

Appendix 2

Local Authority:	Cheshire East
Reference:	ASR19-0065
Date of issue	August 2019

Annual Status Report Appraisal 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.

Cheshire East Council has 17 active AQMAs across the district, declared for the annual mean NO₂ objective. 2 further AQMAs are proposed due to monitored exceedances outside of AQMAs. One AQMA is under consideration for amendment as monitoring locations in the south of the boundary have not seen exceedances since 2016.

Current monitoring confirms continued exceedance of the annual mean NO₂ objective at sites within multiple AQMAs. 12 of these AQMAs did not have reported exceedances in 2018. There are some AQMAs that can be considered for revocation in the 2020 ASR, dependent on concentrations in that reporting year.

A new Air Quality Action Plan was published in January 2019. The AQAP includes general air quality measures within the borough, AQMA-specific measures and measures to improve PM_{2.5} within the borough. The measures are highly detailed and show that the Council have great consideration for improving air quality within their borough.

The Council have decided to move forward with the declaration of two new AQMAs, in Chelford Road, Knutsford and Lewin Street, Middlewich. A public consultation will be carried out for these AQMAs.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority, the conclusions reached with respect to AQMA declaration and intended actions are acceptable.

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Commentary

The report is generally considered to be well structured, very detailed and comprehensive, and provides the all the information specified in the Guidance, as well as some extra detailed modelling in support of AQMA declarations. More specific comments include:

1. The declarations of 2 new AQMAs in 2018 is agreed particularly as monitoring results within these proposed AQMAs (CE94 for Chelford Road and CE282 for Lewin Street) have seen exceedances.
2. Due to the construction of a bypass for Mere, traffic within the AQMA has decreased. This is reflected in the monitoring results. The Council proposed to amend the existing AQMA within Mere (AQMA A556 Chester Road) as an exceedance within the AQMA has not been seen since 2016. It has been proposed in this ASR that the site should be amended to exclude the monitoring locations south of the AQMA. However, if monitoring results in the next reporting year show that concentrations remain below the AQOs, there is potential for the entire AQMA to be revoked. The amendment of this AQMA is supported but the Council way wish to consider revoking the AQMA in the future.
3. The AQMA and diffusion tube mapping is comprehensive and clearly demonstrates the monitoring network.
4. Monitoring QA/QC is considered robust. The Local bias factor was used as there was no triplicate diffusion tube monitoring locations. The national factor used instead.
5. Monitoring sites were annualised where appropriate and working provided.
6. Links to public health outcomes framework should be included in future ASRs. It would be useful for the Council to compare the PM indicator value for Cheshire East to nearby LAs and National indicator values. See link:
<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework/data#page/0/gid/1000043/pat/6/par/E12000005/ati/101/are/E07000194>
7. It is made clear that the monitoring strategy and latest AQMAs are on continual review, and is based on latest requirements, which is encouraged. AS mentioned previously, further revocations could be considered of AQMA A556 Chester Road, Mere if monitored compliance continues for two more years, given low reported concentrations in 2017 and 2018.

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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

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Appraisal Response Comment Form

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
Contact email address:	

Comments on appraisal/Further information: