| Local Authority: | **Nottingham City Council** |
|---|---|
| Reference: | **ASR19-0083** |
| Date of issue | **July 2019** |

# Annual Status Report

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

The Local Authority has one AQMA, AQMA 2, which encompasses the Council's entire administrative area and is declared for exceedance of the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide ($NO_2$). AQMA 2 was amended in January 2019 while AQMA 3 was revoked in January 2019 as it would have lied within the newly amended AQMA 2. The amendments of the AQMAs was based on the following as stated in the report: *"This decision was based on air quality monitoring data for nitrogen dioxide for 2015-2017, traffic and air quality modelling predictions for 2020 of the Clean Air Zone feasibility study, and the practicality of varying and describing one of the AQMAs and its interface with the other."*

There are currently two AQAPs contained within the Local Transport Plan 2010 and the more recent Local Plan to Improve Air Quality in Nottingham that was approved by DEFRA in November 2018. Nottingham City Council is developing a wider sustainability strategy that will also help it deliver a 2019 Nottingham Labour Group manifesto pledge to be carbon neutral by 2028.

Nottingham City Council undertook automatic monitoring of $NO_2$ at three sites during 2018 and undertook non-automatic monitoring at 47 $NO_2$ diffusion tube sites. There are also two DEFRA AURN air quality monitoring stations located in the city area. There were 18 diffusion tube locations that measured $NO_2$ concentrations exceeding the $NO_2$ AQO of 40 $\mu g/m^3$. None of the automatic monitoring sites measured an exceedance of the $NO_2$ AQO in 2018. $PM_{10}$ monitoring at the DEFRA AURN sites indicates levels meet both the annual and daily mean air quality objectives for 2018.

The ASR concludes, *"Air pollution remains a concern to Nottingham City Council, its citizens and businesses. Monitoring results in a number of locations show continuing, new, or renewed exceedances of the $NO_2$ annual mean AQO, and there is greater awareness and individual citizen experiences of localised air pollution problems."*

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The priorities and challenges to improve air quality are summarised as follows:

i. *Increase activity to raise awareness of air pollution and its health impacts,*
ii. *Enforce the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002, and issue Fixed Penalty Notices to drivers unnecessarily idling a stationary vehicles' engine.*
iii. *Go Ultra Low Nottingham - complete the range of initiatives and projects and secure additional funding to facilitate the take-up of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) in Nottingham,*
iv. *Complete the feasibility study into a low emission zone for the City Centre and identify/secure funding for implementation,*
v. *Complete the NCT bus retrofit programme and introduction of ULEV buses,*
vi. *Continue work with Nottingham's taxi companies to introduce low and zero emission vehicles.*
vii. *Adopt/integrate East Midlands Air Quality Network Air Quality and Emission Mitigation guidance as Supplementary Planning Guidance in the Local Plan.*
viii. *Further develop plans and secure funding for extension of Nottingham's Tram network (lines 4 and 5),*
ix. *Continue to work with major private and public sector employers to review vehicle use to reduce emissions,*
x. *Continue to roll-out/improve energy efficiency in Nottingham City Council's housing stock, as and when funding permits,*
xi. *Promote energy efficiency and the transition to/installation of alternative technologies that significantly reduce/negate NO2/NOx emissions in the commercial/industrial sector,*
xii. *Identify opportunities and secure further funding to transition Nottingham City Council commercial vehicle fleet to ULEV,*
xiii. *Identify and implement practicable local solutions to reduce particle emissions and concentrations.*

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached are acceptable for all sources and pollutants.

Following the completion of this report, Nottingham City Council should submit an Annual Status Report in 2020.

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## Commentary

The report is well structured, detailed, and provides the information specified in the Guidance. The following comments are designed to help inform future reports.

1. The decision to amend the existing AQMAs to form a city wide AQMA is supported.

2. Annualisation calculations are not shown in the report for the two monitoring sites that required annualisation (Tubes 48 and 51). The annualisation calculation for diffusion tube 51 is contained within the data spreadsheet that was submitted but the calculation for diffusion tube 48 is not shown and not conducted. The notes under table A.3 indicate that annualisation has been conducted where data capture is <75% however, this is not the case for diffusion tube 48. While this is not grounds for rejection, the council should annualise all diffusion tubes that require it and the calculations should be shown within the report.

3. The annual mean calculations shown in the uploaded data spreadsheet indicates that annual mean calculations for diffusion tubes ignored values below 10 µg/m$^3$. While this is acceptable, the decision to ignore the low values shoul be discussed within the report to give more transparency to the reader as the individual monthly means are shown and this could cause confusion as to the validity of the results.

4. Distance correction has been applied for all diffusion tubes not of relevant exposure however, these calculations should be included in the report.

5. The uploaded data template has been modified from the template available to local authorities and for future reporting the local authority should use the template as it is provided.

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 Annual Status Report 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.**

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

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|---|---|
| Contact Name: | |
| Contact Telephone number: | |
| Contact email address: | |

**Comments on appraisal/Further information:**