

Local Authority:	<b>Stroud District Council</b>
Reference:	<b>ASR19-0172</b>
Date of issue	<b>October 2019</b>

## **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.

The Stroud area enjoys generally good air quality with the exception of two exceedances of the national air quality objectives after distance correction to relevant exposure (four exceedances before distance correction). Due to historical compliance with the objectives, there has been no requirement for Stroud District Council to declare any air quality management areas (AQMAs).

Automatic monitoring was undertaken for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> at two sites in the Stroud district in 2018, Hardwicke and Haresfield, both of these sites were new for 2018. The annual mean concentrations for PM<sub>10</sub> at these sites were 9.85 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and 9.9 µg/m<sup>3</sup> respectively, well below the objective and with no exceedances of the 24-hour mean objective, and the annual mean concentrations for PM<sub>2.5</sub> were 7.14 and 7.16 µg/m<sup>3</sup> respectively, below the objective. Data capture was low at both sites in 2018, due to these being new sites for 2018, therefore data should be treated with caution.

Non-automatic (passive) monitoring of NO<sub>2</sub> was conducted at 22 sites during 2018, four of which were new sites this reporting year. Following distance correction to represent relevant exposure, two exceedances of the annual mean objective were recorded, at sites 25c and 25e, with a further four sites within 10% of the objective. It was reasoned this is potentially due to a higher bias adjustment factor than in previous years, therefore additional real-time monitoring is proposed at the sites of exceedance for next reporting year. This is also likely reason for the general increase in NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations observed compared to previous years.

Some QA/QC procedures have been applied with a national bias adjustment factor used. Annualisation was not carried out any diffusion tubes, as data capture was above 75% at all sites. Distance correction was carried out at sites where exceedances were measured to ensure data was representative of relevant exposure. The report provides maps of each monitoring site and a breakdown of historical trend data.

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The Council has no AQMAs, therefore has no need to produce an AQAP, however it has still made progress with measures to address air quality in Stroud in 2018, including implementation of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) with Gloucestershire County Council, which includes the encouragement of sustainable transport measures. In addition, the council has identified priorities for 2019 including installing additional continuous monitor location(s) at the sites of exceedance in 2018 to more accurately assess NO<sub>2</sub> levels at these sites and assess any potential need for an AQMA.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached are acceptable for all sources and pollutants. Following the completion of this report, Stroud District 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. Trends are clearly presented and discussed and a robust comparison with air quality objectives is provided.
2. The diffusion tube mapping is comprehensive and clearly demonstrates the monitoring network. AQMA boundaries are also clearly shown on the map.
3. The Council is proposing to install additional continuous monitor location(s) at the sites of exceedance in 2018 to more accurately assess NO<sub>2</sub> levels at these sites. This is welcomed and should be reported on in next year's report.
4. The review and update of the diffusion tube network is welcomed and should be continued in future years when required.
5. The addition of continuous monitoring sites for PM is welcomed.
6. QA/QC of non-automatic network was considered to be thorough, with a national bias adjustment factor used and distance correction applied to sites with exceedances not representative of relevant exposure.
7. Comments from the previous appraisal are included and have been responded to. This is welcomed.

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:  
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