Local Authority:	**Nottingham City Council**
Reference:	**ASR24-2261**
Date of issue	**July 2024**

Annual Status Report Appraisal Report

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

This original report was rejected in July 2024. All issues identified in the original appraisal have been sufficiently rectified, and the report is considered acceptable.

NCC has one AQMA (AQMA 2) that encompasses the entire administrative area of Nottingham City Council.

Table 2.2 presents a large list of Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) measures. Several AQAP measures are lacking adequate detail, with several measures show only their classification, category and funding source. It is good practice to have a comprehensive list of AQAP measures, however, it is difficult to see how NCC are making progress towards these measures. It is advised that in future reports, comments that detail how NCC plan to implement AQAP measures should be presented. If information is not available, please state this clearly in the table.

Automatic and passive monitoring was undertaken by NCC. There are 4 continuous monitoring sites within their jurisdiction. All continuous monitoring locations measured concentrations under the AQOs (Air Quality Objectives) for all pollutants measured in 2023.

There were 38 passive monitoring sites (including triplicates). The maximum annual mean NO_2 concentration was measured at location 46 with a concentration of 46.9µg/m^3, exceeding the AQO (Air Quality Objective) for annual mean NO_2. Although the AQO was exceeded at this site, air quality has improved at this location, with a general decreasing trend from 2019. There was only one exceedance above the AQO within NCC's jurisdiction. NCC have acknowledged this exceedance, however, there is no discussion regarding it. It would be good practice to discuss the possible causes and outline what action plan measures will target future exceedances at this location. For subsequent reports, NCC should discuss any trends evident in the data, both improvements and declining air quality. NCC are recommended to tie this to actions in place to improve air quality, particularly in hot spot areas.

QA/QC of the monitoring results is robust. NCC has followed all steps outlined in LAQM.TG(22) to ratify the results. NCC applied a local bias adjustment factor using their own triplicate diffusion

tube data and continuous monitoring results. A local bias adjustment factor of 0.96 was calculated by following the appropriate guidance.

Defra recommends that Directors of Public Health approve draft ASRs. Sign off is not a requirement, however collaboration and consultation with those who have responsibility for Public Health is expected to increase support for measures to improve air quality, with co-benefits for all. Please bear this in mind for the next annual reporting process.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached in the report are **accepted** for all sources and pollutants. Nottingham City Council should submit an Annual Status Report in 2025.

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Commentary

The report provides most of the information specified in the Guidance.

1. **Although the Council has stated that AQMA No.2 has been compliant for 6 years, monitoring data suggests that there was an exceedance at Site 46 in 2023. If it is not a relevant exceedance under LAQM guidance, this needs to be explained in the ASR. Otherwise, it is misleading to state that NCC is compliant. If this is a relevant exceedance, NCC should amend the reported years of compliance in the ASR.** – *NCC has amended Table 2.1 to show that they are not compliant with the AQO. It can be seen from Table A.2 that site 46 is 0 metres from relevant receptors and therefore can be considered to be located at relevant exposure.*

2. **Table 2.1 lists five individual AQMAs (all named AQMA No.2) with different exceedance and compliance statistics. It is unclear whether NCC has five individual AQMAs or one AQMA that encompasses the entire administrative boundary. NCC must amend Table 2.1 to show clearly the current declared AQMAs within the Council and notify the LAQM Helpdesk should the information on the LAQM Portal need updating.** – *The extra rows in Table 2.1 have been removed.*

The following comments are designed to help inform future reports:

3. A long list of AQAP measures was presented in the report. Most of the measures showed how they were being funded and how they were being implemented. However, there are several rows where only the category and classification are filled in. NCC are advised to provide further comments on this in future reports. Not all AQAP measures have comments regarding their progress. If a measure is in the planned stage, comments on progress is expected. If NCC do not have the relevant information available, a statement saying this should be added.

4. QA/QC of the data was robust. All calculations performed on the data followed the most up to date version of the LAQM guidance.

5. Several formatting issues are present throughout the document. Standard text from the template is found throughout the document (e.g. page 9). Shorthand names of pollutants should follow the same subscript format (e.g. “No2”, not “NO_2”). The tables follow the general template; however, grid lines have been omitted in the results and dashes have not been used to signify an empty cell. Ensure that the document has been formatted correctly before submitting.

6. Graphs used within the report are clear and show the trends in pollutant concentrations as far back as 2015 which is commended. Unfortunately, there was no clear discussion of this year's monitoring results compared to the trends of previous years. For next year's report, it is advised that NCC provides a concise discussion that compares the results to previous years.

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

The Air Quality Hub is now run by Defra, it is a free online information and knowledge sharing resource for local authority air quality professionals. Please consider onboarding on the Air Quality Hub to access a multitude of air quality resources and be kept up to date with local authority air quality activity and air quality news.

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Appraisal Response Comment Form

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
Contact email address:	UKLAQMAppraisals@aecom.com

Comments on appraisal/Further information: