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Richard Taylor
Pollution Control Service Manager
Nottingham City Council
Lawrence House
Talbot Street Nottingham
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09 March 2012

Dear Mr Taylor

LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT: AIR QUALITY FURTHER ASSESSMENT REPORT

Thank you for consulting the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on Nottingham CC's Further Assessment Report. Please find comments on the report attached.

The report sets out the outcome of the further assessment of air quality within the Council's AQMAs. The Council declared AQMAs due to exceedences of the annual mean nitrogen dioxide objective in 2001. Following a detailed assessment in 2009, it was considered necessary to modify the original AQMA orders. The AQMAs were amended in 2010.

The information presented in the Further Assessment report show that the decision to amend the AQMAs was correct. However it also suggests that the geographical extent of the AQMA may need further consideration. Exceedences were identified at 2 diffusion tube sites outside of the existing AQMAs, in 2010. Additional diffusion tubes were installed in 2011. The results will be reported in the 2012 USA. The Council will also broaden the scope of the Detailed Assessment that needs to be undertaken as reported in the 2011 Progress Report, to cover these areas. Based on the findings of the assessment, the Council will consider the need to revise the City Centre AQMA boundary.

The FA report includes an assessment of the various sources that contribute to the exceedences and discusses the reduction in emissions of the pollutant which will be required to achieve the air quality objective and the timescale for compliance. The approach to the further review and assessment and the conclusions of the report are accepted. The Council should now proceed with work on the Detailed Assessment. We look forward to receiving a copy of the DA report when it is available.

Yours sincerely

Tutu Aluko
ATMOSPHERE AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE
POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

Local Authority:	Nottingham City Council
Reference:	FA4-258
Date of issue	January 2012

Further Assessment Appraisal Report

The Report sets out the Further Assessment, which forms part of the Review & Assessment process required under the Environment Act 1995 and subsequent Regulations.

The report covers nitrogen dioxide and concludes that the amendments to the AQMA boundaries (AQMAs 2 and 3) made in June 2010 were appropriate. The report has identified exceedence of the annual mean NO_2 objective at two sites outside of the existing AQMAs in 2010. The Council is proposing to assess the concentrations measured at these and additional diffusion tube sites in the 2012 Updating and Screening Assessment. This decision is accepted. The Council has also proposed to broaden the scope of the Detailed Assessment (required following the 2011 Progress Report) to cover these areas. Based on the findings of this assessment, the Council has stated that it will consider the need to revise the City Centre AQMA boundary. This is accepted.

The report has considered source apportionment, the magnitude of reduction required and the timescale for compliance. The report also describes the third Local Transport Plan (LTP) and the Council has stated that management of air quality was taken into account throughout the development of and consultation of the LTP. This is welcomed and the Council should continue to report on the implementation of action plan measures in future review and assessment reports.

The approach to the Further Review & Assessment and the conclusions reached are **accepted** for all pollutants.

Following completion of this report, Nottingham City Council should proceed with the Detailed Assessment required for annual mean NO_2 and submit their Updating and Screening Assessment by April 2012.

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Commentary

The report is well structured and provides most of the information specified in the Guidance.

The following specific items are drawn to the local authority's attention to help inform future work:

1. The report states that further information relating to the monitoring sites is available in the 2011 Progress Report. In future reports the Council is advised to include information for those sites relevant to the area being assessed – for example, the Council should state the distance to relevant exposure for those sites where exceedences have been recorded outside of the existing AQMA. This would improve the clarity of the report.
2. The report states that Site K3 is located on an unoccupied commercial/residential building. The Council has stated that it has installed additional tubes around the locations where exceedence outside of the AQMAs has been recorded and will report on the findings in the 2012 USA and broaden the scope of the Detailed Assessment – this is accepted.
3. The report states that Site X3 is located at a road junction. Exceedence has been measured at this site and the Council should therefore consider the concentration at the nearest receptor to this site. The Council is advised to carry out fall-off with distance calculations in future reports where exceedences are recorded and relevant exposure exists at the location or nearby. In this case, the Council is not required to submit a revised report as they have stated that the intended action is to report on the concentrations measured at additional sites around this site (and Site K3) in the 2012 USA and broaden the scope of the Detailed Assessment – this is accepted.
4. The report identifies the Turning Point East traffic scheme – as stated in the report, this should be considered as part of the 2012 USA.

This commentary is not designed to deal with every aspect of the report. It highlights a number of issues that should help the local authority either in completing the Further Assessment adequately (if required) or in carrying out future Review & Assessment work.

Issues specifically related to this appraisal can be followed up by returning the attached comment form to Defra, Welsh Assembly Government, Scottish Government or DOE, as appropriate – or by emailing the form to reportappraisal@ttr-ltd.com.

For any other queries please contact the Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk:
Telephone: 0800 0327 953
Email: LAQMHelpdesk@uk.bureauveritas.com

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Appraisal Response Comment Form

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
Contact email address:	

Comments on appraisal/Further information: