

Unlocking Action on Clean Air

Do local authorities have the powers they need to tackle clean air?

o If not, what powers do they need?

o If so, how are they using them?

- What is needed from national government to unlock bold action on air quality?
- What is the role of the public or campaign organisations in supporting action on clean air?
- How does action on clean air interact with other local authority priorities or actions (for example on climate change)?

Research, workshops, deliberative panels...

Outputs

Briefing notes for

- local authorities
- national government
- advocacy groups

alongside a final report in autumn 2023.



Findings so far

- Strong local duties on air quality with processes (monitoring, reporting, action planning)
- Powers to deliver and enforce
- ‘Secondary’ powers in transport, planning and public health
- Most impact when it’s core to the council strategy & leadership and when acted on in combination
- Not always coordinated with climate actions

But...

- Very complex – national emissions ceilings, national levels, local concentrations across range of pollutants – 3 streams/regimes
- Masses of data but hard to understand and access
- Systemic issues to tackle at the national and local levels – political acceptance
- Some pollutants harder to tackle; lifestyles cement in pollution; resourcing issues; low awareness; indoor air quality less in control