoon Refreshments
14:30 Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel Two
15:30 Chair’s Summary and Closing Comments
15:40 Networking Reception
16:30 Close

**Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice**

Event Details

Date: Thursday 11th September 2014
Time: 10:15am – 4:30pm
Venue: Central London

Forthcoming Events

Young Runaways and Missing Children: Prevention, Protection, Provision
30th September 2014

Sustainability in Housing: Increasing the Number of Available Homes
1st October 2014

Gambling Protections, Controls and the Role of Local Authorities
2nd October 2014

The Future Use of Digital and Social Media in Local Government and Public Sector Communications
7th October 2014

From High Street to High Growth: Shaping the Future of our Town Centres
4th November 2014

Preventing Deaths in Police Custody: Ensuring the Safe Handling and Detention of Vulnerable Persons
8th October 2014

Zero Tolerance: A New Direction in Tackling Forced Marriage and ‘Honour’ Based Violence
9th October 2014

The Future of NHS Community Pharmacies
14th October 2014

From High Street to High Growth: Shaping the Future of our Town Centres
4th November 2014

Embedding a Life-Course Approach to Transform Health Outcomes for Children and Young People
5th November 2014

Transforming Blue-Light Services: Shaping a Framework Fit for the Future
6th November 2014

Raising Animal Welfare Standards at the Time of Slaughter or Killing
11th November 2014

Clamping Down on Dangerous Dogs: Protecting the Public and Promoting More Responsible Pet Ownership
12th November 2014

Sponsorship and Exhibition Opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.

For further information please contact Parvin Madahar on 020 3137 8630 or email parvin.madahar@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk

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<td>Central Government/Business Sector</td>
<td>£395 per delegate (1 Place)</td>
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Conference materials
If you are unable to attend the conference but would like to receive the supporting documentation, then please send back this form with payment details and indicate the number of copies you would like to receive. (PDF = £95 & VAT, Hard Copy = £95 (VAT not applicable).

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