

Local Authority:	<b>Waverley Borough Council</b>
Reference:	<b>PR5-022</b>
Date of issue	<b>May 2013</b>

## **Action Plan Progress Report Appraisal Report**

### ***Progress Report***

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

The Review and Assessment Progress Report covers the minimum requirements for reporting on monitoring and new local developments. It also covers the recommended additional elements, including relevant planning applications, a summary of the County's Local Transport Plan and an outline of the County's Climate Change Strategy.

The report concludes that the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide continues to be exceeded in the 3 existing AQMAs and that they should be retained. Two sites exceeded the objective outside of the AQMAs - Farn14 and God7. The first tube (Farn14) is located at ground floor height, but receptors are situated at first and second floor height. Previous modelling studies suggest that exceedences would not occur at this height. Concentrations at God7 have exceeded the objective in the last two years, so the local authority is to proceed to a Detailed Assessment for this site.

On the basis of the information provided by the local authority, the report is **accepted for monitoring data and new local developments** although it is recommended that the local authority note the comments made below. Following the completion of this report, Waverley Borough Council should submit their next Progress Report by April 2014.

### ***Action Plan***

The Progress Report includes a section on the implementation of action plan measures in tabular format and a summary of the key progress made during 2011-12. Progress has been made on the majority of measures including completion of the Hindhead tunnel and bypass on time and completion of a low emission strategy feasibility study for Farnham. The local authority is also looking at re-optimising the UTC systems at traffic signals.

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## **Commentary**

The report is well structured and covers all of the minimum requirements and many of the recommended additional items specified in the Guidance. The following specific items are drawn to the local authority's attention to help inform future work.

1. In section 2.1 of the report (p12), it states that monitoring was undertaken at 43 locations in the borough. However later in the report (e.g. 2.1.2), it is stated that there were 45 sites in 2012 and these are given in Table 2.4. The local authority should ensure that this is consistent throughout the report and that details of all sites (e.g. God7) are provided in Table 2.2.
2. Table 2.2 does not indicate whether all diffusion tubes are located at worst case locations. In future reports, there should be a "Y" or "N" provided for all sites in this column.
3. The report states that data from sites with less than 75 percent data capture rate have been annualised in accordance with the Guidance. However, no details of these calculations have been provided in the report. These calculations should be given in the Appendices in future reports.
4. The diffusion tube concentrations reported in Table 2.4 have been adjusted using the national bias adjustment factor. This has been used in preference to the higher local factor. The local authority should provide reasons for their choice of using the national factor in preference to the local factor when they have co-located studies at all automatic sites and state whether this is consistent with previous years. This comment is given with particular reference to High Street, Haslemere. The 2012 USA concluded that a Detailed Assessment would be required for this area as concentrations at sites Hasl3 and 4 exceeded the annual mean objective. However as concentrations reported in 2012 with the national factor are below the objective using the national factor, the local authority will not proceed to a Detailed Assessment. It is noted that if the local bias factor was used, then concentrations at both sites would be above the objective. The local authority should continue to closely monitor concentrations at these sites and at the new site Hasl5 to consider whether a Detailed Assessment is required in the future.
5. The report should provide details of QA/QC methods and the diffusion tube laboratory used.

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6. With regards to the action plan update, this is considered to provide a good level of detail in a consistent format with that given in the Guidance. It is recommended that the local authority consider whether any new measures may be required in the future, given that some measures are now complete or no longer being progressed.

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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, as appropriate – or by emailing the form to [REDACTED]**

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

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Email: LAQMhelpdesk@uk.bureauveritas.com