Local Authority:	**Nottingham City Council**
Reference:	**ASR22-1270**
Date of issue	**June 2022**

Annual Status Report Appraisal Report

The Annual Status Report sets out new information on air quality obtained by Nottingham City Council as part of the Review & Assessment process required under the Environment Act 1995 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021) and subsequent Regulations.

Nottingham City Council has been improving their air quality in recent years however there are still some exceedances. There is an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in place covering the entire of the administrative area for Nottingham City Council NO_2. There are five automatic monitors located within the Council monitoring a range of pollutants – NO_2, PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$ and SO_2. There are 50 diffusion tubes located within the Council at 38 monitoring sites (there are some triplicate locations).

Nine non-automatic monitoring sites report concentrations above the Air Quality Objective (AQO) of 40 µg/m^3. The highest concentration was recorded at 58.5 µg/m^3 at DT46 (Hicking Building, Queens Road). The other exceedances of the AQO were at DT14 (43.9 µg/m^3), DT30 (41.4 µg/m^3), DT47 (42.6 µg/m^3), DT50 (46.8 µg/m^3), DT56 (45.1 µg/m^3), DT10,58,59 (41.8 µg/m^3), DT20,60,61 (43.1 µg/m^3) and DT29,64,65 (46.4 µg/m^3). The monitored concentrations indicate that it is unlikely there would be exceedances of the 1-hour mean objective as no concentrations exceed 60 µg/m3, in accordance with Defra LAQM.TG (16). Exceedances of the AQO for PM_{10} (40 µg/m^3) and $PM_{2.5}$ (25 µg/m^3) were not reported within the Nottingham City Council. Instead the highest concentrations reported for each pollutant were 16 µg/m^3 for PM_{10} at CC AURN and 8 µg/m^3 for $PM_{2.5}$ at CC AURN. Nottingham City Council have stated that the PCM model indicates that as much as 85% of the $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations in Nottingham come from distant primary sources and upwind vapours, such as industrial, commercial and agricultural sources outside of the City's boundary. Therefore, any action that the Nottingham City Council is taking to reduce $PM_{2.5}$ emissions and concentrations will only have a small impact on $PM_{2.5}$ levels.

The Council plans to maintain the current monitoring for 2022. The diffusion tubes were analysed by Gradko which is a UKAS accredited lab that recorded a 'good' precision rating for their supplied/analysed tubes in 2021. One of the non-automatic monitoring sites (DT13) required annualisation as it had a recorded data capture of 65.4%. A local bias adjustment factor of 1.11 was applied to the diffusion tubes, this was calculated using only one triplicate site. Three of the diffusion tubes required distance correction during 2021, these were DT35, DT47 and DT56.

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The Executive Summary provided significant detail on Local Engagement and How to get Involved for residents of Nottingham City Council with a large number of website links that residents can access, however this section is not fully up to date as the discussion of World Car Free Day 2021 is not completed. Additionally, the Council has lots of schemes and projects in place to improve air quality and reduce emissions. These include Go Ultra Low Nottingham which supports uptake of electric cars and other low emission vehicles, the Clear Zone in the City Centre and developing plans and securing funding to extend the tram network.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached are **accepted** 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. Trends in NO_2, PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations from automatic monitoring stations are clearly presented in figures A.1, A.3 and A.5. But there are no figures provided for the non-automatic NO_2 monitoring results. Equally, the discussion on the trends is limited for both automatic and non-automatic concentrations.
2. The local bias adjustment factor was used for the non-automatic monitoring QA/QC process. There were three triplicate co-located sites within the Council however only one was used to calculate the local bias adjustment factor. Equally, there was no justification provided for the choice of using the local bias adjustment factor rather than the national.
3. No analysis methodology was provided for the diffusion tubes in the QA/QC process.
4. This Annual Status Report included no discussion of the appraisal comments from 2021.
5. The maps showing the locations of monitoring sites and the AQMA could have been created rather than screenshotted from an online map in order to show the monitoring locations more clearly. No map at all was provided for the locations of the automatic monitoring sites.
6. An additional section was added to the appendix about Nottingham's geography and weather which helps to contextualise the results in the ASR
7. Nottingham City Council provides a lot of detail in the Executive Summary, in particular the Actions to Improve Air Quality, Conclusions and Priorities, and Local Engagement and How to get Involved sections.

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 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 Government, Scottish Government or DOE.

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