

Authority:	Cheltenham Borough Council
Reference:	ASR19-0103
Date of Issue:	August 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 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 amending the current AQMA boundaries so that it only covers the northern area of Cheltenham town. A Detailed Modelling Assessment is currently in the later stages of development and will be published in late 2019. The Council will review both the modelling and monitoring results prior to any changes being made to the AQMA boundaries.

Monitoring is only carried out for NO₂ via a single automatic site and 29 diffusion tube (DT) sites. 9 additional tubes were added in 2018. During 2018 there were exceedances of NO₂ annual mean concentration at 2 DT sites (41.2µg/m³ and 42.5µg/m³) and four sites recorded levels within 10% of the air quality objective. There were no exceedances of the 1-hour mean objective.

QA/QC procedures have been applied for bias adjustment (using a locally derived factor) and distance corrections (for all sites not at relevant exposure). Calculations for annualisation were also included.

The current AQAP was published in 2014 and a new AQAP is now required (in-line with the 5-year period prescribed by DEFRA after which a new AQAP should updated and published). The new AQAP will need to be updated so that it considers the potential amendment of the AQMA as well as measures that will address it.

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.

Following the completion of this report, Cheltenham Borough 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. In light of the monitoring results it would not be inappropriate to amend the current AQMA boundary to focus on the northern area of the borough. However, the Council has stated they wish to review both the modelling results (from the Detailed Modelling Assessment) and monitoring results prior to any changes being made to the AQMA boundaries. This is accepted.
2. As the current AQAP will be out of date by the end of 2019, it is strongly encouraged that the Council create a new AQAP to be published in the next reporting year. Within this AQAP, details of the potential amendment of the AQMA should be included.
3. The Council recently expanded their monitoring network, from 20 tubes to 29 tubes this is supported. The Council should continue to review their monitoring locations and amend when deemed appropriate.
4. Generally the report is concise, well written and illustrates the hard work the Council are undertaking to improve local air quality.

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: