

Authority:	East Suffolk Council
Reference:	ASR18-175
Date of Issue:	September 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.

Suffolk and Waveney Borough Councils have submitted a joint ASR as part of their preparations regarding the formation of the new East Suffolk Council in 2019 (with Suffolk and Waveney BCs being abolished). As such this report is addressed to East Suffolk Council.

East Suffolk Council currently has 2 air quality management areas (AQMAs), both declared for exceedances of NO₂ annual air quality objective (AQO). These include: AQMA1-Woodbridge (declared 2006); and AQMA3-Stratford St Andrew (declared 2014). AQMA1 utilises the air quality action plan (AQAP) developed in 2011. AQMA3 uses the recently published 2018 AQAP. Both AQAPs are specific to each AQMA, containing bespoke measures. The Council currently monitors for concentrations of NO₂ via one automatic monitor and a network of 60 diffusion tube (DTs) sites (with 53 DTs in Suffolk Coastal District, and 14 DTs in the Waveney District). No other pollutants are recorded. During the last reporting period there were 4 exceedances of NO₂ annual mean objective, all outside of existing AQMAs. The maximum corrected NO₂ annual mean concentrations were 54µg/m³, 41.2µg/m³, 43.4µg/m³ and 41.1µg/m³, at sites FLX33, FLX34, FLX37 and FLX40 respectively. It should be noted that sites FLX33-37 have no relevant exposure; however FLX40 is close to residential properties. FLX40 has only been operating since the last reporting period; as such further data is required to understand the extent of this exceedance. AQMA1 has achieved compliance for 4 consecutive years, with AQMA3 achieving its first year of compliance since declaration. Generally air quality has improved over the last 5 years, with concentrations typically far below objective limits.

Both AQAPs provide a good level of discussion as to the progress of each measure and barriers to implementation. Both AQAPs are relatively complete, in terms of discussion and dates, with a number of measures being recently completed. The report provides good discussion of local PM_{2.5} issues and the many measures the Council has in place to mitigate future emissions, drawing links to the Public Health Outcomes Framework. The report provides good discussion of local developments and their impact on future air quality. Specifically a number of residential developments that have resulted in concerns over increased traffic flows. The Council have established monitoring sites in these cases to

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assess the potential situation. Furthermore the Council has a number of policy mechanisms, primarily planning controls, to ensure developments do not impact air quality.

QA/QC procedures have been applied in full. Bias adjustments have been applied using a mix of locally derived factors (for sites they are deemed representative of) and using national bias factors (in cases where it was felt that a local factor was not representative). Distance corrections have also been applied to a number of sites. Two sites have also been annualised due to low data capture. No other corrections are necessary.

In light of monitoring results over the last 4 years it is recommended that the Council maintain the Woodbridge AQMA status until concentrations fall below 10% of objective limits. Similarly the Stratford St Andrews AQMA status should remain in place until further years data are collected which support its revocation. Monitoring should continue at both sites.

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. The Council should continue to implement their air quality strategy, and continue monitoring, paying close attention to the recently identified hotspots. Following the completion of this report, East Suffolk Council should submit an Annual Status Report in 2019.

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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. Example calculations/screenshots have been provided for all types of corrections. This is useful and encouraged for all future reports.
2. The Council should note that while annualisation has been applied (which is a positive) it is not strictly necessary for sites that have achieved greater than 75% data capture.
3. The implementation of AQAP measures and hard work from the Council has clearly resulted in improved local air quality. The AQAPs are fairly complete in presentation, containing detailed discussion of progress, barriers, completion dates, alongside containing a number of objective KPIs and reduction targets. Furthermore measures are specific to each AQMA. This is considered an example of best practice.
4. Monitoring of vehicle speeds and NO2 concentrations within the Stratford St Andrew AQMA (currently underway) will make for interesting discussion in 2019s ASR.
5. Generally this is a very good report, well written and acts as an excellent reference for concerned members of the public to better understand the actions and hard work the Council is doing to improve local air quality.

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: