

Data	Value
Local Authority:	Exeter City Council
Reference:	ASR21-0863
Date of issue	July 2021

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.

At the time of reporting, Exeter City Council had 2 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) declared one for exceedances of the annual mean NO₂ objective and the other for the exceedance of the NO₂ hourly objective. NO₂ concentrations in the vicinity of the AQMA has seen a marginal downward trend over recent years. During 2020, there were no exceedances at any monitoring sites for either of the objectives.

During 2020 Exeter City Council conducted automatic monitoring of NO₂ at one location that was within the AQMA (CM1). There is also a second automatic monitor that only measures PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} which is not located within the AQMA. Site CM1 also monitored PM10 and PM2.5. Both sites had greater than 75% data capture for their monitored pollutants. There were no exceedances of any of the air quality objectives for any of the pollutants at any of the sites in 2020.

The Council undertook non-automatic (passive) monitoring of NO₂ at 83 locations, 50 of which are in AQMA. There were three diffusion tube sites added in 2020 (Sites 82 to 84). The highest annual mean NO₂ concentration for 2020 was 38.2 µg/m³ at tube 57. There were no exceedances of the air quality objective.

Exeter City Council published a new AQAP in March 2019 and have reported on progress on a range of measures undertaken to address air quality during 2020. None of the measures have been completed thus far, but the vast majority are either funded or partially funded and, in the planning, and implementation stage. Some of the most ambitious measures include considering access restrictions for private vehicles and social prescribing of active travel.

Priorities for the upcoming year are outlined however in the body of the report including implementation of the transport strategy and implementation of the agreed programme with sports England.

The Council has robust QA/QC procedures, which were applied appropriately and accurately to the 2020 monitoring data. A local bias adjustment factor was chosen as the automatic monitoring site

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and triplicate study had a high percentage data capture and precision. For the majority of 2020, the monthly collection of the diffusion tubes was not affected by COVID-19, however for the months of March and April exposure times were affected due to the national lockdown. Data capture was generally good at all monitoring sites during 2020 with data capture of more than 75%. All calculations were clearly outlined and justified. Distance correction was not required at any location.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached are acceptable for all sources and pollutants. The next step for Exeter City Council is to submit the next Annual Status Report, which is due to be submitted in 2022.

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Commentary

The report is well structured, and provides all of the information specified in the Guidance. The report is accepted and the following comments are to assist with future reporting.

1. Trends are presented and discussed, and a robust comparison to air quality objectives is provided.
2. The Council has also presented a detailed assessment in support of decision to retain the existing AQMAs with no amendments to its boundary
3. The Council has added 3 new diffusion tube sites to their monitoring network. This is welcomed and will help define hotspot areas.
4. The Council has provided an extensive list of action plan measure and all the relevant fields have been completed with detailed comments
5. Robust and accurate QA/QC procedures were applied. Calculations for bias adjustment and the annualisation completed were outlined in detail which enhances the reader's understanding. The deliberation over the choice of bias adjustment used was appropriate and considered robust
6. The Council has responded to last year's appraisal comments and made changes to the report based on the comments. This is encouraging to see.
7. 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 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

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Appraisal Response Comment Form

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

Comments on appraisal/Further information: