

Authority:	Cheltenham Borough Council
Reference:	ASR18-207
Date of Issue:	November 2018

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 whole of Cheltenham Borough Council is currently declared as an air quality management area, for exceedances of NO₂ annual mean air quality objective. It has an air quality action plan published in 2014. There are 3 main areas of concern (the High Street/ Junction with Gloucester Road, and Swindon Road. The Council are currently considering revoking the current AQMA, and instead declare a smaller AQMA with boundaries around the northern area of Cheltenham town. Monitoring is only carried out for NO₂ via single automatic site and 20 diffusion tube (DT) sites. During 2017 there were exceedances of NO₂ annual mean concentration at 3 DT sites (40.1µg/m³, 49.9µg/m³ and 41.6µg/m³) and ten sites recorded levels within 10% of the air quality objective. There were no exceedances of the 1-hour mean objective. Approximately half the monitoring sites have recorded lower concentrations compared to 2013, however hotspots remain. Road traffic is the main source of emissions in the Borough, and no new sources/developments have been identified in 2017.

QA/QC procedures have been applied for bias adjustment (using a locally derived factor) and distance corrections (for all sites not at relevant exposure). No other corrections are required. There is limited discussion of the progress of the Cheltenham Transport Plan, which should have had all 4 phases implemented at time of writing the ASR. The report contains limited discussion of PM_{2.5} issues, with no links to the Public Health Outcomes Framework. Furthermore the Council does not currently have the resources to monitor this pollutant and has no direct mitigation measures in place. The Councils AQAP contains 17 broad measures, and provides good discussion on progress towards implementing these measures.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached are acceptable for all sources and pollutants, with the provisos listed in the commentary below. The Council should continue to implement their air quality strategy, and continue monitoring. Following the completion of this report, Cheltenham Borough Council should submit an Annual Status Report in 2019.

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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 revoke (to replace with a smaller AQMA) or amend existing boundaries is supported. For further guidance please refer to LAQM Technical Guidance 16 (TG16).
2. Please ensure Table 2.1 matches the template version and includes data regarding current levels of exceedances. For further guidance please refer to TG16.
3. The AQAP presented is comprehensive and contains good discussion/commentary of progress. The majority of measures are expected to be completed by the end of 2018. The Council should review their plan and update it accordingly, ideally introducing further, more specific measures that target known hotspots. For further guidance please refer to TG16.
4. The Council recently expanded their monitoring network, this is supported. The Council should aim to increase monitoring where resources allow.
5. Generally the report is concise, well written and illustrates the hard work the Council are undertaking to improve local air quality. However further actions are required to bring the Borough within national limits.

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 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

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
Contact email address:	

Comments on appraisal/Further information: