



A number of topics have been identified by the Committee to consider in the future (2019 onwards). These fall into 2 themes: health outcomes and aspects of urban air pollution. Topics currently under consideration by the Committee, or proposed for future consideration, are listed below:

Health outcomes	Aspects of urban air pollution
Cardiovascular morbidity	Non-exhaust emissions from transport
Early life effects	Particulate matter on the London Underground - COMPLETED
Childhood asthma	
Cognitive decline and dementia	
Diabetes and metabolic syndrome	
Lung cancer morbidity and mortality	

The Committee's work programme is reviewed by the COMEAP Strategy Group annually and may be adapted or amended in the light of developments in the scientific literature and to reflect changes in policy needs.

The table below provides a short progress report of the topics currently under consideration by the Committee:

Topic	Description
<b>Birth Outcomes</b>	Conditions during pregnancy can have immediate and potentially long-lasting impacts throughout a child's life. In recent years, there has been growing interest, both within the media and scientific communities, that a pregnant woman's exposure to outdoor air pollution may lead to adverse birth outcomes, such as babies being born prematurely and with a low birth weight. COMEAP therefore felt it was timely to consider the evidence linking adverse birth outcomes with maternal exposure to air pollution during pregnancy. The Committee has recently set up a Sub-group, made up of Members and co-opted experts, to review the available evidence. The Sub-group will provide its analysis and recommendations to the full Committee. The Committee will then provide an independent expert opinion on the likelihood of a causal link between air pollution and adverse birth outcomes. The Committee's intention is to publish the Statement sometime in 2020. Anyone who wishes to keep track of progress will be able to do so via the publicly available minutes of the Main Committee meetings.
<b>Dementia and Cognitive Decline</b>	Dementia is an umbrella term for a range of conditions that affect how the brain works and in particular the ability to remember, think and reason. It mainly affects older people, both men and women, and gets worse over time. A

	<p>number of health and lifestyle factors, such as high blood pressure and smoking, are known to increase the risk of developing dementia. In recent years, there has been growing interest, both within the media and scientific communities, in the possibility that exposure to outdoor air pollution could increase the risk of dementia. COMEAP therefore felt it was timely to consider the evidence linking exposure to outdoor air pollution with dementia. The Committee has set up a Sub-group, made up of Members and co-opted experts, to review the available evidence. The Sub-group will provide its analysis and recommendations to the full Committee. The Committee will then provide an independent expert opinion on the likelihood of a causal link between air pollution and dementia. The Committee's intention is to publish the Report sometime in 2019. Anyone who wishes to keep track of progress will be able to do so via the publicly available minutes of the Main Committee meetings.</p>
<p><b>Cardiovascular Morbidity</b></p>	<p>Cardiovascular disease (CVD), a general term for conditions affecting the heart or blood vessels, is a major cause of health problems in the UK. A combination of genes, lifestyle choices and environmental factors can influence a person's likelihood of developing CVD. Some of these factors, such as unhealthy diet and physical inactivity, can be avoided. In its 2006 report 'Cardiovascular Disease and Air Pollution', the Committee noted that air pollution has an impact on CVD but was unable to make any recommendations on which components of the air pollution mixture were responsible for the effects based on the evidence at that time. Since then, there has been a growing body of evidence suggesting that exposure to outdoor air pollution may be a risk factor for CVD. As such, COMEAP felt it was important to review the evidence and determine whether a cause-effect relationship exists between people's long-term exposure (over years) to outdoor air pollution and CVD. The Committee has set up a Sub-group, made up of Members and co-opted experts, to review the available evidence. Several lines of evidence are being considered, including studies on human populations and research on the underlying mechanisms (how the pollutants affect the cardiovascular system). This work has been partly funded by the British Heart Foundation. On 22 October 2018, the Committee published its report on the mechanistic evidence: 'Effects of long-term exposure to ambient air pollution on cardiovascular morbidity: mechanistic evidence'. The Sub-group is currently reviewing the human population studies (epidemiological studies) on the association of long-term exposure to air pollution with CVD, and will provide its analysis and recommendations to the full Committee. The Committee will then provide an independent expert opinion, based on both the epidemiological and mechanistic evidence, on the likelihood of a causal link between air pollution and CVD. If the available evidence does support a link between CVD and air pollution, the Committee will consider whether, and how, the effect in the UK can be estimated. The Committee's intention is to publish its report sometime in 2019. Anyone who wishes to keep track of progress will be able to do so via the publicly available minutes of the Main Committee meetings.</p>