

Ref: PR4-008

## Progress Report Appraisal

Report Prepared by: **North West Leicestershire District Council**

Date Progress Report Issued: **14<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

The Progress Report sets out new information on air quality obtained by North West Leicestershire District Council, as part of the Review & Assessment process required under the Environment Act 1995 and subsequent Regulations.

This Appraisal Report covers the air quality Review and Assessment aspects of the Progress Report submitted by the Council. The Action Plan elements are appraised separately.

It covers the **minimum requirements for reporting on monitoring and new local developments**. It also covers **some of the recommended additional elements including:**

- additional analysis of monitoring data
- details of some major planning applications
- information on air quality planning policies
- progress with the LTP
- information on the Climate Change Strategy

On the basis of the information provided by the local authority in the Progress Report and subsequent telephone conversation with Gareth Rees on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010 (see Commentary for details), the review and assessment aspects of the Progress Report are **accepted**.

Following the completion of this report, North West Leicestershire District Council should submit a Progress Report by April 2011 and the Detailed Assessment for SO<sub>2</sub> as soon as it is available.

A copy of the amendment order covering the inclusion of hourly NO<sub>2</sub> in the M1 AQMA should also be provided as soon as it has been passed

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Due to the high concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub> being monitored at Ravenstone Primary School, the council should undertake some further investigation into this as soon as possible despite the fact that there were less than 35 recorded exceedences of the PM<sub>10</sub> Daily Mean objective in 2009.

The Council's attention is drawn to paragraph 4.04 in the Technical Guidance (LAQM.TG(09)) which reminds authorities that: ***if at any time they identify a risk of an air quality exceedence then they should proceed to a Detailed Assessment and not delay until the next full round of review and assessment.*** The Council should therefore assess its monitoring results to establish whether they represent a risk of exceedence at locations with relevant exposure. If this is the case then the Council should proceed to a Detailed Assessment for these locations. It should keep Defra informed as to what further action is to be taken.

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## Commentary

The report is well structured and covers most of the minimum requirements and some of the recommended additional items of the information specified in the Guidance.

The following specific items are drawn to the local authority's attention to help inform future work. It is strongly recommended that the local authority note [these items/this item] for future reporting purposes and amend their current report where appropriate:

1. It would be helpful to have more discussion of the very high PM concentrations being recorded at the Ravenstone School monitor – although there are only 20 exceedences of the daily mean objective recorded at this location in 2009, it is identified as not being a worst-case location, and as it is at a primary school it represents very sensitive receptors. As discussed with Gareth Rees of NW Leicestershire District Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010, further investigation of this problem should be undertaken and discussed with the helpdesk – this should be presented either in the 2011 Progress Report, or if further work suggests a significant risk of exceedences at relevant receptors, then as a Detailed Assessment.
2. Efforts have been made within the LAQM process to standardise the spelling of “exceedence” without an ‘a’ towards the end.
3. It is not clear in section 3.1.1 what is meant by “24hr peak queues” as a traffic count description.
4. The PM monitoring is described in Table 2 as being “Gravimetric” however 15 minute concentrations are provided in the Appendices suggesting that this is not the case.
5. The 15-minute resolution PM data in the appendix is not a particularly friendly format – it would be best to submit it as an additional document, or probably just a link to the Excel files on the council website. As it takes the report to over 1200 pages we strongly recommend that it is removed from the report prior to publishing it on line incase anybody prints it without looking at it properly.

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 can be followed up through the Review and Assessment helpdesk as follows:

Help desk telephone: 0117 32 83668  
Help desk email: [aqm-review@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:aqm-review@uwe.ac.uk)  
Web site: [www.uwe.ac.uk/aqm/review](http://www.uwe.ac.uk/aqm/review)