COMMITTEE ON TOXICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Horizon scanning follow-up

1.   Members considered horizon scanning at the February meeting. It was agreed that, based on the discussion, a list of items and an action plan would be brought back to the next meeting.

2.   Table 1, on page 3, contains the list of items and the proposed plan.

3.   The Committee also wished to consider the balance of expertise of the COT at the March meeting.

4.   It has previously been agreed that the following types of specialist expertise are required by the Committee for some or all of its evaluations:

Analytical techniques	Biochemistry
Bioinformatics	Cell biology
Clinical practice	Dietary exposure assessment
Endocrinology	Environmental exposure assessment
Epidemiology	Human toxicology
Immunology	Mathematical Modelling
Mechanistic toxicology	Molecular biology
Neurotoxicology	Nutrition
Paediatrics	Pharmacokinetics
Pharmacology	Probabilistic modelling
Reproductive toxicology	Respiratory toxicology
Risk assessment	Statistical aspects of experimental design
Statistics	Systems biology
Toxicogenomics	Toxicological pathology
Xenobiotic metabolism	

5.   It would not be necessary to have an individual member for each listed expertise as some people would have a combination of the required skills. Additional key experts are also invited to attend meetings for specific topics to supplement missing knowledge.

Questions on which the views of the Committee are sought

6.   Members are asked for further comments on the listed topics in Table 1 and the proposed plan. In particular Members are asked to consider how they would like to take forward the item on the use of Adverse Outcome Pathways (AOPs) in risk assessment.

7.   Members are invited to comment on whether the areas of expertise listed are still appropriate and if there are important gaps amongst the current membership.

8.   Members are reminded that they may draw particular issues to the attention of the Secretariat at any time.

Secretariat
March 2017

Table 1: COT future items*

Item	Plan
COT input into the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) review of complementary and young child feeding focussing on children age 1 to 5.	Ongoing work.
Advice to Department of Health on novel tobacco products	Ongoing work on heat-not-burn products.
e cigarettes	To be considered after heat-not-burn products
The COT-COC synthesising epidemiological evidence subgroup (SEES)	The draft report to be considered by the COT and COC at their March meetings.
Consultations of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)	Relevant documents to be considered by the COT as they are released for consultation by EFSA. To include the draft EFSA/ECHA guidance on endocrine disrupters.
Analysis of the evidence gap for postulated human health effects of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals	A paper on the evidence gaps to be prepared by PHE but other priorities mean this is not likely to be progressed during 2017. COT to consider the draft EFSA/ECHA guidance on endocrine disrupters in 2017, as above, and then reconsider this item.
Update on the COT 2008 trans- and multi-generational toxicity statement	Joint symposium of COT, COC and COM to be held on 9th October 2017.
Role of chemicals altering the microbiome and potential human health effects	A short write up of a symposium on "Toxicology and the human microbiome" at the 2017 BTS Annual Congress to be provided to the COT for further consideration.
Risk Assessment in the 21st Century (RISK21)	To receive a presentation on the RISK21 approach in the future but to hold until more papers have been published.
Potential application of AOPs in risk assessment	

*In addition to the topics listed, requests for COT advice are often received at short notice. The FSA has a substantial programme of surveys to monitor the safety and quality of food, details of which are available at http://food.gov.uk/science/surveillance/foodsurvprog. Where appropriate, the Committee's advice will be sought on the results.