Local Authority:	**Nottingham City Council**
Reference:	**ASR21-0905**
Date of issue	**July 2021**

Annual Status Report Appraisal 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).

The Council undertook automatic monitoring at three sites during 2020: Carter Gate, Lace Street and St. Andrews Road. There are further AURN sites at Clinton St East. And Western Boulevard. All the automatic monitoring analysers had good data capture in 2020 (>75%). There were no exceedances of the NO_2 1-hour mean or annual mean objective at any of the automatic monitoring stations in 2020. The PM_{10} 24-hour mean and annual mean objectives were not exceeded more than the limit as prescribed by the National Air Quality Objectives by any of the AURN monitors. The $PM_{2.5}$ annual mean concentration limits or the SO_2 15-minute,1-hour or 24-hour objectives were not exceeded at the CC AURN monitoring site.

The Council undertook passive diffusion tube monitoring of NO_2 at 38 monitoring locations, with one of these containing triplicates co-located with an automatic monitor, and five containing triplicates but not co-located with an automatic monitor. During 2020, there were six exceedances at passive monitoring sites, however after distance correction, one of these sites achieved compliance with the annual mean objective.

The Council has robust QA/QC procedures, which were applied appropriately and accurately to the 2020 monitoring data. Both national and local bias adjustment factors have been determined, with the local factor having been selected in line with previous years. Annualisation was required for one diffusion tube site and carried out correctly, but no automatic monitors required annualization. Distance-correction was conducted for one diffusion tube site that monitored an exceedance and was not representative of relevant exposure. All calculations were clearly outlined and justified.

In the report, the Council has detailed extensive measures and plans to continue to address air quality within its administrative boundaries. These include a review of encouraging the uptake of electric vehicles via implementing a Clean Air Zone and also the Go Ultra Low

Programme, promotion of alternative forms of travel (i.e. public transport, walking or cycling), encouragement and facilitation of home-working as a result of COVID-19, introduction of e-scooter trials, motorway and junction improvements at various places to increase capacity.

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 2022.

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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. Please could the Council correct an error in the text of the report. It was stated that there were four exceedances of the annual mean NO_2 AQO, when there were six monitored exceedances. Please also then state that when distance correcting for relevant exposure, one of the sites becomes compliant with the objective.
2. The Council should be commended for their excellent detailed Local Engagement section, which provides members of public with a wealth of information on how to get involved – please keep up this good work and add any more points where possible.
3. Robust and accurate QA/QC procedures were applied. Calculations for bias adjustment, annualisation and distance-correction factors were outlined in detail.
4. The Council has included discussion and review of its AQMA and monitoring strategy, which is well informed due to its extensive monitoring network. This demonstrates the Councils proactive and dedicated approach to improving air quality across the area.
5. Comments from last year's ASR have been mentioned and addressed. This is welcomed, and we encourage this to continue in future ASRs.
6. The Council's detailed consideration of its approach for tackling $PM_{2.5}$, including a summary of targeted measures and analysis of source apportionment is welcomed. The Council could still consider referring specifically to the Public Health Outcomes Frameworks indicator D01: Fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution, and through collective actions, local authorities all making small reductions will help to reduce local/regional background particulate concentrations.
7. Please could the Council where possible provide estimates of costs for air quality measures in Table 2.2, and remove missing/incomplete entries from the table unless they can be filled in entirely, in order to ensure full transparency to the public regarding the actions taken to tackle air quality.
8. The Council have provided a map of the diffusion tube monitoring network, and additionally referenced an interactive website containing details of air quality monitoring within Nottingham, which is commendable.

9. Overall the report is detailed, concise and satisfies the criteria of relevant standards. The Council should continue their good and thorough work.

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 Progress 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.

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:	UKLAQMAppraisals@aecom.com

Comments on appraisal/Further information: