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Local Authority:	<b>Boston Borough Council</b>
Reference:	<b>ASR20-0604</b>
Date of issue	<b>August 2020</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.

Boston Borough Council (BBC) currently has 2 air quality management areas (AQMAs), both declared for exceedances of NO<sub>2</sub> annual mean air quality objective (AQO). These are Haven Bridge AQMA and Bargate Bridge AQMA (2005). After completion of a detailed assessment in 2018, BBC considered amending their existing AQMAs potentially into a proposed singular AQMA after continued monitoring. However the Council have stated that they intend to keep the Haven Bride AQMA and will review the Bargate Bridge AQMA for potential revocation. A new draft Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) was made available in 2020 which includes 19 measures to improve air quality.

The Council undertook non-automatic NO<sub>2</sub> diffusion tube monitoring at 16 sites in 2019. 4 sites were removed, and 5 new sites were established. During 2019, 3 sites recorded NO<sub>2</sub> annual mean concentrations in excess of 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. However, after distance correction calculations were performed (where necessary), only 2 monitoring sites exceeded the NO<sub>2</sub> annual mean objective. Both within the Haven Bridge AQMA. The highest concentration was recorded in the Haven Bridge AQMA was at diffusion tube site 1 which measured an annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentration of 49.2µg/m<sup>3</sup> (not distance corrected), an increase from 42.4 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2018. For the diffusion tubes that have been present for a number of years, there is a largely downward trend apparent for 7 diffusion tubes (DT3, DT8, DT9, DT12, DT14, DT20 & DT21) with a slight increase in comparison to 2018 concentrations at DT1, DT4 & DT5.

QA/QC procedures have been applied with the national bias adjustment factor being used. Annualisation was conducted for sites with a data capture below 75%. Distance correction was conducted for sites within 10% of the AQO and not representative of relevant exposure. Calculations have been provided for all.

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, Boston Borough Council should submit an Annual Status Report in 2021.

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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 a good detailed discussion on NO<sub>2</sub> trends within the borough as well as the status and future action for each AQMA. The Council have provided sound justification for retaining Haven Bridge AQAP (due to continued exceedances) and plan to review the Bargate Bridge AQMA for potential revocation as it has demonstrated long term compliance with the AQOs. This is supported.
2. The Council have presented NO<sub>2</sub> trends with respects to AQMA and areas outside of the AQMA. This is extremely useful as it allows the reader to easily understand spatial trends in NO<sub>2</sub> within the borough. This approach to data/trend presentation is encouraged in future reports.
3. It is extremely useful that the Council have colour-coded Table 2.2. It allows the reader to easily identify which measures are on track for completion.

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 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

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## **Appraisal Response Comment Form**

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
Contact email address:	

**Comments on appraisal/Further information:**