

<b>Authority:</b>	<b>Kettering Borough Council</b>
<b>Reference:</b>	<b>ASR19-0073</b>
<b>Date of Issue:</b>	<b>July 2019</b>

## **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.

Kettering Borough Council currently do not have any declared air quality management areas (AQMAs). There is no requirement for the Council to formally develop and adopt an air quality action plan (AQAP), however the Council do have a list of measures at various stages of completion.

The Local Authority has recently updated their monitoring strategy to include a number of additional monitoring sites. Currently the Council operates a network of 17 NO<sub>2</sub> diffusion tubes, 9 of which were added in 2018. After data is distance corrected for relevant exposure there were no exceedances of NO<sub>2</sub> annual mean air quality objective (AQO). However, one site (KT11) was at near exceedance, with a concentration of 39.1µg/m<sup>3</sup>. KT11 is located on the London Road/St Mary's Road junction. This site showed a near exceedance in 2017 as well. The Council has commenced a detailed assessment of air quality in this area given that the monitoring results remain elevated for the second year running. This detailed assessment will determine what actions can be undertaken to improve air quality at the junction and may lead to the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Issues have been identified with KT11 with regards to its positioning, this will be discussed further in the commentary.

QA/QC procedures have been applied for: bias adjustment (using a national factor); distance corrections (for all sites not representative of relevant exposure); and annualisation (for 1 site with low data capture). Example calculations have not been included. These would be useful and are encouraged for all future reports.

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, Kettering Borough Council should submit an Annual Status Report in 2020.

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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 clear mapping of the monitoring locations, this should be continued on in future reports.
2. The Councils list of measures is relatively comprehensive, containing dates, KPIs, reduction targets, and discussion of progress and barriers to implementation.
3. The Council recorded 1 near exceedance at site KT11. The Council should continue to monitor at this location. The Council have stated that they will commence further monitoring in this area to determine whether the area will need to be declared an AQMA. This is supported.
4. Issues have been identified in Table B.1 where diffusion tubes KT11 and K2 saw an increase in NO<sub>2</sub> concentration when distance corrected. As there were no distance correction calculations included in the Appendix they could not be checked. When looking at Table A.2 in the 2019 ASR and the 2018 ASR (last year's report) the 'Distance to Relevant Exposure' for KT11 and KT2 are different, despite the coordinates remaining the same. Further investigation showed that the grid references provided for KT2 are not on Lower St but on Thorngate St. When looking at the location of KT11 on street view it could be seen that the receptor was further back from the road than the diffusion tube. This would mean that the concentration between the diffusion tube and receptor would drop if distance correction were applied, not increase as stated in the report. The Council need to provide clarification and/or rectify the locations of the diffusion tubes; particularly KT11 where the Council are considering declaring an AQMA. Distance correction calculations should also be included in future reports. This can take the form of a screenshot.

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](mailto: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:**