

Local Authority:	West Berkshire Council
Reference:	ASR19-0167
Date of issue	October 2019

Annual Status Report Appraisal 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 West Berkshire area enjoys good air quality with the exception of one exceedance of the 1-hour NO₂ national air quality objective. Due to historical exceedances two AQMAs have been declared: Newbury AQMA and Thatcham AQMA.

Automatic monitoring for NO₂ was undertaken at one site during 2018, CM1 Newbury – Newbury A339, A343 and Greenham Road. The annual means at this site was 36 µg/m³, below the national objective, but with one exceedances of the 1-hour mean objective. Automatic monitoring for PM was not undertaken.

Non-automatic (passive) monitoring of NO₂ was conducted at 36 sites during 2018, including one triplicate site. The monitoring results show NO₂ concentrations did not exceed objective levels at any sites in 2018, however there were four sites within 10% of the objective. Data capture for 2018 was good (above 75%) at all monitoring locations therefore annualisation was not required.

QA/QC procedures have been applied with a local bias adjustment factor used from the triplicate diffusion tubes co-located with the continuous monitor. Annualisation was not carried out for any diffusion tube sites, as data capture was above 75% at all sites. Distance correction was carried out for six sites in 2018, to ensure concentrations were relevant for the nearest exposure. The report provides maps of each monitoring site and the AQMAs, and a breakdown of historical trend data.

The Council has made progress with measures to address air quality in West Berkshire in 2018. The council have improved sustainable travel infrastructure, with a contract for the installation of 40 electric car charge points on the highway in and around Newbury, the New Newbury bus station opening in December 2018 and cycle facilities improved on the A4 between Newbury and Thatcham. The council has identified priorities for 2019 including continuing to work within the unitary authority with Transport Policy and Highways Teams to improve traffic management.

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On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached are acceptable for all sources. Following the completion of this report, West Berkshire 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. Trends are clearly presented and discussed and a robust comparison with air quality objectives is provided.
2. The diffusion tube and AQMA mapping is comprehensive and clearly demonstrates the monitoring network.
3. Table 2.1 was missing the Thatcham AQMA. This should be updated in next year's report to include details of all AQMAs.
4. Following the recommendations in last year's report regarding an AQAP for Thatcham, there were no exceedances in the Thatcham AQMA therefore the approach to an AQAP for this remains appropriate. This should be reviewed again if any exceedances are recorded in the Thatcham AQMA in future years.
5. QA/QC of the data was considered to be thorough, with a local bias adjustment factor used for the non-automatic network and distance correction applied where appropriate.
6. The report included measures to address PM_{2.5} and contains some links to Public Health Outcomes Frameworks. It would be useful to include a link to the website for these in future ASRs.
7. Priorities for 2019 were identified, which is welcomed. Progress made on these priorities should be reported on in next year's report.
8. Comments from the previous appraisal have been included and addressed, which is welcomed.

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 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 Assembly Government, Scottish Government or DOE.

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: