Local Authority:	**King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council**
Reference:	**ASR24-2192**
Date of issue	**July 2024**

Annual Status Report Appraisal Report

The Annual Status Report (ASR) sets out new information on air quality obtained by King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council (KLaWNBC) as part of the Review & Assessment process required under the Environment Act 1995 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021) and subsequent Regulations.

KLaWNBC currently has two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) 'Gaywood Clock AQMA' was declared in April 2009 for exceedances of the NO_2 annual mean Air Quality Objective (AQO). 'Railway Road AQMA' was declared in November 2003 for exceedances of the NO_2 annual mean AQO. KLaWNBC is planning on revoking the Gaywood Clock AQMA due to continuing compliance with all relevant AQOs with the last exceedances of a relevant AQO inside the AQMA being recorded in 2010. We support KLaWNBC's plans to revoke the Gaywood Clock AQMA. As for the Railway Road AQMA, we advise KLaWNBC to wait until compliance has been achieved in 2022, 2023 and 2024 before considering plans to revoke this AQMA.

KLaWNBC undertook automatic monitoring at six sites (two of these sites are reference grade monitoring sites), and non-automatic NO_2 diffusion tube monitoring at seventy-three sites in 2023. One extra NO_2 diffusion tube monitoring site was added to the monitoring network between 2022 and 2023 along Elm High Road in Wisbech. In 2023, no exceedances of the NO_2 annual mean AQO was recorded.

The highest NO_2 annual mean concentration recorded outside of a AQMA is at monitoring site 101 (located on Elm High Road in Wisbech) which recorded a concentration of 26.5µg/m^3 (relevant exposure) which is a decrease of 1.8µg/m^3 on the concentration of 28.3µg/m^3 recorded at the same monitoring site in 2022. The highest NO_2 annual mean concentration recorded inside of a AQMA is at monitoring site 2 (located on Railway Road, inside the Railway Road AQMA) which recorded a concentration of 32.5µg/m^3 which is a decrease of 0.4µg/m^3 on the concentration of 32.9µg/m^3 recorded at the same monitoring site in 2022. The general trend in NO_2 annual mean concentrations is mixed with some monitoring sites recording in increase in concentrations between 2022 and 2023, and others recorded a decrease in concentrations over the same time scale. The average change in NO_2 annual mean concentrations between 2022 and 2023 is a decrease of 0.9µg/m^3.

The largest increase in NO_2 annual mean concentration between 2022 and 2023 was recorded at monitoring site 31 (located on Railway Road, inside the Railway Road AQMA) which recorded

a concentration of 28.1µg/m^3 in 2023, this is an increase of 8.3µg/m^3 on the concentration of 19.8µg/m^3 recorded at the same monitoring site in 2022. The largest decrease in NO_2 annual mean concentration between 2022 and 2023 was recorded at monitoring site 6,7,8 (located on London Road, inside the Railway Road AQMA) which recorded a concentration of 14.3µg/m^3, this is a decrease of 3.3µg/m^3 from the concentration of 17.6µg/m^3 recorded at the same monitoring site in 2022. No exceedances of any other relevant AQOs were recorded in 2023.

QA/QC procedures have been applied, with a local bias adjustment factor being used. KLaWNBC used a local bias adjustment factor as a good overall data capture and precision was obtained from the co-location study which meant that a local bias adjustment factor could be calculated. KLaWNBC used Socotec for the supply and analysis of the NO_2 diffusion tubes, which are prepared with 50% Triethanolamine / Acetone. No distance correction was required at any monitoring site in 2023. Annualisation was required at four non-automatic NO_2 diffusion tube, and at two automatic monitoring sites. After annualisation, the annual mean concentrations recorded at monitoring sites 31, 48, 68, 70, OS1 and OS4 remained below the relevant AQOs.

The ASR discusses what measures within the AQAP were completed or progressed within the reporting year of 2023 which range from creating a new access road for buses to Boal Street, to the introduction of variable message signs on the approach to King's Lynn to indicate where parking spaces are available. The ASR also discusses what additional measures set out in the AQAP will continue to ensure compliance within the AQMAs which range from the development of a parking management plan which will considering car parking arrangements in the town centre, to traffic management at Gaywood Clock which will comprise of the King's Lynn Transport Study including the Gaywood Clock area.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached in the report are **accepted** for all sources and pollutants, on the proviso that the grammatical and formatting errors in the report, outlined in points 5 and 7, are corrected prior to publication on the council's website. ASRs are public facing documents that serve to keep local communities informed of the steps being taken by their local authority to improve air quality, and as such it is important that they are accessible and easy to read. Following the completion of this report, King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council should submit an Annual Status Report in 2025.

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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. There is good in-depth discussion about the planning applications that the council have received in 2023.
2. There is good in-depth discussion about the additional air quality works done by the council in 2023.
3. There is good in-depth discussion about $PM_{2.5}$ emissions in the council's administrative area, and the measures being put in place to reduce $PM_{2.5}$ levels.
4. Monitoring site CM4 SF should be considered for removal from the results tables as this site has been inactive since 2021.
5. The site ID names included in Table A.3 are not correct. This should be corrected before publication.
6. The AQAPs were published in 2015 and are now considered to be out of date. The AQAPs should be updated and published as soon as possible.
7. The column names in Table 2.2 should match the column names in Table 2.2 contained within the excel template.
8. The proposed measures to be progressed, and priorities for the next reporting year have not been clearly identified. This should be corrected in future reports.
9. The footer on page 3 (where Table 2.1 is located) refers to the 2023 ASR instead of the 2024 ASR.

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

The Air Quality Hub is now run by Defra, it is a free online information and knowledge sharing resource for local authority air quality professionals. Please consider onboarding on the Air Quality Hub to access a multitude of air quality resources and be kept up to date with local authority air quality activity and air quality news.

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Appraisal Response Comment Form

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
Contact email address:	UKLAQMAppraisals@aecom.com

Comments on appraisal/Further information: