



CIWM

Empowering Professionalism

# Environment Bill Evidence 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020



## Overview of the Bill - Waste

- Create a new statutory and independent environmental body – OEP
- Extend the application of the OEP to Northern Ireland
- Resource efficiency and waste reduction a key area for long term targets – to be set by October 2022



# Office of Environmental Protection (OEP)

- A domestic independent watchdog taking action for breaches of environmental law
- Scrutiny and advice functions to monitor progress on plans and targets
- How will this work locally – border issues
- Will an additional OEP be required in NI – Geographic Context
- How independent will the OEP be?
- Will the OEP have sufficient powers?



# Waste & Resource Efficiency

- Government committed to using resources more sustainably
- A move toward a circular economy
- Gives priority to preventing waste
- When waste is created gives priority for re-use, recycling the recovery
- Will provide the framework for delivery of the Resources and Waste Strategy



# Producer Responsibility

- Allows for obligations on producers in relation to re-use, redistribution, recovery and recycling of products
- Power replace Producer Responsibility Obligations (NI) Order 1998
- Put financial responsibility on producers of goods – end of life
- Producers to pay full net costs of managing their products – end of life
- Incentive to design products with sustainability in mind



# Deposit Return Scheme

- Where customers pay an up-front deposit - i.e. drinks bottle or can
- Deposit redeemed when returned
- May increase recycling and reduce litter
- Issues with retail sector and space / resources to manage scheme
- What will be left for Councils to collect – lower value recyclates
- How will this operate locally – border issues



# Charges for Single Use Plastic

- Allows regulations for charges on single use plastic items
- National Authority to make regulations on charges for single use carrier bags
- Potential for civil sanctions



# Managing Waste

- Electronic waste tracking – power to establish and track electronic waste
- Hazardous waste – powers to tighten up hazardous waste enforcement
- Waste charging – powers to make charging schemes to recover costs of regulatory and enforcement activities
- Enforcement powers – powers to direct waste to be collected and transported by a specified registered carrier
- Waste regulation – to change the definition of DAERA in the Waste and Contaminated Land Order





# Environmental Principles

- Needs to be viewed in the context of a Circular Economy
- 5 important environmental principles:
  - Integration – environmental protection build into policies – holistic policy making
  - Prevention – action to prevent environmental damage before it occurs
  - Precaution – assess environmental risk through science
  - Rectification – environmental damage to be addressed
  - Polluter pays – policy makers factor in pollution costs into their thinking
- These are important guiding principles as new policies are developed
- The clauses on environmental principles largely unchanged from the draft Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill, despite very clear evidence on the need for these clauses to be strengthened

