

Scrutiny Committee 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Air Quality in Nottingham

Summary

As a consequence of the Local Air Quality Management process Nottingham City Council declared two Air Quality Management Areas where monitored (and modelled) concentrations of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) exceed the annual mean Air Quality Objective (AQO) of 40 ug/m<sup>3</sup>, primarily due to road traffic.

Nottingham City Council, through its Local Transport Plan has constrained private motor vehicle traffic growth, and increased both public transport usage (bus and tram) and active travel – walking and cycling.

These measures have helped reduce concentrations of nitrogen dioxide across the City and it is predicted that these, together with other measures, will enable Nottingham to meet the annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> AQO by 2024.

Roadside levels of nitrogen dioxide continue to be of national concern, with over 30 urban areas (identified in the UK Government's 2017 revised air quality strategy) required to reduce levels of nitrogen dioxide.

The revised strategy requires local authorities to pursue all practicable measures including the use Clean Air Zones to reduce roadside levels of NO<sub>2</sub> (to below the AQO) as quickly as possible.

Air quality monitoring data reported in Nottingham's Annual Status Report 2017 confirmed that NO<sub>2</sub> levels in AQMA 3 (Lace St/Beeston Road) were continuing to fall and were sufficiently below the AQO to potentially allow the revocation of AQMA 3. The provisional data also indicated a number of locations outside the existing AQMAs where levels are above the annual mean AQO.

Consequently, a further assessment is being undertaken to determine the need to vary and/or revoke the existing AQMAs. The study will utilise air quality modelling predictions (by external consultants) as part of the work to determine the need for, type, and extent of, any Clean Air Zone in Nottingham.

A further Annual Status Report is due for submission to DEFRA by the end of June 2018.

Work continues to influence and effect behavioural change to reduce emissions and improve air quality via awareness raising events and programmes, such as (National) Clean Air Day 21st June 2018, Breathe Easy Week 18-24<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and FestEVal 29&30<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

If necessary, a Clean Air Zone plan must be submitted for assessment by the Secretary of State by the end of September 2018.