

A high level meeting of users to review an impact statement regarding the adaptive society for everlasting life.

The impact statement

Impact plan for the Adaptive Society for Everlasting Life (ASEL)

Impact has been built in throughout the lifetime of the ASEL node, from inception through post-award to sustainability. In collaboration with the Everlasting Life Hub and nodes, ASEL will establish a UK focal point for active engagement with the everlasting life agenda and enable engagement with key stakeholders.

State of the art evidence reviews and the creation of regular engagement opportunities with government bodies and regulatory stakeholders (e.g., pension funds, insurance companies and the NHS), through established networks and communication channels (e.g. Dept of Health, the Treasury, UN, Europe) will inform emerging ASEL standards and policies with widespread application to industry, publics, education and research communities from month 3.

In the first 2 years, our plan is to work closely with cross-sectorial partners to develop our foundational research program to have future relevance by being informed of current and emerging social challenges. The establishment of fundamental principles for providing and assessing multi-layered, multi-dimensional ASEL in dynamic mixed mode environments will have benefits for a wide range of industries and civil society members.

Application oriented research will produce impacts in targeted application areas. We have explicitly engaged health providers and end-users of everlasting life during the proposal stage for (a) basing our approaches on real-data, (b) validation of our proposed approaches and (c) progressing from specific cases to broad empirical principles. To demonstrate applicability, translational pathways to societal impact are interleaved throughout the work program.

From year 3 onwards, our objective is to transition ASEL from the application/technology-invariant “foundations” approach to developing collaborative test cases of everlasting life with government departments and civil society organisations, to sustain the research beyond its funding cycle. With our partners, the ASEL node will demonstrate everlasting life in diverse contexts spanning terrestrial, space, and aquatic environments, covering an ever-growing and diverse range of living and being. We also have support from international partners (in the US, China, India and Europe) for strong academic and applied collaborations, which will lead to impacts in global markets.

The development of holistic and inclusive ASEL will require public engagement throughout. Early impacts will include raised awareness for a variety of end user publics including children (in schools) and older adults. A web-based process for ongoing creative input into design of ASEL will be introduced which will validate public contributions. The ultimate beneficiaries will be the general public as a result of a greatly improved everlasting life.

The discussion involving Chief Scientific Advisor (Corinne); Teenage civil servant from the Department of Bees (previously the Department of Baize (Jemma); Sustainability Forever NGO. (Mike G.), and Josi (CEO of Swindon Exhausts: now called Powerflow exhausts.)

Corinne: introduces self as Chief Scientific Advisor.

Thank you so much for coming to this meeting. Our business today is to evaluate a proposal from Lancaster university.

For those of you who have not read the papers, this is a project that aims to promote everlasting life. Yes, that's right, the researchers have found a way of allowing people to live forever.

The question for us is what impact will this have on society, and does the research represent good value for money?

If you read the proposal for an Adaptive Society for Everlasting Life (ASEL) you'll see that the applicants cover all the bases in terms of key words.

Impact is built in from inception right through to an unknown but everlasting future.

There are stakeholders, nodes, networks and targeted application areas.

Translational pathways (TPs) are interleaved, or should that be interweaved, or maybe interwoven.. anyway they run through the programme and there are strong connections with international partners (IPs).

I see there is also a good amount of PE – yes, a lot of jargon I know, but if you look carefully you'll find that PE is not physical education and gym shoes, and all that.. no, PE means public engagement.

All this sounds jolly good to me, but I'm keen to find out what you think about everlasting life and the potential impact of this research from your perspectives in business, policy and the voluntary sector.

Before we get going we should have a quick round of introductions. Jemma, let's start with you.

Jemma: Hi everyone, I'm Jemma from the Department of Bees. We used to be the Department of Baize, BAIZE or B.E.I.S I can't remember, but now we are B.E.E.S. I'm in the division that deals with impact and I've been in the job for seven weeks now, so I'm pretty experienced.

Corinne: Thank you Jemma, next we have Mike. Glad you managed to get here Mike. Mike is from an NGO.

Mike: Thanks, I am Mike from Sustainability Forever. We are an evergreen organization based in Bristol. Sorry I'm a bit sweaty, I've just put my folding bicycle in the corner is that ok?

Corinne: yes of course, no problem. Josi, over to you.

Josi – CEO of Swindon Exhausts now called Powerflow exhausts .. etc.

Corinne: ok, that's great, lets get going. Jemma, lets start with you. What did you think of this everlasting life idea? Will it have impact?

Jemma: I very much liked the concept of targeted application areas. This is exactly what we aim to do in BEES. The interweaving or was it interleaving also sounded great. But from a policy perspective I have a few concerns - has no one thought about the tax implications? It is not really my area but I think this everlasting life thing ought to be checked out by the Treasury.

Corinne: Mike, you have your hand up already do go ahead.

Mike interrupts: I don't think we should be so hung up on the money. Surely there are more important considerations. Personally, I think this plan has real potential to benefit society.

I wholeheartedly go along with all the PE. The plan to engage with such a diverse range of stakeholders from month 3 also has real promise...

Jemma interrupts: Sorry Mike, sorry to interrupt. I hear what you are saying but from my perspective the timescale is ridiculous. Three months to make impact? That's like forever.

No no no, this definitely doesn't fit with my planned trajectory graph or with my policy cycles. To be honest it seems like an awfully slow process. From a quick glance at the proposal, the stages don't fit with the rules for DEDF, discarding evidence that doesn't fit...

Corinne: I can see there might be some issues for BEES but what about the business view. Josiane, I can see you are very very very busy, but this is an important question.

Josi: Sure, sure, no problem. (puts phone down). What were you saying? I got lost with all the acronyms? What is an Engeeo or is it ingeoo?

Corinne: Ah, sorry, an N. G. O. A non governmental organization –

Josi is interrupted by another call, 'Just a moment, I'll be with you shortly'.

Mike: I'd like to interject at this point, if I may. Sustainability forever is a hundred percent committed to reducing inequalities and before we go any further I have a few ethical concerns to raise... This everlasting life idea clearly excludes some minorities. For example, the already dead will clearly be at a disadvantage.

Corinne: Ah. Yes, a good point. But there might be a solution. If we go along with this proposal the general public won't have to suffer the indignity of dying like past generations have. If anything we can look forward to ASEL (a society for everlasting life) and think of it as progress.. surely we are in favour of that.

Josiane: I'm confused, I thought we were here to talk about car parts, not body parts. I am all for planned obsolescence, but I've not heard of everlasting life, not in the motor trade, and I can't see the relevance of it for Swindon. I find this high level discussion quite exhausting, could someone please tell me how this benefits me?

Jemma: I've done a quick CBA (cost-benefit analysis) for you. My conclusion is, if people live longer, they will need to buy more exhausts.

Josiane: Oh I see! I don't quite follow the workings out... but this is just great! It looks a bright future ahead for Swindon exhausts.

Corinne: ...I think we're getting off topic, what do we think of the impact plan? Are we on board?

Jemma: I still have concerns about the tax implications ... and, I am not convinced by Mike's point that impact takes time. In fact, I think much of what he has to say falls into the DEDF category. But overall, we fully support the research providing the cost is passed onto another department, the treasury perhaps?

Mike: We also approve of the concept of everlasting life, and agree, it can pay homage to those who have died before us. With so much PE the general public will feel the benefit of extended life firsthand. So yes, this is something Sustainability Forever would support.

Corinne: that is two in favour, what about you Josi?

Josiane: Oh yes, I have learned a lot from this meeting, no argument about it. The longer people live the more exhausts they will need to buy! Simple.

Corinne: It just remains for me to thank you all for your time and for your very insightful contributions. We take impact very seriously here, and I'm delighted you are all so keen on the prospect of everlasting life.

Possible ending.. Corinne - while packing up the papers, phew I'm glad there were no funeral directors with us today.