



Campaign to Protect  
Rural England  
Standing up for your countryside

# The impact of Brexit on town councils and the English countryside

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# Depends on terms of Brexit...who knows!



## So much uncertainty.....

*“There are known knowns. These are things we know that we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we don't know we don't know.”*

Donald Rumsfeld, 2002

## Brexit & funding “knowns”

- £40 billion on infrastructure and urban development since 2006
- £5.3 billion in EU Structural Funds 2014-2020
- CAP payments £3 billion a year
- Deficit reduction target “on hold”” - austerity measures remain

# Brexit & funding “unknowns”

- Will EU funding be replaced? And spent on what?
- Cost of Brexit? - 5-10% slump in GDP =£38-66 billion pa
- Impact on investment and growth?
- Impact on public sector budgets?

## Brexit & Devolution “knowns”

- No obvious change in direction
- 10 Combined Authority deals
- North East CA stalled (in current form)
- Opportunity to propose alternative “rural friendly” models?

## Brexit & Devolution “unknowns”

- Will government renegotiate deals? (elected mayors)
- Will loss of EU funding reduce the influence of LEPs?
- Will the pace of process slow?

# Brexit & Planning - Environmental Directives

- EIA Directive 2011 - individual developments
- SEA Directive 2001 - local plans
- Habitats Directive 1992 - effect on natural habitats
- Ensures environmental impacts of development assessed and subjected to public scrutiny



# Brexit & Planning - potential impact

- Depends on the single market.....
- Principles behind EIA/SEA supported - likely to remain
- International obligations on public engagement in decision making/access to information

BUT

- Likely rollback of processes & raising thresholds for EIAs
- Habitats Directive at risk - not popular with farmers/Government

# Brexit & the wider environment

- Environmental Noise Directive - mapping now, likely to remain
- Energy Efficiency Directive 2012 - likely to be replaced
- Renewables Target - likely to remain (2008 Climate Change Act)
- European Emissions Trading System - likely to remain
- Air pollution rules - likely to remain

# Brexit & Agriculture “knowns”

- 1/6<sup>th</sup> of CAP payments on agri-environment
- CAP payments till at least 2020
- Existing Agri-environment schemes honoured (5-10 years)
- Consultation on 25 year plan for Food & Farming

# Brexit & Agriculture “unknowns”

- Levels of financial support beyond 2020
- Type of trade agreements & tariffs beyond 2020
- Access to labour - currently 30K permanent and 67K seasonal workers from EU
- Regulatory frameworks - food labelling, pesticide use....

# Brexit & agriculture - potential impact

- Intensification of farming = single biggest cause of wildlife loss in last 40 years
- Reduced funding could increase intensification & degradation of the countryside
- Agri-environment schemes could be cut or deprioritised

# Brexit & agriculture - the opportunity

- Simpler agricultural policy incentivising UK priorities
- More innovation - techniques/new entrants/diversity of farm size/type
- Public funding for public benefit - reward farmers for landscape protection/biodiversity/soil enhancement/water quality and storage....
- Integration with Forestry - more multipurpose land use and wooded landscapes



## One more “unknown”

*“I believe that when we have left the European Union, when we are once again truly in control of our own affairs, we will be in an even stronger position to confront the challenges of the future.”*

David Davis, DExEU Secretary of State, 10 October 2016

## And a final few “knowns”

- Terms of Brexit set to dominate politics
- Government energy & focus on Brexit negotiations
- CPRE will continue to stand up for the English countryside and make sure rural issues receive the attention they deserve