

Local Authority:	Wokingham Borough Council
Reference:	ASR25-2616
Date of issue	July 2025

Annual Status Report Appraisal Report

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

WBC currently have three AQMAS within their administrative area. These are:

1. M4 AQMA – declared in 2001 (amended 2004) for exceedances in annual mean and 1-hour mean NO₂ objectives;
2. Twyford Crossroads AQMA – declared in 2015 for exceedances in the annual mean NO₂ objective; and
3. Wokingham Town Centre AQMA - declared in 2015 for exceedances in the annual mean NO₂ objective.

Last year's letter commented on the revocation of AQMA's M4 and Twyford Crossroads AQMA's as they were compliant. These have now been revoked as of January 2025. The only existing AQMA within WBC's jurisdiction is now Wokingham Town Centre AQMA. Passive monitoring in this AQMA was below the objective values. It is acknowledged that WBC intend to revoke this AQMA if concentrations at WOK838 remain below 36 µg/m³ in 2025. This is supported as only two full years of compliance are currently recorded at WOK838. The Council should review concentrations at this site, and within the Wokingham Town Centre AQMA, in the next ASR.

A detailed description Wokingham Town Centre AQMA has been provided. It details the number of monitoring sites in the area and some discussion about the results. It is commended that WBC have split the discussion into AQMA specific sections. It makes following the report a lot easier for the reader. It is clear to see from the discussion that the overall trend for annual mean NO₂ concentrations within this AQMA is downward.

Passive monitoring in WBC's jurisdiction was performed at 36 sites. The highest concentration of annual mean NO₂ was at 30.4 µg/m³ at triplicate site WOK850. Automatic monitoring was performed at one site with an annual mean concentration of 28 µg/m³. Monitored concentrations are below the air quality objective at all sites.

Local Authority:	Wokingham Borough Council
Reference:	ASR25-2616
Date of issue	July 2025

QA/QC procedures have been discussed. Diffusion tubes were supplied by Gradko and prepared using a 20% TEA in water method. The Council have confirmed that monitoring was undertaken in adherence with the 2024 diffusion tube monitoring calendar. Annualisation calculations were required at two sites in 2024 (WOK879, 880, 881 and WOK884, 885, 886). Calculations have been provided. A local bias adjustment factor of 0.88 was calculated using the colocation with the Wokingham Town Centre automatic monitor. This factor was applied to data. No distance correction calculations were required.

The fraction of mortality attributable to particulate pollution for Wokingham has been reported, and compared to neighbouring authorities, as well as regional and national values. The reported value of WBC is 5.3%. This has decreased from 5.9% from last year's report. This value is still above the national England average of 5.5%, however, this has improved in WBCs jurisdiction.

To address PM_{2.5} emissions within their jurisdiction, a few measures are being taken:

- Implementation of actions into Local Transport Plan (LTP) and the Local Development Framework Core Strategy (LDFCD) all changes to local road infrastructure must consider the effects on air quality, with the aim of reducing PM_{2.5} emissions.
- WBC provided advice through communication modes such as social media to inform residents on the effects of commercial burning and bonfires within their jurisdiction. Aimed at educating the public about harmful PM_{2.5} emissions from these sources.

The progress to improve air quality within their jurisdiction is detailed. WBC have highlighted key objectives for their jurisdiction. The main objective is the new LTP. This mainly focuses on promoting active travel within their jurisdiction and implementation of a new active travel scheme in from 2025. Other key initiatives within WBCs jurisdiction include the "Bikeability" scheme, allowing access to train all children in Primary and Junior schools. Additionally, the Bikeability grant allowed for members of the public to check whether their bikes are roadworthy, further encouraging the public to cycle, rather than using other pollutive means of transport.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached in the report are **accepted** for all sources and pollutants. Following the completion of this report, Wokingham Borough Council should submit an Annual Status Report in 2026.

Local Authority:	Wokingham Borough Council
Reference:	ASR25-2616
Date of issue	July 2025

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 ASR has been signed off by the Director of Public Health which is good practice.
2. M4 and Twyford Roads AQMAs have been revoked which is commended. There is still a lot of discussion of these AQMAs throughout the text. Now that they have both been revoked, it is not necessary to go into details of these AQMAs.
3. Consider the revocation of Wokingham Town Centre AQMA.
4. It is commended to see a detailed section on additional works and new or changed sources within WBC.
5. Correct some formatting issues, including subscript errors e.g. PM_{2.5} instead of PM_{2.5}.
6. WBC are making great efforts in improving air quality within their jurisdiction. A detailed discussion on new schemes and policies showcases their commitment towards improving air quality within their jurisdiction is commended.
7. Measures to reduce PM_{2.5} emissions within WBCs jurisdiction are robust.

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 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

The [Air Quality Hub](#) is now run by Defra, it is a free online information and knowledge sharing resource for local authority air quality professionals. Please consider onboarding on the Air Quality Hub to access a multitude of air quality resources and be kept up to date with local authority air quality activity and air quality news.

Local Authority:	Wokingham Borough Council
Reference:	ASR25-2616
Date of issue	July 2025

Appraisal Response Comment Form

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

Comments on appraisal/Further information: