

Local Authority:	Exeter City Council
Reference:	ASR16-014
Date of issue	June 2016

Annual Status 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 Local Authority has a single consolidated AQMA, declared in May 2011 for the exceedence of annual and hourly mean objectives for nitrogen dioxide. The current AQMA includes areas previously designated as AQMA's and extends along most of the main roads in the centre of the city. Current monitoring suggests that there are only exceedences of the annual mean objective at 3 locations, principally at locations close to the B3212 and the B3183.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached are acceptable for all sources and pollutants, with the provisos listed in the commentary below.

Following the completion of this report, Exeter City Council should submit the new Action Plan to DEFRA within the period of statutory consultation, prior to adoption by the Council. The next Annual Status Report is required in 2017.

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Commentary

The report is well structured, detailed, and provides the information specified in the Guidance.

1. We welcome the decision made to undertake a major review of the current action plan that was made following the declaration of a single consolidated AQMA in 2011.
2. The monitoring within the ASR highlights that the Council have made significant strides towards improving local air quality through the previous AQAP's to the point that current monitoring only identifies three points with relevant exposure, exceeding the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide.
3. As the new Action Plan is developed, it will be important to consider the relationships between local traffic management and positions of air pollution hotspots. It is likely that there will be a significant relationship between traffic congestion and hotspot locations.
4. On this basis, the action plan needs to reconsider the prioritisation of measures that can significantly impact on reducing pollution below objective levels on a clear understanding of current and future transport management within the city.
5. It will also be beneficial to review the level of further emissions reductions required to achieve the air quality objectives, in order to inform the development of the measures within the new AQAP.
6. There are no exceedences of the hourly objective, suggesting that the AQMA can be revoked for this objective once this has been maintained for a further year. The current monitoring strategy should be reviewed with the aim of identifying any hotspots and providing confidence in relation to future decisions on revoking the current AQMA.
7. A review encompassing the new LAQM Guidance can provide an opportunity to consider how the Action Plan can be integrated with the range of related low emission strategies that will contribute to improving local air quality, and link to sustainable transport and health based initiatives within the region.
8. It is normally expected that statutory consultees, including DEFRA, are invited to comment on a draft AQAP prior to adoption by the Council of a final AQAP.

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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 Updating and Screening Assessment 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 – or by emailing the form to reportappraisal@ttr-ltd.com.

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: