
Local Authority:	Breckland District Council
Reference:	AP1-316
Date of issue	November 2018

Action Plan Appraisal Report

This Appraisal Report covers the Final Air Quality Action Plan submitted by **Breckland District Council** in relation to the AQMA declared in Swaffham in May 2017 for exceedance of the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide.

The AQMA covers a small area to the north and south of Swaffham town centre alongside the A1065. The latest monitoring from the 2018 ASR report highlight that annual monitoring for 2017 showed no exceedances of the air quality objective, either within the AQMA, or other monitored locations outside of the AQMA. The annual average for nitrogen dioxide within the AQMA has been recorded at 34µg/m³.

The AQAP has been developed in house by Environmental Protection Officers, in consultation with Local Planners, Highways Planners of the District Council and approved by Steering Group Members, including representatives from Breckland Council, and also Norfolk County Council Traffic Planners, Breckland Planning Department, Public Heath Norfolk, Swaffham Town Council (Neighbourhood Planning Group) and other interested organisations.

The Council's priorities within the AQAP are stated as: *"To look at NO₂ emissions from traffic travelling through town and investigate ways to reduce congestion and exposure to emissions. In this AQAP we outline how we plan to effectively tackle air quality issues within our control"*.

This response forms part of the final statutory consultation of the Action Plan following public consultation.

The Council is advised to take consideration of the commentary below in the further development of the Air Quality Action Plan.

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Commentary

1. The Council have submitted a final Air Quality Action Plan, following Public Consultation, in relation to the AQMA declared in a small area in Swaffham due to exceedance of the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide.
2. The Action Plan has identified a wide range of potential measures, across a broad range of policy interventions. The commentary within the AQAP makes clear that many proposed measures are preliminary, and require further investigation or feasibility assessments, before being taken forward.
3. An outline source apportionment has identified that a 5.8% reduction of road NO_x is required to meet the air quality objectives.
4. The latest monitoring results for the AQMA as reported in the 2018 ASR report highlight that there are currently no exceedances of the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide within the AQMA or in other locations monitored nearby.
5. This suggests that the requirement to reduce roadside NO_x emissions to achieve the air quality objectives should be reviewed, in light of the most recent monitoring results.
6. The Action Plan has highlighted that the Council are aware of the significance of controlling congestion in central Swaffham, with reference to a range of options for developing transport measures to control congestion. The last ASR report noted that options have been considered in conjunction with Norfolk County Council to change the road lay-out to improve traffic flow, but have not been taken forward.
7. The ASR report notes that, *“Improvements in traffic queueing and delays are a strong focus in the AQAP, with proposed removal of the traffic lights on the Station Street/Mangate Street junction, encouragement of public transport use and review of car parking enforcement and the town centre one-way system”*.
8. The requirement for significant transport interventions should be judged in relation to the evidence of continued pollution hotspots.
9. Continued assessment of local air quality should continue in order to demonstrate compliance. Continued compliance with the objectives, suggests that the AQMA may not need to be retained, and can be considered for revocation, once air pollution levels are maintained at a level of more than 10% below objective levels.

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10. Further updates to the Action Plan will be reported within ASR reports, within Table 5.1. They should make clear which measures are being taken forward within costed programmes, and a distinction made between proposed measures, and those that remain under consideration, or have been rejected.

This commentary is not designed to deal with every aspect of the Action Plan. It highlights a number of issues that should help the local authority in maintaining the objectives of its Action Plan, namely the improvement of air quality within the AQMA.

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

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Appraisal Response Comment Form

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
Contact email address:	

Comments on appraisal/Further information: