

Local Authority:	<b>Wokingham District Council</b>
Reference:	<b>ASR20-0501</b>
Date of issue	<b>July 2020</b>

## **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.

Wokingham Borough Council has declared three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) for exceedances of the annual mean nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) objective. These are located in Wokingham Town Centre, Twyford Crossroads and 60 metres either side of the M4 throughout the whole of the borough. However, the Council have proposed the revocation of the M4 AQMA as NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations have been more than 10% below the annual mean objective for three consecutive years.

Wokingham Borough undertook automatic (continuous) monitoring at 2 sites during 2019; Peach Street Wokingham and Twyford Crossroads. The automatic monitoring analysers had good data capture in 2019 (>75%). NO<sub>2</sub> was measured by the 2 automatic monitoring sites with the 1-hour mean objective and the annual mean objective meeting the national objectives.

The Council undertook passive diffusion tube monitoring of NO<sub>2</sub> at 46 monitoring locations, with two of these containing triplicates co-located with the two automatic monitors. During 2019, there were two exceedances at passive monitoring sites, WOK838 (in Wokingham Town Centre AQMA) and co-located tubes WOK850/WOK887/WOK888 (in Twyford Crossroads AQMA).

The Council has robust QA/QC procedures, which were applied appropriately and accurately to the 2019 monitoring data; both national and local bias adjustment factors have been determined (the national factor was selected), annualisation was carried out for two diffusion tubes, and distance-correction was conducted for sites exceeding the objectives and not representative of relevant exposure. All calculations were clearly outlined and justified.

In the report, the Council has detailed extensive measures and plans to continue to address air quality within its administrative boundaries. These include a review of encouraging the uptake of electric vehicles and promotion of alternative forms of travel (i.e. public transport, walking or cycling), review of traffic routes to reroute traffic away from AQMAs, consider the feasibility of a Low Emission Zone and implementation of more Low Emission Vehicles in council fleet, creating awareness of poor air quality through cycle training, anti-idling

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campaigns and workshops, inclusion of electric charging points for electric/hybrid vehicles on new developments and implementing a new local plan to outline measures to target and be effective against air pollution.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached are acceptable for all sources and pollutants. Following the completion of this report, Wokingham District Council should submit an Annual Status Report in 2021.

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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. Robust and accurate QA/QC procedures were applied. Calculations for bias adjustment, annualisation and distance-correction factors were outlined in detail.
2. The Council has included discussion and review of its AQMAs and monitoring strategy, informed due to the extensive monitoring network and also the additional tubes in place to provide data. This demonstrates the Council's proactive and dedicated approach to improving air quality across the area.
3. Comments from last year's ASR have been mentioned and addressed. This is welcomed, and we encourage this to continue in future ASRs.
4. The Council has an extensive NO<sub>2</sub> monitoring strategy. Monitoring of other pollutants, while not compulsory, could be considered to better inform how to tackle PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution.
5. The Public Health Outcomes Frameworks was mentioned, and this is encouraged. The Council considered referring specifically to indicator D01, taking on board comments from the previous appraisal.
6. Council have provided a clear map of the diffusion tube monitoring network; Council have provided discussion on the trend graphs seen in the report.
7. Table B.1 reporting diffusion tube data do not consistently show those sites who are above the Air Quality Objective for NO<sub>2</sub> to be marked in bold with some sites above the threshold shown in bold while others are not. This can be very misleading to the public in reading the results of the monitoring carried out.
8. Overall the report is detailed, concise and satisfies the criteria of relevant standards. The Council should continue their good and thorough work.

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:	UKLAQMAppraisals@aecom.com

**Comments on appraisal/Further information:**