



**Cabinet**

**Tuesday, 11 February 2025**

**Revocation of the Borough's Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA 1 and 1/2011)**

## **Report of the Director – Neighbourhoods**

### **Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Safety, Councillor R Inglis**

#### **1. Purpose of report**

To enable Cabinet to consider and approve the revocation of the Borough's Air Quality Management Areas.

#### **2. Recommendation**

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet approves the revocation of the Borough's Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA 1 and 1/2011).

#### **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) is set out in Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, which places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their area to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. The Council approved the adoption of two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in 2005 and 2011 and has been actively carrying out air quality monitoring at these locations since. The levels have been continuously below the national air quality thresholds for the last five years so it is therefore proposed to revoke both AQMAs'.

#### **4. Supporting Information**

4.1. Where an exceedance of air quality thresholds is considered likely the local authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of the objectives.

4.2. Rushcliffe Borough Council currently has two active AQMAs' declared due to exceedances of the Air Quality Objective for the annual mean concentration of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>):

- AQMA No 1 Trent Bridge; and
- AQMA No 1/2011 Stragglethorpe Road.

The elevated NO<sub>2</sub> levels were associated with road traffic emissions and since declaration of the AQMAs there has been a significant decrease in NO<sub>2</sub> levels

in both areas. This is as a result of the measures implemented to reduce traffic congestion and the associated emissions, changes in vehicle technology and as a result of lifestyle changes in the wider population in more recent years. The Council undertakes continuous air quality monitoring at both locations using specialised equipment. It also undertakes passive air quality monitoring using diffusion tubes, it is proposed to continue using diffusion tube monitoring.

- 4.3. Road traffic is the main source of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) within the AQMA. The concentration of NO<sub>2</sub> is measured as micrograms per cubic metre of air (µg m<sup>-3</sup>) and to protect health the Government has set Air Quality Objectives. The annual objective relates to the concentration of NO<sub>2</sub> in the air averaged over a period of one year and aims to protect over the longer term. The annual mean objective for NO<sub>2</sub> is 40µg m<sup>-3</sup>. Further details are set out in Tables 1 and 2.

*Table 1 Details of AQMA No 1 Trent Bridge*

<b>AQMA Name &amp; Date of Declaration</b>	<b>Pollutants and Air Quality Objectives</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Pollutant Source</b>	<b>Level of Exceedance: Declaration</b>	<b>Level of Exceedance: Current Year</b>
AQMA No 1 Trent Bridge  Declared 01/09/2005	NO <sub>2</sub> Annual Mean	An area including Lady Bay Bridge/Radcliffe Road/Trent Bridge/Loughborough Road junctions in West Bridgford.	Traffic Emissions	47µg m <sup>-3</sup>	No exceedance – maximum recorded annual mean concentration 26 µg m <sup>-3</sup>

*Table 2 Details of AQMA No 1/2011 Stragglethorpe Road*

<b>AQMA Name &amp; Date of Declaration</b>	<b>Pollutants and Air Quality Objectives</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Pollutant Source</b>	<b>Level of Exceedance: Declaration</b>	<b>Level of Exceedance: Current Year</b>
AQMA No1/2011 Stragglethorpe Rd  Declared Oct 2011	NO <sub>2</sub> Annual Mean	Land adjacent to A52 at Stragglethorpe Lane Junction	Traffic Emissions	50.5 µg m <sup>-3</sup>	No exceedance – maximum recorded annual mean concentration 24 µg m <sup>-3</sup>

- 4.4. The Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (TG22) (Defra 2022) states:

4.4.1 There should not be any declared AQMAs for which compliance with the relevant objective has been achieved for a consecutive five-year period.

4.4.2 The revocation of an AQMA should be considered following three consecutive years of compliance with the relevant objective as evidenced through monitoring.

4.4.3 Where NO<sub>2</sub> monitoring is completed using diffusion tubes, to account for the inherent uncertainty associated with the monitoring method, it is recommended that revocation of an AQMA should be considered following three consecutive years of annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations being lower than 36µg/m<sup>3</sup> (i.e. within 10% of the annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> objective).

TG 22 Requirement	AQMA No 1 Trent Bridge	AQMA No 1/2011 Stragglethorpe Road
Three consecutive years of compliance with the relevant objective?	Yes	Yes
Diffusion Tube data - three consecutive years of annual mean NO <sub>2</sub> concentrations being lower than 36µg/m <sup>3</sup> (i.e. within 10% of the annual mean NO <sub>2</sub> objective)?	Yes	Yes

4.5. As the annual mean nitrogen dioxide concentrations recorded by the continuous monitors and network of diffusion tubes across both AQMA No 1 Trent Bridge and AQMA No 1/2011 Stragglethorpe Road clearly demonstrate compliance with the Air Quality Objective it is proposed to revoke both the AQMAs.

4.6. In accordance with Statutory guidance we have consulted with Statutory partners on this proposal including the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) who have responded as follows:

“For both AQMA No 1 Trent Bridge and AQMA No 1/2011 Stragglethorpe Road, monitoring results from 2022-2024 are shown to achieve full compliance, 10% below the relevant objective, for three consecutive non-Covid years. Hence, both AQMAs can be revoked based on the monitoring data provided”

## 5. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection

To not revoke and maintain continuous air quality monitoring at these locations is an option; however, this is not considered necessary, and this view is supported by DEFRA. However, it is proposed to continue using diffusion tube monitoring for the foreseeable future as part of the Council’s wider air quality monitoring obligations.

## 6. Risks and Uncertainties

No major risks or uncertainties identified.

## 7. Implications

### 7.1. Financial Implications

The continuous monitoring equipment requires both a maintenance and data management contract with a total annual value of £6k, which will not be required in future should Cabinet agree to revoke the AQMAs.

## 7.2. Legal Implications

This decision is in full accordance with current legislation and guidance.

## 7.3. Equalities Implications

Improved air quality will have a positive impact on health particularly for those with lung conditions.

## 7.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

None identified.

## 7.5. Biodiversity Net Gain Implications

None identified.

## 8. Link to Corporate Priorities

The Environment	This report directly links to demonstrable improvements in air quality
Quality of Life	Improved air quality has clear identified links to public health outcomes
Efficient Services	None
Sustainable Growth	None

## 9. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet approves the revocation of the Borough's Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA 1 and 1/2011).

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Geoff Carpenter Head of Public Protection 0115 914 8229 <a href="mailto:gcarpenter@rushcliffe.gov.uk">gcarpenter@rushcliffe.gov.uk</a>
<b>Background papers available for Inspection:</b>	Officer report supporting the recommendation January 2025
<b>List of appendices:</b>	None