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06 September 2021

Dear Local Authority,

LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT: 2021 ANNUAL STATUS REPORT

Thank you for consulting the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on your Council's 2021 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR).

Defra's response is contained in the appraisal report, which you can now access on the LAQM Portal.

The Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk is available to help with queries about the LAQM Framework:

<https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/>
Telephone: 0800 0327 953
Email: LAQMHelpdesk@uk.bureauveritas.com

Yours sincerely,

Defra Local Air Quality Team

Defra Air Quality
WEB: <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk>
TWITTER: @defraukair



Local Authority:	Boston Borough Council
Reference:	ASR22-1221
Date of issue	July 2022

Annual Status Report Appraisal Report

The Annual Status Report sets out new information on air quality obtained by Boston Borough Council as part of the Review & Assessment process required under the Environment Act 1995 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021) and subsequent Regulations.

Boston Borough Council (BBC) currently had two air quality management areas (AQMA), both declared for exceedances of NO₂ annual mean air quality objective (AQO). These are Haven Bridge AQMA (2001) and Bargate Bridge AQMA (2005). The Council is intending to revoke the Bargate Bridge AQMA as, in recent years, concentrations of NO₂ within this AQMA have fallen and there is now consistent compliance with the AQS objective of 40µg/m³. As monitoring has now been below 40µg/m³ for four years within the Bargate Bridge AQMA, it is considered that the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic is not solely responsible for the reduction of concentrations and so the intention to revoke the AQMA is supported and we agree with the revocation of the Bargate Bridge AQMA. The latest Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) was made available in 2020 and progress on implementation is well documented within the ASR.

The Council undertook non-automatic NO₂ diffusion tube monitoring at 15 sites in 2021. During 2021, one site recorded NO₂ annual mean concentrations in excess of 40µg/m³. The highest concentration was recorded in the Haven Bridge AQMA at diffusion tube site 1, which measured an annual mean NO₂ concentration of 44.6µg/m³ (relevant exposure), an increase from 42.1µg/m³ in 2020.

QA/QC procedures have been applied, with the national bias adjustment factor being used. This factor has been used as there are no automatic monitoring stations with BBC. Annualisation was conducted for 1 site with a data captures below 75% (Diffusion Tube ID 22 with a valid data capture for 2021 of 57.7%). Two distance corrections were conducted at 2 sites (Site ID 3 and 20) to make these sites representative of relevant exposure. With the distance correction, the predicted concentration at Site ID 3 is predicted to be within 10% of the AQS objective. Calculations have been provided for all these adjustments, and they appear robust.

The report sets out what key measures within the AQAP are completed, which range from rail station enhancements to implementation of standards for dust and emissions from large construction sites. The ASR also discusses the measures and priorities are to be completed over the course of the next reporting year, which range from emission standards for taxis to increasing bus service provisions. The ASR also discussed some of the measures that were developed and

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implemented during 2021 which range from development of a new Bus Services Improvement Plan to completion of Phase 1 of the Boston Distributor Road, linking A16 and B1397 with the feasibility study of Phase 2 also being completed.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached are **accepted** for all sources and pollutants. Following the completion of this report, Boston Borough Council should submit an Annual Status Report in 2022.

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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. The Council have provided a good, detailed discussion on NO₂ trends within the borough as well as the status and future of the two AQMAs. The council have provided sound justification for retaining the Haven Bridge AQMA (to ensure that concentrations remain below the AQO) and for intending to revoke the Bargate Bridge AQMA (for consistent compliance with the AQO).
2. The Council have presented NO₂ trends for monitoring locations both inside the AQMAs and outside of the AQMAs. This is extremely useful as it allows the reader to easily understand trends relating to NO₂ within the borough. This approach to data/trend presentation is encouraged for future reports.
3. There are two tables which are both labelled 'Table 2.1'. For future reports, these tables should be given different table numbers to minimise confusion for the reader.
4. In future reports, it would be good to have a section where planning applications are discussed and assessed, and whether they would have an impact on AQMA's.

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 Government, Scottish Government or DOE.

For any other queries please contact the Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk:
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 Email: LAQMHelpdesk@bureauveritas.com

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Appraisal Response Comment Form

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

Comments on appraisal/Further information: