
Local Authority:	East Devon District Council
Reference:	ASR20-0712
Date of issue	November 2020

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.

East Devon District Council (EDDC) no longer has an AQMA, having revoked its only AQMA (Honiton) in the district on 25th April 2018. EDDC therefore have no formal requirement to develop an air quality action plan (AQAP). However, the Council have still made progress in implementing a number of measures to improve air quality in key areas.

In 2019, the Council monitored for NO₂ via a network of 53 passive diffusion tube sites and one continuous monitoring site. There was an exceedance of the NO₂ annual mean air quality objective (AQO) in 2019 at N46 (41.5 µg/m³). N46 is located in Honiton at the junction of the A35 and, following the application of the fall-off with distance correction calculation, the 2019 concentration fell to 20.1µg/m³. There were two monitoring locations which reported concentrations within 10% of the annual mean objective (N59 - 38.5 µg/m³ & N71 - 38.6 µg/m³). There is a predominantly downward trend in NO₂ concentrations within the District, with 41 diffusion tubes in 2019 reporting a decrease in NO₂ concentrations in comparison to 2018. However, increases have been seen at 12 monitoring locations, though not high enough to warrant any declaration of an AQMA. These increases demonstrate the continued importance of implementing measures to improve air quality with the district. As such the Council are undertaking the following actions in efforts to improve air quality:

- The introduction of the Devon Low-Carbon Energy & Transport Technology Innovator (DELETTI) programme in 2019, which aims to help reduce emissions with the installation of electric vehicle charging points for public use across Devon
- Investigations were undertaken in relation to the GESP project between October 2018 and March 2019, surrounding vehicle flow deriving from the A3052 and A376, which were previously identified as potentially impacting on air quality at new developments
- Continued review of the Council's passive monitoring network.

In 2019 the Council have carried out PM_{2.5} monitoring in the district using 5 Zephyr® air quality sensors. These sensors are not MCERTS certified and are therefore not included in the LAQM monitoring. However, they do provide the Council with an indication of PM_{2.5} concentrations within the District. All monitors reported no exceedances of the 25 µg/m³ AQO

Local Authority:	East Devon District Council
Reference:	ASR20-0712
Date of issue	November 2020

for PM_{2.5}. In past ASRs the Council have provided a discussion of measures they are implementing to tackle particulate matter within the District; however, this information is absent in this year's ASR. It would be beneficial if the Council provided more detail on their progress such as updates on the ECOSTars scheme and pedal assist bicycles (which were mentioned last year). The Council have addressed comments from last year's appraisal and have provided links to the Public Health Outcomes Framework.

QA/QC of monitoring data has been discussed, and the local bias adjustment factor was selected with details of the methodology (i.e. bias adjustment spreadsheet) provided. The Council have also included details of the national bias adjustment factor and have provided a comparison discussion of these two factors. The justification of using the local bias adjustment factor is supported as it better represents local conditions. Distance-correction has been carried out, and supporting evidence provided. Annualisation was not required. The Council have provided good clear mapping of the AQMA and monitoring locations.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached are acceptable for all sources and pollutants and EDDC should submit an Annual Status Report in 2021.

Local Authority:	East Devon District Council
Reference:	ASR20-0712
Date of issue	November 2020

Commentary

The report is well structured, detailed, and provides the information specified in the Guidance. The following comments have been made to help inform future reports:

1. It is encouraging to see that the Council have reviewed their monitoring programme and have introduced new monitoring locations. The Council should continue to review the monitoring programme on a regular basis, to ensure that monitoring takes place at any sites of potential exceedance with relevant exposure.
2. The Council have continued to present trend graphs in relation to area. This is very useful as it clearly identifies which diffusion tubes are within each area. The Council are encouraged to continue this method of data presentation in future reports.
3. It would be beneficial if the Council included a more in-depth discussion of the measures they are implementing within the district to tackle PM_{2.5}.
4. It is encouraging to see that the Council are undertaking PM_{2.5} monitoring within the district and this shows the Council's active engagement with trying to understand air quality issues with their district. This can be considered a sign of good practice.

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 Progress 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.

For any other queries please contact the Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk:

Telephone: 0800 0327 953

Email: LAQMHelpdesk@uk.bureauveritas.com

Local Authority:	East Devon District Council
Reference:	ASR20-0712
Date of issue	November 2020

Appraisal Response Comment Form

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

Comments on appraisal/Further information: