
Local Authority:	Epsom & Ewell Borough Council
Reference:	ASR20-0606
Date of issue	August 2020

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.

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council have declared one Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), Ewell High Street for exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean air quality objective (AQO). The AQMA was declared in 2007 and a corresponding Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) was published in 2010. This has exceeded the 5-year time frame at which DEFRA recommends a new AQAP should be produced.

Automatic monitoring is not undertaken by Epsom and Ewell Borough Council. Non-automatic (passive) monitoring of NO₂ was conducted at 25 sites during 2019. Two new sites on London Road/ Kingston Road junction, EE52 and EE53, were established in late 2018 but produced too little data to feature in the 2020 ASR. There was one exceedance of the annual mean objective for NO₂ with a concentration of 46.3 ug/m³ at EE10 Ewell High Street, within the AQMA. After distance correction this decreased to 44.1 ug/m³, which still exceeds the annual mean objective. NO₂ concentrations across the majority of sites within the borough have increased between 2018 and 2019. However, it is important to note that 2018 saw a drastic decrease in NO₂ concentrations and that (though higher than 2018) 2019 concentrations still indicate an overall long-term downward trend in NO₂ concentrations within the borough.

The two new sites on London Road/ Kingston Road junction, EE52 and EE53, were selected as a result of the Surrey wide detailed air quality assessment which identified this junction as having potential exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean objective.

QA/QC procedures have been applied with a county bias adjustment factor being used. Annualisation of monitoring data was conducted for 3 sites as data capture was below 75%. Distance correction was conducted for 2 sites within 10% of the AQO and not representative of relevant exposure. Calculations have been provided for all.

The Council have provided a detailed discussion on the Surrey Wide detailed air quality modelling and source apportionment assessment. No there were no modelled exceedances of the hourly mean objective for either NO₂ or the 24-hourly mean average for particulates. The study identified London Road/ Kingston Road junction as having potential exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean objective. Consequently, the Council have set up two new monitoring locations in this area.

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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, Epsom and Ewell 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 the commentary for last year's appraisal and have addressed these.
2. It is encouraging to see that the Council have considered the results of the detailed modelling and have deployed two new monitoring locations in areas where potential exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean objective have been modelled.
3. The diffusion tube mapping is presented for each monitoring location and the AQMA boundary is clearly shown on the map. However, it would also be beneficial for the Council to include a single map with all monitoring locations. This way it can be understood where the monitoring locations are with respects to one another and spatial patterns in NO₂ can be better understood.
4. The progress against Action Plan measures table has still not been updated from last year. This is important considering the current AQAP is regarded as being out of date. The Council have stated that they anticipate that the AQMA will meet the AQOs within 3-4 years and that their focus and efforts will be placed on implementing wider measures within the borough, including the AQMA. Even though the Council anticipate the AQMA will achieve compliance with the AQOs within a few years it is still strongly recommended that the Council provide an updated AQAP as advised by DEFRA. The AQAP is extremely out of date and many of the measures in Table 2 are now complete. It would be extremely beneficial for the Council to update Table 2 with new measures and include Key Performance indicators for each measure.
5. There is a minor error in the accompanying excel spreadsheet. On the 'Table 1' tab the Council have used the non-distance corrected NO₂ concentration for the AQMA. This does not correspond to the concentration presented in the report (which is correct). Can the Council please ensure that concentrations in the report and the excel spreadsheet correspond.

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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:	UKLAQMAppraisals@aecom.com

Comments on appraisal/Further information: