

Blaby District Council

Cabinet Executive

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| Date of Meeting | 10 July 2023 |
| Title of Report | Air Quality Annual Status Report 2023 This is a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan. |
| Lead Member | Cllr. Les Phillimore - Housing, Community & Environmental Services |
| Report Author | Environmental Services Manager |
| Corporate Priority | A Place to Live |

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 To seek approval of the Annual Status Report 2023 for submission to DEFRA and publication.

2. Recommendations to Cabinet Executive

- 2.1 To approve the Annual Status Report 2023 for appropriate consultation and submission to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and publication.
- 2.2 To undertake consultation prior to revocation of Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) 1 (A5460 Narborough Road South), AQMA 2 (M1 corridor in Enderby and Narborough) and AQMA 4b (Enderby Road, Whetstone).
- 2.3 To undertake consultation prior to declaration of a new AQMA (AQMA 7, Lubbesthorpe Road and Narborough Road South Service Road Junction).
- 2.4 To delegate authority to the Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services Group Manager, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder, to make minor amendments to the Annual Status Report 2023 prior to submission and publication.

3. Reasons for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 It is important for Members to be informed of the air quality monitoring data for the District in 2022.
- 3.2 Air quality monitoring has demonstrated that levels of Nitrogen Dioxide in those areas are below the Air Quality Objective. Consultation is needed to comply with relevant legislation and guidance.

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| 3.3 | Air quality monitoring has indicated that levels of Nitrogen Dioxide at that location are above the Air Quality Objective. Consultation is needed to comply with relevant legislation and guidance. |
| 3.4 | This is to ensure any final amendments to the report can be made prior to submission to DEFRA. |

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

4.1.1 Air Quality Management

The Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) regime is established by the Environment Act 1995 and requires local authorities to assess air quality in their area. Where nationally set Air Quality Objectives are not achieved, local authorities are required to designate Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA). For each AQMA, an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) must be produced, describing the measures to reduce pollutant concentrations.

The AQMAs in Blaby District are currently as follows:

- AQMA 1 – A5460 Narborough Road South
- AQMA 2 – M1 corridor in Enderby and Narborough
- AQMA 3 – M1 corridor between Thorpe Astley and Leicester Forest East
- AQMA 4b – Enderby Road, Whetstone
- AQMA 6 – Mill Hill, Enderby

Monitoring was extended into the villages of Enderby, Glenfield, and Stoney Stanton in 2022. This was to assess the need for and extent of any AQMA, subject to monitoring results, no exceedances were in Glenfield and Stoney Stanton were recorded however monitoring will continue for a further year during 2023. Other areas not listed, are monitored to establish baseline concentrations with respect to potential development.

- 4.1.2 Air quality monitoring is the main method for assessment of the current levels of air pollutants, against nationally set Air Quality Objectives. Each year an Annual Status Report (ASR) is completed and submitted to DEFRA, summarising the air quality monitoring results for the area.

Overview of Results

The results of all monitoring undertaken in 2022 are shown in Appendix D of the ASR.

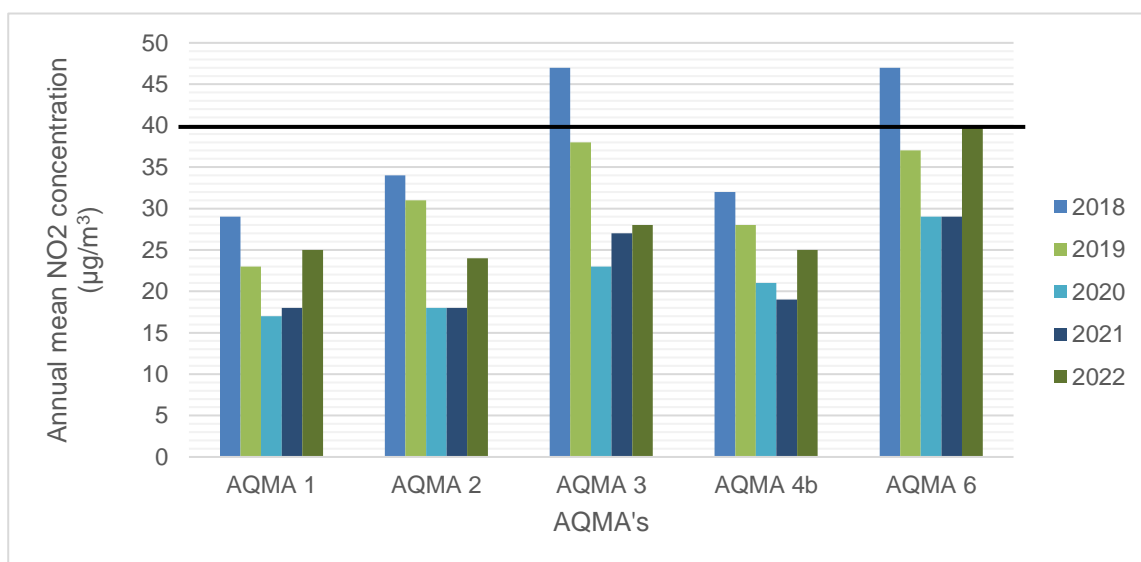
Results indicate that there were two exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean objective of 40 µg/m³ across the District. These exceedances occurred in:

- AMQA 6, Enderby

- CM6, Braunstone Town (Lubbesthorpe Road and Narborough Road South Service Road junction)

The below table and graph report the highest observed NO₂ concentrations in the five AQMAs over the last five years. Figures in bold represent concentrations above the NAQO. The solid black line on the graph represents the NAQO.

