
Local Authority:	Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
Reference:	ASR19-0311
Date of issue	December 2019

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.

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council does not have any declared air quality management areas (AQMAs). As such there is no formal requirement to develop and publish an air quality action plan (AQAP). However, the Council still provide a discussion on the measures they are implementing to improve air quality in the area. This demonstrates the Council's active engagement to improving air quality.

In 2018, NO₂ was monitored across a network of 33 passive diffusion tube sites. PM_{2.5} was also monitored at one automatic site, with concentrations well below the annual mean target. There were three exceedances of the annual mean NO₂ objective **prior** to distance correction, these were at WH19, WH25 and W26 measuring at 44 µg/m³, 40 µg/m³ and 45 µg/m³, respectively. Once distance correction was applied there were **no** measured exceedances.

QA/QC procedures have been applied for bias adjustment (using a national factor), annualisation and distance correction with calculations provided. The Council have no specific measures to target PM_{2.5} however they do take the pollutant into account when implementing strategies within the Borough. The Council also make reference to the Public Health Outcome Framework indicators for PM_{2.5}.

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, Welwyn Hatfield Borough 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, following the latest reporting template.

1. It is encouraging to see that the Council have reviewed their monitoring programme and have introduced new monitoring locations. The Council should continue to review the monitoring programme on a regular basis, to ensure that monitoring takes place at any sites of potential exceedance with relevant exposure.
2. It would be beneficial for the Council to only include 5 years' worth of data in Figure A.1, this will help reduce overcrowding and make the graph easier to read.
3. With regards to the maps in Appendix D, it would be beneficial for the Council to also include a single map displaying all the monitoring locations. Therefore, the reader is able to understand how the monitoring locations relate to one another geographically.
4. As there are multiple monitoring locations on the map on page 74, it would be extremely beneficial for the Council to label the monitoring locations.

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 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:	UKLAQMAppraisals@aecom.com

Comments on appraisal/Further information: