

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE CABINET MEETING OF 8th SEPTEMBER 2020

PUBLIC REPORT: Y

EXEMPT REPORT: N

Report Title	Air Quality Update – Annual Status Report
KEY DECISION	N
Report Author	Gareth Rees
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	The Place: A safe, enterprising and vibrant place
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 ongoing 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 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
Recommendation	1. Members approve the 2020 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 several 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 (AQMA) 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 2019.
- 1.4 With regards to The Kibworths, during 2019 the Council completed the microsimulation and diffusion modelling of the proposed junction improvements that were previously highlighted in the AQMA Action Plan and Air Quality Annual Status Report 2019. The microsimulation modelling found that if all three junction improvements are implemented, air quality within the AQMA will improve significantly. One property in the AQMA is predicted to remain above the national objective level for Nitrogen Dioxide in the short term however air quality conditions generally are expected to improve in the future as the uptake of newer vehicles continues.
- 1.5 In Lutterworth, the HGV gating system which allows a greater free flow of this type of vehicle through the town by controlling the traffic light sequencing has continued to operate.
- 1.6 The Council carries out air quality monitoring across the district using a network of diffusion tubes. During 2019 an additional 9 monitoring sites were identified across the district. 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 40µg.m⁻³ and in 2019 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 µg.m⁻³
34n	sign outside 64 Leicester Road Kibworth	50

- 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 at relevant receptors and ranged from $17.5\mu\text{g.m}^{-3}$ to $41.8\mu\text{g.m}^{-3}$.
- 1.8 The Council has been monitoring in Lutterworth since 1997 and for the second year running since the declaration of the AQMA in 2001, the 2019 Nitrogen Dioxide results did not exceed the annual mean air quality standard.
- 1.9 Whilst the 2018 and 2019 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 2020

- 2.1 Whilst the 2020 Annual Status Report is the formal submission for activities and monitoring undertaken during 2019, there have been several interventions undertaken in 2020 to date which work towards improving local air quality, including:
 - We have widened the diffusion tube monitoring network in other areas including Fleckney and Bushby.
 - We have continued to monitor real time Nitrogen Dioxide levels in The Kibworths using our permanent roadside Nitrogen Dioxide reference monitor:

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

- We have commissioned our portable indicative air quality monitor for Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulates (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) known as a Zephyr. The Zephyr was initially installed in Market Harborough for a three-month period and is now installed along the A6 in The Kibworths within close proximity to the permanent roadside Nitrogen Dioxide reference monitor. A recent correlation study undertaken showed that the Zephyr's results are correlating well with reference monitor which is encouraging.
- 2.2 This work will be included in the 2021 Annual Status Report submission to DEFRA.