

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE MEETING OF 2nd SEPTEMBER 2019

PUBLIC REPORT: Y

EXEMPT REPORT: N

Report Title	Air Quality Update – Annual Status Report
KEY DECISION	N
Report Author	Gareth Rees – Air
Purpose of Report	The Purpose of the report is to update members on the outcome of the annual review of local air quality across the district, to seek approval of the Annual Status Report to be submitted to Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (Attached as Appendix A).
Reason for Decision	Compliance with Part IV of the Environment Act 1995
Portfolio (holder)	Cllr Jonathan Bateman
Corporate Priorities	PLACE: an enterprising, vibrant place CO 1 Keeping the District a great place to live
Financial Implications	There are no resource implications in relation to the development of the Annual Status Report as this will be undertaken within the current staffing arrangements. A budget for on going air quality monitoring has been created.
Risk Management Implications	Failure to meet Government targets on Air Quality may have a direct health impact on the local community. There is the potential for Central Government to pass on fines for failing to meet air quality standards under powers in the Localism Act.
Environmental Implications	There are no environmental implications in relation to the completion of the Annual Status Report as the report outlines the work undertaken in the previous calendar year.
Legal Implications	There is a legal duty on local authorities to assess air quality and to take necessary steps to improve local issues.
Equality Implications	There are no equality implications.
Data Protection Implications	There are no Data Protection implications.
Consultation	There is no consultation required for the development and submission of the Annual Status Report
Options	There is a duty on the Council to complete and submit an Annual Status Report to DEFRA. Not to submit an Annual Status Report would mean that the Council has not

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	fulfilled its obligations under the Environment Act 1995.
Background Papers	Previous Air Quality Reports can be found on the council's website: https://www.harborough.gov.uk/directory_record/2268/air_quality_review_and_assessment
Appendices	Appendix A – 2019 Air Quality Annual Status Report
Recommendation	1. Members approve the 2019 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) for submission to DEFRA as set out in Appendix A.

1. Key Facts

- 1.1 Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts. It is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer. Additionally, air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society: children and older people, and those with heart and lung conditions.
- 1.2 Generally the air quality throughout the district is good however there are known issues in both Lutterworth and The Kibworths with regards to exceedances of the annual average objective level for Nitrogen Dioxide and an Air Quality Management Area has been declared in both areas. The Lutterworth AQMA was first declared in 2001 and the Kibworth AQMA in November 2017.
- 1.3 The Annual Status Report (ASR) provides a detailed assessment of any monitoring results carried out in the district for the previous year along with any action undertaken to work towards improving air quality and is based on the calendar year 2018.
- 1.4 With regards to The Kibworths, during 2018 the Council consulted on the draft Air Quality Action Plan and commissioned a microsimulation model of traffic in order to determine the effects of proposed junction improvements along the A6 on air quality.
- 1.5 In Lutterworth, the Council has been working with Leicestershire County Council on the implementation of a HGV gating system which allows a greater free flow of this type of vehicle through the town by controlling the traffic light sequencing.
- 1.6 The Council carries out air quality monitoring across the district using a network of diffusion tubes. The annual average results are collated and corrected in accordance with the annually published correction factors. The annual average national objective level for Nitrogen Dioxide is $40\mu\text{g.m}^{-3}$ and in 2018 the levels were exceeded in just 1 location as set out in table 1 below

Table 1

Site ID	Location	Annual Average Nitrogen Dioxide Levels $\mu\text{g.m}^{-3}$
34n	sign outside 64 Leicester Road Kibworth	49.31

- 1.7 The annual average results for all of the other tubes across the district did not show any exceedances in the national objective level and ranged from $17.14\mu\text{g.m}^{-3}$ to $49.31\mu\text{g.m}^{-3}$.
- 1.8 The Council has been monitoring in Lutterworth since 1997 and the first time since the declaration of the AQMA in 2001, the 2018 Nitrogen Dioxide results did not exceed the annual mean air quality standard.
- 1.9 Whilst the 2018 annual average results are very encouraging, continuation of monitoring will be required for further years before the Council can be confident that there is sufficient evidence to consider the revocation of the AQMA.

2. Ongoing work in 2019

- 2.1 Whilst the 2019 Annual Status Report is the formal submission for activities and monitoring undertaken during 2018, there have a number of interventions undertaken in 2019 to date which work towards improving local air quality, including:
- Widening of the diffusion tube monitoring network in The Kibworths.
 - Commissioning of the automatic air quality monitor in The Kibworths for real time monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide.

The full results from this monitor are available online:

http://ukairquality.net/test/Dashboard/Index ?dashboardName=Dashboard_2&id=258&stationInfoConfigKey=stationinfopage&DeviceType=desktop&FromAdmin=false&showHiddenElements=false&isPopup=false

- Completion of the microsimulation work in The Kibworths. The conclusion of the modelling is that the proposed junction improvements will have a beneficial impact on the levels of Nitrogen Dioxide within The Kibworths AQMA
- Procurement of a portable indicative air quality monitor for Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulates (PM_{10} and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$). This will enable the Council to undertake shorter term monitoring studies of places on interest and to validate results of the diffusion tube monitoring network. This piece of equipment will produce more accurate results than the diffusion tube network and will provide greater confidence as to whether more detailed assessments are required in specific areas. For example whilst the microsimulation model predicted that there

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would be no exceedance of the objective levels for Particulates in The Kibworths AQMA, using this equipment for a monitoring study will provide more confidence of this prediction.

- 2.2 This work will be included in the 2020 Annual Status Report submission to DEFRA.