

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.

Broxtowe Borough Council currently has one AQMA, in Trowell, for exceedances in the NO₂ annual mean. The AQMA has an AQAP which was first published in 2008, but the Council continue to publish updates within their ASR (as agreed with the LAQM Helpdesk). The M1 and the A52 are the major sources of emissions in the borough, being the main connecting roads from Nottingham to Derby, and are heavily used by commuters. The remaining AQMA is associated with traffic emissions from the M1 motorway.

In 2019, the Council carried out passive NO₂ monitoring across a network of 43 diffusion tubes. There were no exceedances of the annual mean NO₂ objective in the borough in 2019, with the highest measured concentrations inside the remaining AQMA being 31 µg/m³, and 33 µg/m³ measured outside the AQMA, at site 17 in Church Street. NO₂ concentrations continue to demonstrate a downward trend throughout the borough since 2013.

QA/QC procedures have been applied for bias adjustment (using a national factor). The Council have performed distance corrections with calculations provided. No annualisation was required. The report provides good detailed discussion of local PM_{2.5} issues and the measures the Council have in place to tackle PM_{2.5}.

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, Broxtowe Borough Council should submit an Annual Status Report in 2021.

Commentary

The report is very well written, detailed, and provides the information specified in the Guidance. The following comments are made:

1. The Council have provided a very detailed discussion of the NO₂ trends within the borough. In addition to this they discuss the trends in relation to locations as well as providing NO₂ concentrations alongside this. This is extremely useful and this approach to data discussion is encouraged in future reports.
 2. The Council have continued to see no exceedances of national air quality objectives in 2019 and concentrations in the Trowell AQMA continue to fall. The Council have stated that they plan to implement further measures to ensure NO₂ concentrations are below the AQOs and will not revoke the AQMA until it is consistently below 36 µg/m³ for three or more consecutive years. Should NO₂ concentrations be below 36 µg/m³ in 2020 (marking 3 years of compliance), it is advised for the Council to consider undertaking another detailed assessment to evaluate whether revocation of the AQMA is appropriate. However, in saying this, it should be noted there may be implications from the current Covid-19 situation on air quality within the borough. Therefore, concentrations next year may skew long term NO₂ trends within the borough and this should be considered.
 3. It is promising to see that the Council are continuing to review their monitoring locations and discontinue sites where the annual air quality levels are below the objective. The Council have stated that rather than decommission sites they will relocate tubes to new areas within the borough to identify potential 'hotspot' or 'problem' areas. This is encouraging to see as it demonstrates the Council's active engagement in monitoring air quality within the borough.
 4. Alongside providing a detailed discussion of priorities the Council wish to address in the coming year, they also discuss the challenges and barriers to implementation they anticipate facing. This is good to see, and the Council are encouraged to continue including this in future ASRs.
 5. Overall the report is detailed, concise, satisfies the criteria of relevant standards and continues to be an example of good practice. The Council should continue their good work and submit an Annual Status Report in 2021.
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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

Appraisal Response Comment Form

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

Comments on appraisal/Further information:
