
Local Authority:	Cheltenham Borough Council
Reference:	ASR-1451
Date of issue	September 2022

Annual Status Report Appraisal Report

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

The Council have identified areas where there were exceedances of the annual mean air quality objectives for NO₂. Consequently, Cheltenham Borough Council has one AQMA declared in the borough. This AQMA was declared in September 2020 (following the revocation of the borough-wide AQMA) for exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean AQS objective of 40 µg/m³. A new AQAP was published in 2022, for an exceedance of the air quality objective in the AQMA in 2019.

The Council undertook automatic (continuous) monitoring of NO₂ at one site during 2021. The automatic monitoring site, located at St George's Street, recorded an annual mean concentration of 25.3 µg/m³, which is well below the annual mean air quality objective of 40 µg/m³.

The Council undertook non-automatic monitoring (i.e. passive) monitoring of NO₂ at 39 diffusion tube sites during 2021. This included one triplicate site, co-located with the automatic analyser (located on St Georges Street), resulting in 41 diffusion tubes being deployed each month in the district. Four sites were added onto the 35 sites of the monitoring network in 2020. In 2021, across the monitoring network, the highest annual mean NO₂ concentration that was recorded was 34.5 µg/m³ (Site ID: 5). This site was located within the current AQMA designation. In 2021, the annual mean NO₂ concentration increased at 74% of diffusion tube sites, compared with 2020. The Council have attributed this increase to changes in travel behaviour following the COVID-19 pandemic. There were no exceedances of the air quality objective of 40 µg/m³ at any of the monitoring sites in 2021.

Cheltenham Borough has robust QA/QC procedures for diffusion tube monitoring, which were applied appropriately and accurately to the 2021 monitoring data. The local bias adjustment factor has been applied. Annualisation was not required. Distance correction was not required due to the low concentrations reported. All calculations were clearly outlined and justified, and appear accurate.

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, Cheltenham Borough Council should submit an Annual Status Report in 2023.

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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 Council have provided clear maps of the diffusion tube monitoring network and boundary of the AQMA; trends are displayed and discussed in the report, this is welcomed.
2. In section 3 '*Air Quality Monitoring Data and Comparison with Air Quality Objectives and National Compliance*' under 3.1.2, the text states that '*20 months of data*' was lost, which is incorrect. The text in the ASR should be checked to ensure accuracy.
3. Some of the formatting in the document needs to be amended. Pages 14 – 17 state the figure titles without the figures beneath them. This is then repeated below in the ASR with the figures included.
4. Robust and accurate QA/QC procedures were applied and there is clear reasoning and evidence for the calculation of a local bias adjustment factor.
5. Overall, this report is well detailed and concise. It is clear that Cheltenham Borough Council is committed to maintaining good air quality, with an AQAP published in 2022. Further comments on the progress of this should be included in the 2023 ASR.

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 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 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: