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19 August 2022

Dear Local Authority,

LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT: 2022 ANNUAL STATUS REPORT

Thank you for consulting the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on your Council's 2022 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR).

Defra's response is contained in the appraisal report, which you can now access on the LAQM Portal.

The ASR for 2023 is due in June 2023. Defra expects local authorities to upload a copy of the ASR to the LAQM portal (www.laqmportal.co.uk/login) no later than 30 June 2023.

The Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk is available to help with queries about the LAQM Framework:

<https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/>
Telephone: 0800 0327 953
Email: LAQMHelpdesk@uk.bureauveritas.com

Yours sincerely,

Defra Local Air Quality Team

Defra Air Quality
WEB: <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk>
TWITTER: @defraukair



Local Authority:	Chorley Council
Reference:	ASR22-1387
Date of issue	July 2022

Annual Status Report Appraisal Report

The Annual Status Report sets out new information on air quality obtained by Chorley Council (CC) as part of the Review & Assessment process required under the Environment Act 1995 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021) and subsequent Regulations.

CC do not have any designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA), within their jurisdiction. The Council did not undertake automatic monitoring during 2021. However, they have started a trial roll-out of monitoring of EarthSense Zephyr continuous automatic particulate monitors at three locations across the borough. Though this system is not approved for inclusion in future ASRs or certified using the Environment Agency's Indicative instrument certification scheme, the data collected will provide qualitative data on the scale of the issue, particulate pollution trends and a benchmark against which to measure progress. The outcome of this trial will be published during the next reporting period once sufficient data has been collected.

The Council undertook passive diffusion tube monitoring of NO₂ at 43 monitoring locations during 2021. 29 new sites were added, whilst 6 sites were decommissioned during 2021. The results for the 6 decommissioned sites are not included in the annual status report. During 2021, there were no exceedances at passive monitoring sites. CH60 (Water Street) recorded the highest NO₂ concentration in 2021 (37.6 µg/m³). After distance correction, CH60 recorded a NO₂ concentration of 31.9 µg/m³, which represents relevant exposure. As no diffusion tube sites recorded an NO₂ concentration >60µg/m³ its unlikely there were any exceedances of the AQO for 1-hour mean NO₂. There has been an overall downward trend in NO₂ concentrations across Chorley in the last 5 years despite a slight rise in 2021 as road traffic levels have increased post COVID-19.

QA/QC of monitoring data has been discussed, and the national bias adjustment factor was selected for 2021 with details of the methodology (i.e. bias adjustment spreadsheet) provided. The justification for the selection of the adjustment factor in 2021 is well supported. Annualisation was required at the 29 new monitoring locations introduced during 2021. Distance correction was carried out for one site CH60, which had recorded an NO₂ concentration of 37.6 µg/m³. The Council have provided good mapping of all monitoring locations within the district.

CC has provided a comprehensive list of key actions which they are planning to undertake to improve air quality over the next reporting year. These include continuing to liaise with colleagues

Local Authority:	Chorley Council
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across the Council and with South Ribble and Preston City councils to develop the revised Central Lancashire Local Plan, working with third sector partners to encourage active travel and make greens spaces more inviting and a review of the performance of continuous air quality Zephyr trial.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached are **accepted** for all sources and pollutants. Following the completion of this report, Chorley Council should submit an Annual Status/Progress Report in 2023.

Local Authority:	Chorley Council
Reference:	ASR22-1387
Date of issue	July 2022

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 has included a comprehensive discussion and review of its monitoring strategy, informed by the results of monitoring network from previous reporting years. This demonstrates the Council's proactive and dedicated approach to improving air quality across the area.
2. It is encouraging to see the Council considered the comments made during the previous appraisal and actively made an effort to address all of these actions for this year's ASR.
3. Extensive Trend graphs have been provided for all monitoring data, which is commended.
4. The council has correctly undertaken distance correction calculations for the one site which recorded an annual mean NO₂ concentration >36 µg/m³. This is commended.
5. There is one minor formatting error in "Section: 3.2.1 Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)" of the report. The report states "There are no exceedances of the air quality objectives, either by the annual mean concentrations of 40µg/m³ or any tube result exceeding 60µg/m³, which indicates that an exceedance of the 1-hour mean objective is likely." For future cases, where there are no exceedances of the air quality objectives, the report should say "There are no exceedances of the air quality objectives, either by the annual mean concentrations of 40µg/m³ or any tube result exceeding 60µg/m³, which indicates that an exceedance of the 1-hour mean objective is **unlikely**." The Council is encouraged to correct this inconsistency in future reports submitted.
6. The Council has provided a comprehensive list of key actions which they are planning to undertake to improve air quality over the next reporting year. This is commended.
7. The Council is commended for their approach to further improving Air Quality in the absence of a formal AQAP. Continued local engagement through various means including additional public consultations on key measures is highly encouraged.
8. The Council is encouraged to update the References section in the Appendix. Several references mentioned in the report are missing from the Appendix- primarily from the "Local Engagement and How to get Involved" section from the Executive summary.

Local Authority:	Chorley Council
Reference:	ASR22-1387
Date of issue	July 2022

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 Government, Scottish Government or DOE.

For any other queries please contact the Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk:

Telephone: 0800 0327 953

Email: LAQMHelpdesk@bureauveritas.com

Local Authority:	Chorley Council
Reference:	ASR22-1387
Date of issue	July 2022

Appraisal Response Comment Form

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
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Comments on appraisal/Further information: