

Local Authority:	Exeter City Council
Reference:	ASR18-157
Date of issue	August 2018

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 currently has one consolidated AQMA covering the major routes into and throughout the city, as detailed below.

AQMA Name	Date of Declaration	Pollutants and AQ Objectives	One Line Description	Level of Exceedance At Declaration	Level of Exceedance Now	Action Plan
Exeter AQMA	Declared 2007, Amended 2011	NO ₂ Annual Mean and NO ₂ 1 Hour Mean	An area encompassing the radial routes into the city and other major routes	70 µg/m ³	59 µg/m ³	Exeter AQAP (2011-2016)

In 2017, the Local Authority has conducted monitoring for NO₂ at one automatic site and across 67 diffusion tube sites. Automatic monitoring for PM₁₀ has also been carried out at two sites, and for O₃ at one site. There have been seven measured exceedances of the annual mean NO₂ objective at diffusion tube sites within the AQMA. There has been no exceedance (or proxy exceedance) of the hourly mean NO₂ objective, or of the annual mean or 24 hour PM₁₀ objectives. No monitoring data has been provided for O₃.

The City Council is in the process of developing a new AQAP, which has undergone three months of public engagement in 2018. Other key completed measures in 2017 have been developing the Greater Exeter Strategy Plan; setting up a Transport Board to discuss and coordinate transport policy between the city and county councils; securing funding for a Devon-wide Electric Vehicle charging network project; and undertaking community air quality monitoring in 2018 in partnership between the local Heavitree community, Exeter University and Exeter City Futures.

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 their next Annual Status Report in 2019.

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Commentary

The report is well structured, detailed, and provides the information specified in the Guidance, following the latest reporting template. The following comments are provided.

1. In 2017 there have been exceedances of the annual mean NO₂ objective at seven diffusion tube sites within the AQMA. There is no exceedance of the hourly mean NO₂ objective, however at one site annual mean concentrations remain within 10% of the proxy for exceedance of the hourly mean objective – 60 µg/m³.
2. The AQMA for hourly mean NO₂ can be considered for revocation once concentrations have remained stable below 10% of the (proxy) objective level for three consecutive years.
3. There remains a need to develop and give priority to AQAP measures which target improvement at the identified hotspot locations, with a view to achieving stable compliance within the AQMA in the shortest time possible.
4. The Local Authority has stated in their ASR that they have submitted a draft AQAP to Defra for consultation but have not yet received a response. There does not appear to be any record of a draft AQAP being submitted by Exeter City Council, and this is currently being followed up.
5. It is noted that the Local Authority have stated that the draft AQAP submitted to Defra “does not predict the air quality improvements to be expected as a results of the plan, or priorities measures for implementation”, and that “the Council will update the draft plan with further detail on the expected outcome of measures, prioritisation and implementation plans”.
6. It is recommended that instead of submitting an incomplete draft of their AQAP for consultation now, the Local Authority should wait to submit this latter, more complete draft of their AQAP, and benefit from consultation on their AQAP in full, including these key additional components.

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7. It would be useful if the Local Authority made reference to the Public Health Outcomes Framework and the local indicator for PM_{2.5} in Section 2.3, in addition to providing details of how they are working with Public Health to address PM_{2.5}.
8. The Local Authority has not provided any monitoring data or a brief summary of results for O₃. This should be provided in future reporting.
9. There have been two new diffusion tube sites added to the network networking in 2017. It is encouraging to see that the Council is taking an active approach to reviewing and amending their monitoring program as necessary. This should be continued on a regular basis to ensure monitoring is taking place at all areas of potential exceedance at locations of relevant exposure.
10. Distance correction has been applied to two diffusion tube sites exceeding the annual mean NO₂ objective at locations which are not representative of relevant exposure. Details of distance corrections calculations should be provided in Appendix C in future reports.
11. The maps provided in the additional Appendix D documents are useful but it would be much more helpful if these can be included in the main body of the ASR. It appears that the maps do not demonstrate the locations of all monitoring sites – rather, the sites within the AQMA. All monitoring site locations should be presented on maps in future reports. It would also be helpful if monitoring sites should be labelled by site ID rather than site name.

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

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
Contact email address:	

Comments on appraisal/Further information: