

## Appendix A

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### Air Quality Annual Status Report - Supporting Information

#### Reports submission:

Air quality monitoring and improvement contributes to a number of principal priorities of the PPP, and continues to be identified as such in 2020-21 with synergies directly with climate change and environmental protection. In Summer 2019 all PPP local authorities made commitments with respect to climate change, and air quality continues to be regularly in the news, alongside, the cross cutting climate change theme.

The three Annual Status Reports were completed in-house by the deadline (which was not changed due to the pandemic). The reports were submitted as follows;

Bracknell Forest	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
Wokingham	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
West Berkshire	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2020

The results for the 3 local authorities continue to show trends of a reduction of air pollution levels and a summary can be found in the Executive Summary at the beginning of each report.

The reports are now available on the Public Protection Partnership website. <https://publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk/environmental-health/air-quality/air-quality-monitoring/>

#### Report appraisals and next steps:

Despite the situation with regards to Covid and the circumstances the companies appraising these reports on behalf of DEFRA there was a swift turn around.

The appraisals were provided as follows;

Bracknell Forest	4 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
Wokingham	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
West Berkshire	6 <sup>th</sup> August 2020

The reports and conclusions have been accepted as detailed below – and the full appraisals are attached.

#### Bracknell Forest

*“In the report, the Council has detailed measures and plans to continue to address air quality within its administrative boundaries. The main focus is stated to be within AQMA areas. These include the measures described in the Local Transport plan: aiming to reduce traffic congestion and traffic delays, the reduction of GHGs from local vehicles and the promotion of the sustainable public transportation means available to the Council’s residents.*

*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, Bracknell Forest Borough Council should submit an Annual Status Report in 2021.”*

It is of note that the commentary states that

*“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 Councils proactive and dedicated approach to improving air quality across the area.”*

### **Wokingham**

*“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 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 again 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.*

It is of note that the commentary concludes that

*“Overall the report is detailed, concise and satisfies the criteria of relevant standards. The Council should continue their good and thorough work.”*

### **West Berkshire**

*“The Council has outlined measures implements to tackle air quality in West Berkshire and commented on their progress in 2019. These measures include improvement works at Bear Lane, A339 to improve traffic flows, the installation of 31 electric vehicle charge points and the National Cycle Network 422 expansion. The Council have also identified key priorities and challenges for 2020.*

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

Most significantly the commentary makes note that;

*“The Council have stated they will consider revocation of both the Newbury and Thatcham AQMAs following the results of the 2021 ASR. This decision is supported.*

### **Other air quality related matters of note**

A motion was passed by Wokingham Borough Council recently regarding the monitoring of PM<sub>2.5</sub>. A proposal considering the location, costs and how the information can inform the authority and public is being drawn up.

Further work on Idling is being developed and the PPP will be progressing with the legal requirements to be followed in order to allow the implementation with the Wokingham Borough Council area. Work in Twyford on innovative measures is continuing.

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The Downshire Way (AQMA) new traffic layout is having a positive effect on the traffic movement and there are less tails backs, the 2021 results (2022 ASR) will show a true reflection of its success. Crowthorne Parish Council is also working with “alternative companies” to trial new and innovating ways to reduce the NO<sub>2</sub>.

We are starting to look at the impact of Covid lockdown on local air quality. We have continued to monitor (which included officers changing the air quality monitoring tubes on a monthly basis. Whilst the measurements have not be ratified (we require an annual adjustment figure for this) indications are that every unit (Downshire Way Bracknell, A339 Newbury, Twyford Crossroads and Peach Street Wokingham) saw at least a 35% reduction in measured NO<sub>2</sub> during Q2 (April-June).

## Equality Impact Assessment – Stage One

Please complete the following questions to determine whether a full Stage Two, Equality Impact Assessment is required.

<b>What is the proposed decision that you are asking the Committee to make:</b>	Air Quality Annual Status Reports
<b>Summary of relevant legislation:</b>	
<b>Does the proposed decision conflict with any of the partnerships key objectives?</b>	No
<b>Name of assessor:</b>	Anna Smy
<b>Date of assessment:</b>	25/08/2020

<b>Is this a:</b>	<b>Is this:</b>
<b>Policy</b>	<b>New or proposed</b>
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Already exists and is being reviewed</b> ✓
<b>Function</b> ✓	<b>Is changing</b>
<b>Service</b>	

<b>1. What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the proposed decision and who is likely to benefit from it?</b>	
<b>Aims:</b>	To supply the Joint Public Protection Committee with information that would allow for a policy decision on air quality matters and to inform the Joint Public Protection Committee of the submission of the annual air quality reports for the 3 local authorities. These reports are for the monitoring data and action plan progress for the calendar year 2019.
<b>Objectives:</b>	As set out in the report
<b>Outcomes:</b>	As set out in the report

<b>Benefits:</b>	<p>The delivery of the key PPP priorities of:</p> <p>Community Protection and in particular the protection of the vulnerable</p> <p>Protecting and Improving Health</p> <p>Protection of the Environment</p>
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**2. Note which groups may be affected by the proposed decision. Consider how they may be affected, whether it is positively or negatively and what sources of information have been used to determine this.**

(Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.)

Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this
Age		
Disability		
Gender Reassignment		
Marriage and Civil Partnership		
Pregnancy and Maternity		
Race		
Religion or Belief		
Sex		
Sexual Orientation		

**Further Comments relating to the item:**

No specific groups are affected by the contents of the proposals as there are no decisions being made. Air quality can be particularly harmful to the young, elderly, pregnant and those suffering ill health. Consideration to all these matters are given in this report and appendices and / or the national clean air strategy.

**3. Result**

<b>Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could contribute to inequality?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Please provide an explanation for your answer: The premises are accessibility compliant.</b>	
<b>Will the proposed decision have an adverse impact upon the lives of people, including employees and service users?</b>	<b>No</b>

**4. Identify next steps as appropriate:**

<b>Stage Two required</b>	No
<b>Owner of Stage Two assessment:</b>	
<b>Timescale for Stage Two assessment:</b>	

Name: Anna Smy

Date: 25/08/2020