

## THE UK AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT PROCESS: A REVIEW OF PROCESS AND PRACTICE

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This paper will investigate the process of air quality management (AQM) and local authority practice using the UK experience as a case study. The AQM framework in the UK is an effects-based process designed to provide a dynamic solution to public health issues associated with ambient air pollution. The statutory basis of the AQM process is provided by The Environment Act 1995, which required a National Air Quality Strategy to be published and enabled a series of health-based air quality objectives to be introduced. Local authorities are responsible for reviewing and assessing local air quality against objectives, which apply in areas where the public may be exposed for the averaging time of the relevant objective. Local authorities are required to identify those areas in which air quality objectives are considered likely to be exceeded and to declare these locations as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA). In such locations a local authority must develop an Action Plan detailing the measures to be taken and the timescale for implementation in order that the air quality objectives are achieved within the AQMA. The Government has supported local authorities through the provision of guidance, development of high quality national monitoring networks, emissions inventories, provision of training for local authority personnel and the of additional financial resources to purchase equipment. A key support element has been the development of web, telephone and email helpdesks. This paper will utilise information from evaluation processes instigated by the UK governments as well as research being undertaken at UWE.