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| AQMA 1 | 29 | 23 | 17 | 18 | 25 |
| AQMA 2 | 34 | 31 | 18 | 18 | 24 |
| AQMA 3 | 47 | 38 | 23 | 27 | 28 |
| AQMA 4B | 32 | 28 | 21 | 19 | 25 |
| AQMA 6 | 47 | 37 | 29 | 29 | 40 |



The Annual Status Report 2022 considered at the Council meeting on the 24th May 2022 (Minute 319 refers) stated that 'Revocation of AQMAs 1, 2, and 4b may need to be considered in the future if further data is reported at well below national air quality objectives, consistent with the concentrations seen in 2020 and 2021. Monitoring has been undertaken in 2022 and in following technical guidance the Council should now revoke the following AQMAs:

- AQMA 1 – A5460 Narborough Road South
- AQMA 2 – M1 corridor in Enderby and Narborough
- AQMA 4B – Enderby Road, Whetstone

Monitoring data has also indicated an exceedance of the National Air Quality Objective (NAQO) at the Lubbesthorpe Road and Narborough Road South Service Road junction. This now requires the Council to declare a new AQMA (7) centred on this junction.

The proposals to revoke and declare the above AQMAs are subject to consultation with stakeholders including affected residents.

Summary

These results demonstrate that the Air Quality in 3 areas of the District have continued to stay well below the national objective and that the actions undertaken by the Council and partners have in part contributed to this outcome. In essence the air quality in the District has improved since the AQMA's were declared back in 2000 to 2005.

It is disappointing that one new AQMA has to be declared but this will now be a key focus for the teams work in 2023/24. This will include the delivery of the air quality grant funded project (Particulate Matters) which began delivery in November 2022 and will continue for next 18 months, focussing on improving knowledge and information about levels of PM_{2.5} in more detail. Legacy work will continue from the previous and now completed 'Count Down to Clean Air Project' which began in 2021. The Council have also been awarded over £500,000 for the 'Lets Go Electric Project' which commenced on the 1st April 2023. This project is focussed on reducing Particulate Matter by retrofitting a refuse vehicle to be electric powered and the purchase of an electric road sweeper.

These actions will all be summarised in the forthcoming Air Quality Action Plan which will be refreshed during 2023/24.

4.2 Proposal(s)

- 4.2.1 Members to approve the Annual Status Report 2023 for submission to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and publication.
- 4.2.2 That delegated authority is given to the Group Manager of Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder, to make minor amendments to the ASR 2023 prior to submission and publication.
- 4.2.3 To undertake consultation prior to revocation of AQMA 1 (A5460 Narborough Road South), AQMA 2 (M1 corridor in Enderby and Narborough) and AQMA 4b (Enderby Road, Whetstone).
- 4.2.4 To undertake consultation prior to declaration of a new AQMA (AQMA 7, Lubbesthorpe Road and Narborough Road South Service Road Junction) subject to appropriate consultation.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

The ASR has been sent to relevant stakeholders to review, including Public Health and Highways colleagues at Leicestershire County Council.

4.4 Significant Issues

No significant issues have been identified relating to Human Rights, Legal Implications, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and Climate Local. The data in this report demonstrates that the Council is committed to monitoring and undertaking action to improve air quality in its area.

5. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 5.1 The direct costs associated with the ASR are met from existing approved budgets. There are small savings from the reduction of monitoring. The direct costs of declaring an AQMA are included in the approved budgets.

6. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

6.1

| Current Risk | Actions to reduce the risks |
|---|---|
| Not to submit the ASR to DEFRA for appraisal by 30 June 2022. | Submission of the ASR is a statutory requirement. It has been completed in a timely fashion to enable it to be submitted an amended deadline agreed with DEFRA, which allowed consideration of the ASR by this meeting. |
| Not to revoke AQMAs 1, 2 and 4b | To comply with the provisions of the Environment Act 1995 to revoke the AQMAs as soon as sufficient data has been collected. |
| Not to declare a new AQMA 7 due to exceedance at CM6 | To comply with the provisions of the Environment Act 1995, to declare the AQMA as soon as sufficient data has been collected. |

7. Other options considered

- 7.1 Completion and submission of the ASR is a statutory requirement and therefore there are no other options.
- 7.2 Revocations and declarations of AQMAs have to comply with the provisions of the Environment Act 1995 and associated DEFRA guidance, therefore there are no other options.

8. Environmental impact

- 8.1 A positive environmental impact can be noted from the monitoring of air quality across the district affording an understanding of how different areas are impacted and action plan measures which can be implemented. Additionally, there are benefits from increasing knowledge and raising awareness for the general public.

9. Other significant issues

- 9.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

10. Appendix

- 10.1 Appendix A – Annual Status Report 2023

- 10.2 Appendix B – Map of proposed AQMA 7

11. Background paper(s)

- 11.1 There are no relevant background papers for this report.

12. Report author's contact details

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