

Local Authority:	Northampton Borough Council
Reference:	ASR17-207
Date of issue	January 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 Local Authority currently has 7 AQMA's declared between 2003 and 2009 for exceedance of the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide as follows:

AQMA		Current exceedance	Recent trends
AQMA1	M1	No (Max 29.3/ $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Reducing but increase in 2016
AQMA5	A45 Wooton Hall Park	No (subject to distance correction)	Overall no significant change, increased in 2016
City Centre AQMAs			
AQMA2	Victoria Promenade	Yes at 4 sites, (Max 41.6/ $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Reducing but significant increase in 2016
AQMA3	St James/Weedon Rd	Yes at 6 sites, (Max 49.8/ $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Significant increases in 2016
AQMA4	Kingsthorpe Grove/Harborough Rd	Yes at 6 sites, (Max 53.6/ $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Increases in 2016
AQMA6	Campbell Square/Grafton Street	Yes at 1 site, (Max 41.3/ $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Increases in 2016
AQMA8	St Michael's Road	Yes at 4 sites, (Max 48.9/ $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Increases in 2016

The Borough Council has not developed an Action Plan, despite AQMAs being declared since 2003, with the most recent in 2009. The report references the proposed development of a Low Emission Strategy expected to be completed in 2017.

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, Northampton Borough Council should submit the next Annual Status Report in 2018.

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Commentary

The report is well structured, detailed, and provides the information specified in the Guidance, using the latest template.

1. The 2017 ASR report represents the first LAQM report the Council have submitted since 2014.
2. The Council currently has 7 active AQMAs 5 in the city centre, and two located near to the M1 and A45. There is a proposal within the report to declare a single AQMA to include all the 5 central AQMAs, covering the central districts.
3. We agree that the declaration of a single central AQMA for Northampton is a positive step. Future monitoring and development of action plan measures will be required to focus on these pollution hotspot areas.
4. The latest monitoring shows some significant increases for 2016, in common with other areas in the UK highlighting the potential for year on year variability. The outcome of the latest results suggests that there are now only exceedances within the 5 central AQMAs.
5. The Council have not reported results as required in Table 2.1. The table headers make clear that results are required to be presented as representative of relevant exposure. This means that results for each AQMA should be corrected for distance as detailed in Table B.1.
6. Some results in Table B.1 have not been corrected as required, notably DT16 and DT17 in AQMA3. Results for DT9-11 in AQMA5 also have not been corrected for distance as required.
7. The annual mean results for the continuous monitors have been omitted, results from both these monitors including the AURN, should be included in future reports.
8. The Council have stated that a Low Emission Strategy, encompassing an Air Quality Action Plan, is currently under development due for completion by the end of 2017.
9. The Council are reminded that it is a statutory requirement that Action Plans are subject to public consultation, and appraisal by Defra prior to adoption by the Council.
10. The Council should make reference to the latest Technical Guidance from Defra (available via the Defra website) in Chapter 2 of LAQM TG16. This provides the most up to date guidance for the recommended process in the development of action plans.

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11. Future annual status reports will need to reflect the development and progress with action plan measures, showing which measures are active and being progressed. Table A.2 in the Annual Status Report should be a reflection of a similar table with the Action Plan Template, available via the Defra LAQM webpages.

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).

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: