

Report Title:	Petition for Debate – increased air pollution monitoring of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} in Air Quality Management Areas
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No - Part I
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Cannon, Cabinet Member for Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Public Protection
Meeting and Date:	Full Council – 22 November 2022
Responsible Officer(s):	Kevin McDaniel, Executive Director of People Services Tracy Hendren, Head of Housing, Environmental Health, and Trading Standards
Wards affected:	All



REPORT SUMMARY

An [ePetition](#) has been received and secured 2,151 signatures. The lead petitioner requested it be debated at Full Council.

The petition says “we the undersigned petition the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead to increase measurements of air polluting PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} particulates as soon as possible to multiple locations within all five Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the Borough”

This paper explains the current work underway in relation to air quality within the Royal Borough and the options available in response to the petition, including the estimated costs. The report recommends a review of the air quality monitoring results to be published in 2023 to help inform future decisions on the current air quality monitoring regime.

Air quality monitoring is one of Council’s corporate plan goals – ‘Achieve the National Air Quality Objective (AQO) across all Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) by 2025’.

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

RECOMMENDATION: That Full Council notes the Petition and:

- i) Agrees to continue with the current monitoring regime and report back to Members with the monitoring results for 2022 for a decision on how best to proceed with air quality monitoring within the borough for future years.**

2. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Options

Table 1: Options arising from this report

Option	Comments
<p>To continue with the existing monitoring regime and report back to Members with the annual monitoring data for a discussion on the air quality monitoring results.</p> <p>This is the recommended option</p>	<p>This option is recommended as the current data does not suggest there is a need to extend the current air quality monitoring network.</p>
<p>To replicate the monitoring equipment in use at Frascati Way for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} at an estimated cost of £25,000-£30,000 with an annual £5,000 for service and data validation.</p> <p>This is not recommended.</p>	<p>The Council could extend the air quality monitoring of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} although this would incur a significant additional cost to the Council at a time of financial challenge and the need to target resources effectively towards priority areas. This is not deliverable within the current budget constraints.</p>
<p>Use low-cost sensor equipment (not certified and higher uncertainty on measurement data) to monitor PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} at an estimated cost of £3,000 plus £2,500 for annual service and data validation.</p> <p>This is not recommended.</p>	<p>The Council could install low-cost sensor equipment although this type of equipment has not been certificated and there is uncertainty on the accuracy of the measurement data. This is not deliverable within the current budget constraints.</p>
<p>Use of the Casella Guardian 2 Boundary Monitor as suggested by petitioners at an estimated cost of £10,000 plus additional costs for service and data validation</p> <p>This is not recommended.</p>	<p>The manufacturer has suggested this unit is primarily used for construction and demolition sites, so not appropriate for borough needs. The unit has noise and vibration functions that are not needed and there is limited information on lower concentration of pollutants (construction sites tend to have higher concentrations). This is not deliverable within the current budget constraints.</p>

- 2.1. Poor air quality is considered by the Government to be “the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK”. As well as human health, air pollution also has implications for the natural environment and for the economy. Due to the transboundary nature of air pollution, action to manage and improve air quality in the UK has been driven by both international agreements and EU legislation, as well as national and devolved legislation.

- 2.2. The air quality objectives (AQO) applicable to Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) in England are set out in the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000, and the Air Quality (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002.
- 2.3. There are National Air Quality Objectives (NAQO) for reducing concentrations of emissions relating to relevant pollutants below air quality objective levels. If there is a risk that an air quality objective is or will be exceeded at a relevant location, a local authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).
- 2.4. The most important primary air pollutants are particulate matter (PM) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).
- 2.5. Around half of UK concentrations of PM comes from human caused sources in the UK such as wood burning and tyre and brake wear from vehicles.
- 2.6. Domestic combustion is a major source of PM emissions in 2020, accounting for 15 per cent and 25 per cent of PM₁₀ (particulate matter less than 10 micrometres in diameter) and PM_{2.5} (particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter), respectively. Most emissions from this source come from burning wood in closed stoves and open fires. The use of wood as a fuel accounted for 70 per cent of PM_{2.5} emissions from domestic combustion in 2020. Emissions of PM_{2.5} from domestic wood burning increased by 35 per cent between 2010 and 2020, to represent 17 per cent of total PM_{2.5} emissions in 2020.
- 2.7. Nationally, there are substantial emissions of nitrogen oxides from road transport sources, as most concentrations at the roadside come from local transport sources.
- 2.8. There are currently 5 AQMAs within the Council area and these are detailed in table 2. These were declared for the concentrations of road traffic emissions exceeding the annual mean for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), which has a limit of 40 µg/m³ (the concentration of an air pollutant is given in micrograms (one-millionth of a gram) per cubic meter air or µg/m³).

Table 2: AQMAs Declared by Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

AQMA	Description	Date Declared	Date Amended	Date Revoked	Pollutants
<u>Maidenhead AQMA</u>	An enlarged area covering part of Maidenhead Town Centre, extending northwest to where Norfolk Road meets Craufurd Rise and the railway line, southwest to Kingswood Court and Rushington Avenue, southeast to Old acres and Guards Club Road, and northeast to Ray Mead Road and Lassell Gardens.	01/04/2005	31/07/2009		Nitrogen dioxide NO ₂
<u>Windsor AQMA</u>	The AQMA covers an enlarged area encompassing parts of Windsor Town Centre, from Oak Lane/Dedworth Road in the west, Althlone Square/Clarence Road/Bexley Road to the east, Imperial Road to the south, and Clewer Court Road and Stovell Road to the north.	01/04/2005	31/07/2009		Nitrogen dioxide NO ₂

<u>Bray/M4 AQMA</u>	An area encompassing part of Bray around the place where the M4 crosses over the A308 London Road.	31/07/2009			Nitrogen dioxide NO ₂
<u>Imperial/St Leonards Road Junction</u>	The area is linked with Clarence Road roundabout and Windsor AQMA by Imperial Road and is on the route to Legoland. It includes a double junction between B3022 St Leonards Rd and B3175 Imperial Rd there are residential buildings along the roads, in particular along St Leonards Road and those near the junction are exposed to higher concentrations.	14/04/2014			Nitrogen dioxide NO ₂
<u>Wraysbury/M25</u>	The area runs along the B376 and intersects with the M25 near junction 13, in the vicinity of Heathrow Airport. There are residential buildings along the Wraysbury Road and those near the M25 tunnel portal are exposed to higher concentrations.	14/04/2014			Nitrogen dioxide

- 2.9. Since the AQMA declarations – in Windsor and Maidenhead in 2005, Bray/M4 in 2009 and Imperial/St Leonards Road junction and Wraysbury/M25 in 2014 respectively, air quality has markedly improved and concentrations of NO₂ across all areas are now below the objective level of 40 µg/m³.
- 2.10. PM₁₀ are monitored at Frascati Way, MAIDENHEAD. The recorded annual mean concentration decreased from 25 µg/m³ in 2016 to 19 µg/m³ in 2021. These levels are well below the national air quality objective of 40 µg/m³. During the same period the respective PM_{2.5} estimated annual mean concentration decreased from 17.5 to 13.4 µg/m³. These levels are well below the current national legal limit of 20µg/m³.
- 2.11. The Council are required to submit an Annual Status Report (ASR) to the Secretary of State reporting progress in achieving reductions in concentrations of emissions relating to relevant pollutants below air quality objective levels and identifying new or changing sources of emissions. The Secretary of State (Defra) provide comments back to which the Council are expected to have regard.
- 2.12. Air quality monitoring is one of RBWM's corporate plan goals – 'Achieve the National Air Quality Objective (AQO) across all Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) by 2025'.

The current monitoring regime

- 2.13. The current air quality monitoring regime consists of 3 real-time monitoring stations and 40 diffusion tubes.
- 2.14. There is extensive monitoring within the AQMA's but also in other areas including Eton, Datchet and Old Windsor.

The current situation and Annual Status Report

- 2.15. Air quality across the borough has improved since the declaration of the AQMA's. Exceedances of the objective level for NO₂ have been localised to specific hotspots around the borough. The national annual mean objective for NO₂ is 40 µg/m³.

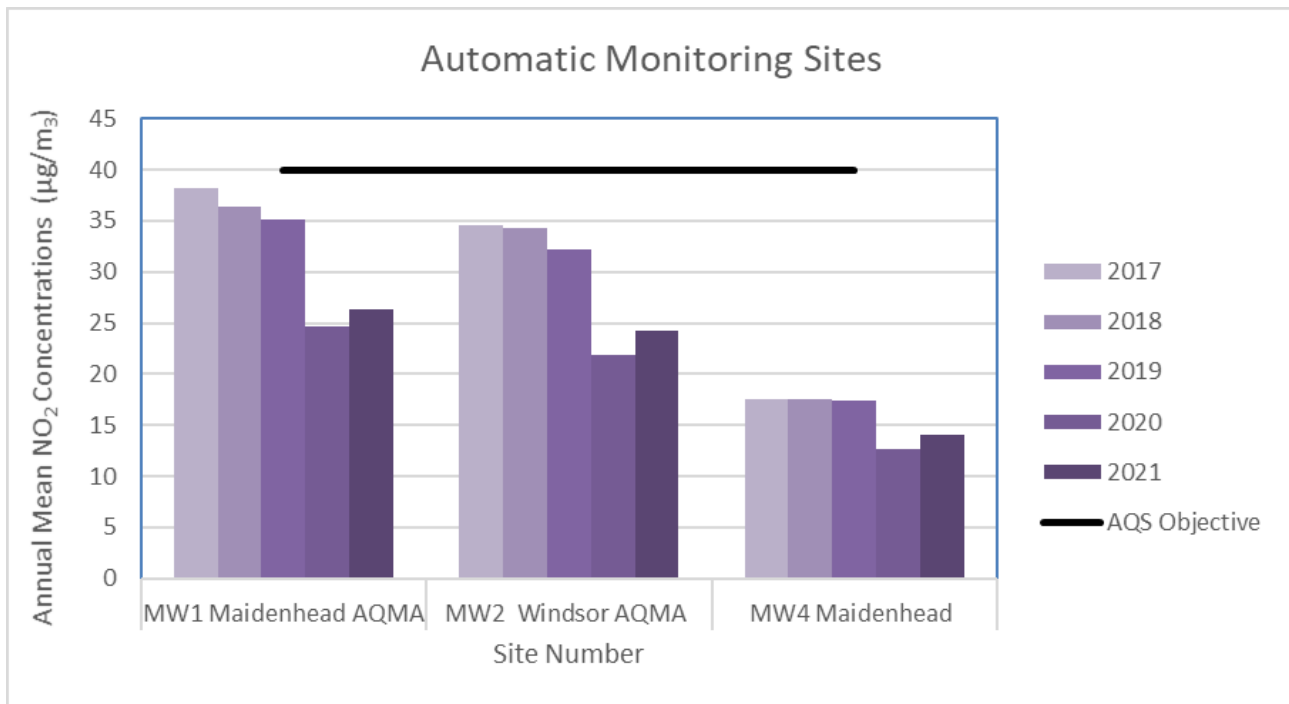


Table 3. NO₂ annual mean concentrations for sites MW1, MW2 and MW4 between years 2017 to 2021. There are no exceedances of the annual mean objective in 2021 and there is a general trend of reduction experienced across the sites

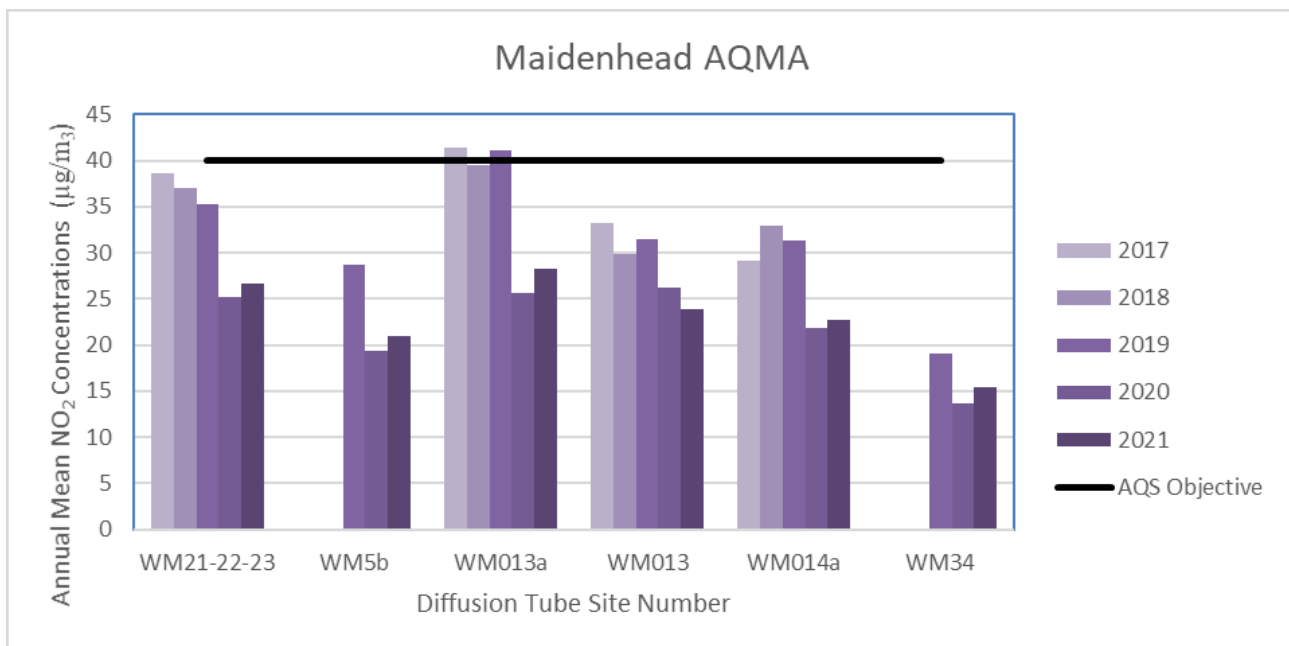


Table 4. NO₂ annual mean concentrations for diffusion tube sites in Maidenhead between years 2017 to 2021. There are no exceedances of the annual mean objective in 2020 and there is a general trend of reduction experienced across the sites.

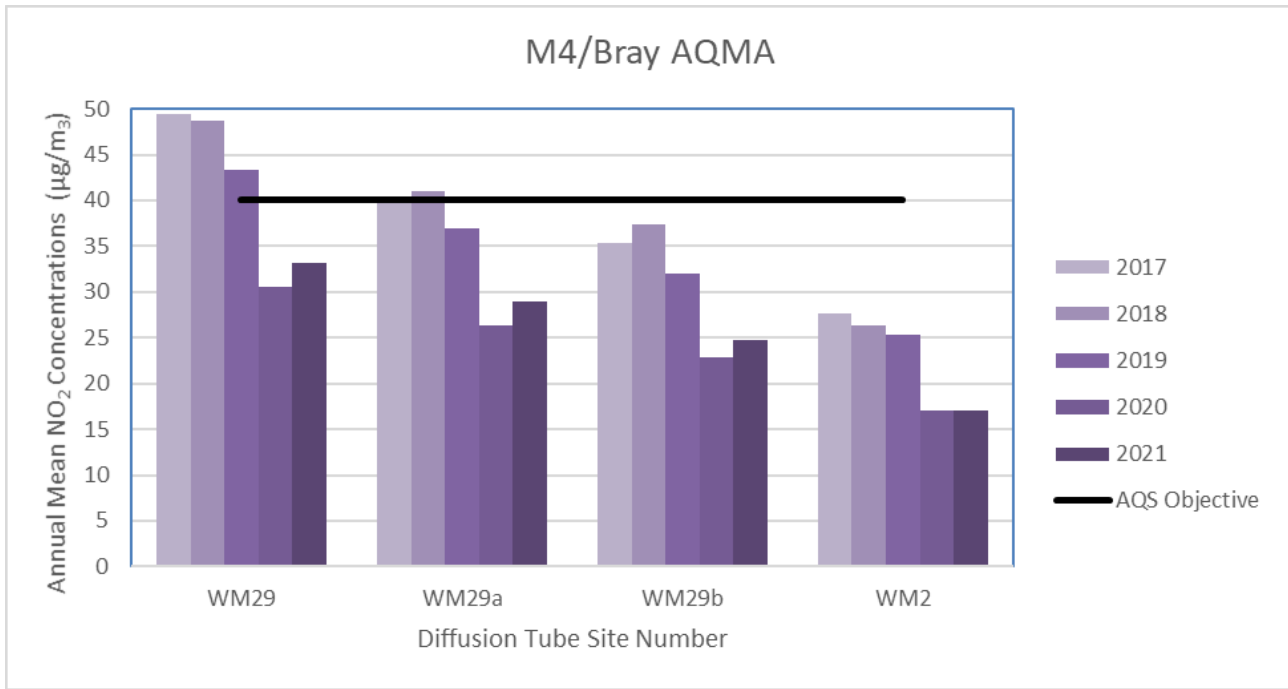


Table 5. NO₂ annual mean concentrations for diffusion tube sites in Bray AQMA between years 2017 to 2021. There are no exceedances of the annual mean objective in 2021 and there is a general trend of reduction experienced across the sites.

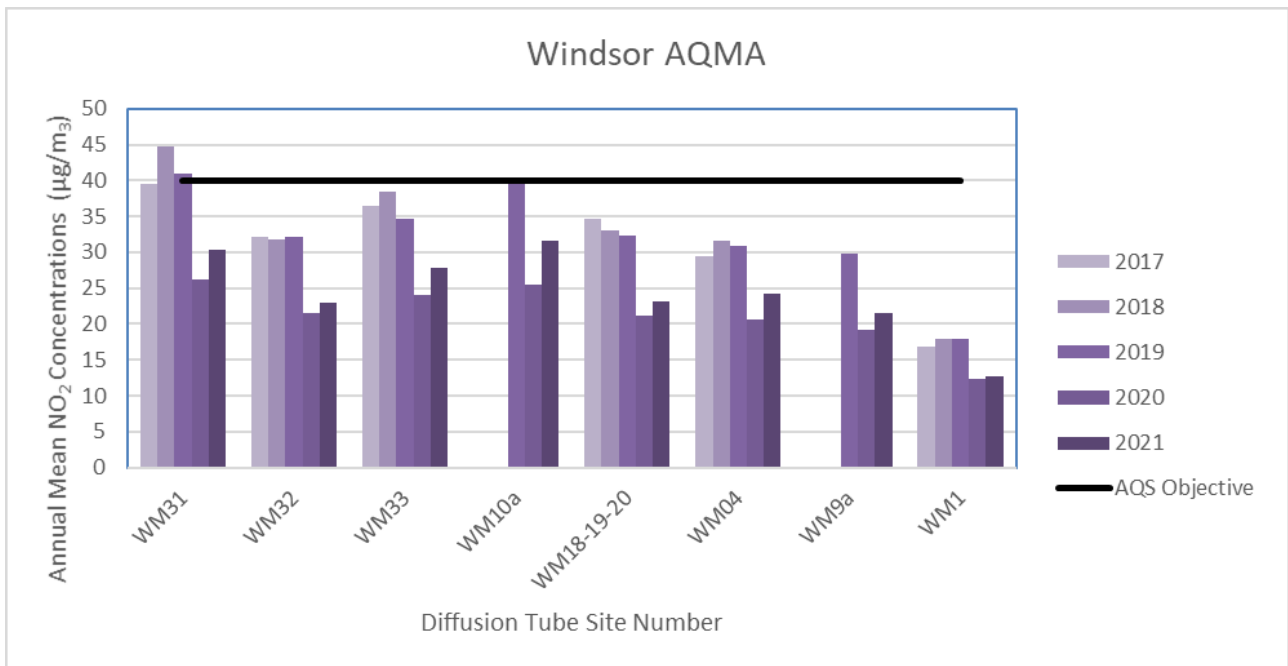


Table 6. NO₂ annual mean concentrations for diffusion tube sites in Windsor between years 2017 to 2021. There are no exceedances of the annual mean objective in 2021 and there is a general trend of reduction experienced across the sites.

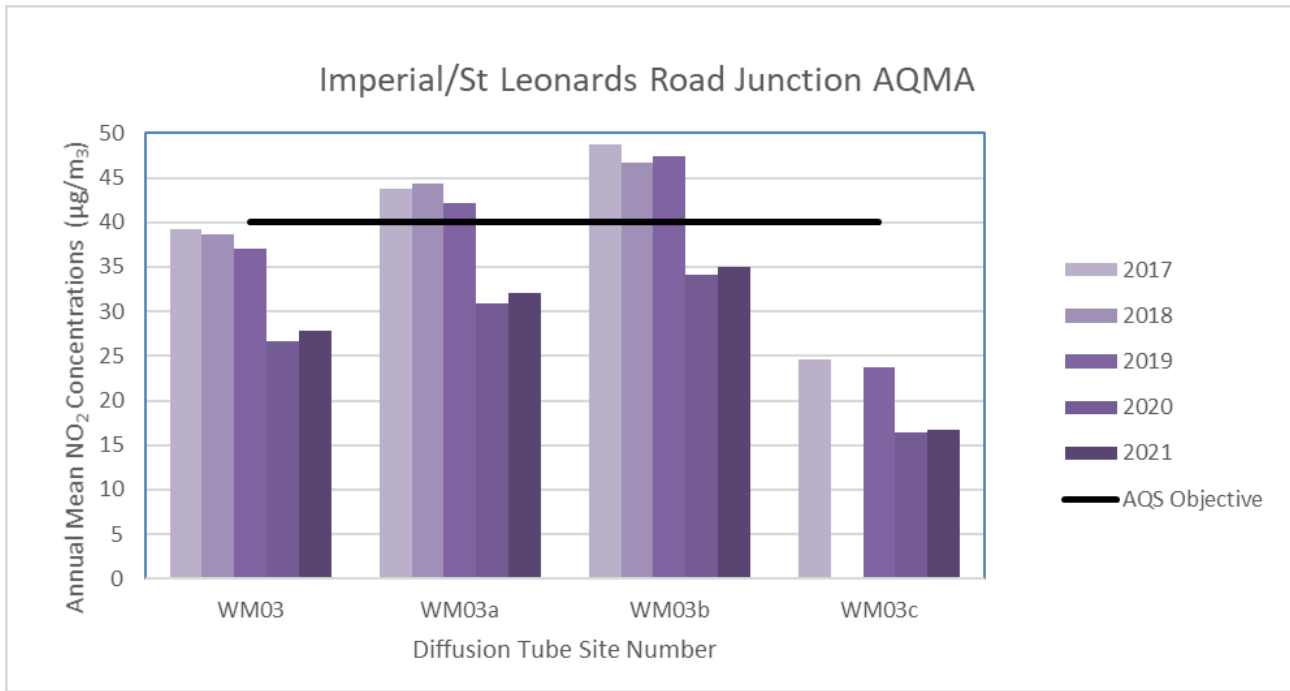


Table 7. NO₂ annual mean concentrations for diffusion tube sites at St Leonards Road in Windsor between years 2017 to 2021. There are no exceedances of the annual mean objective in 2021 and there is a general trend of reduction experienced across the sites.

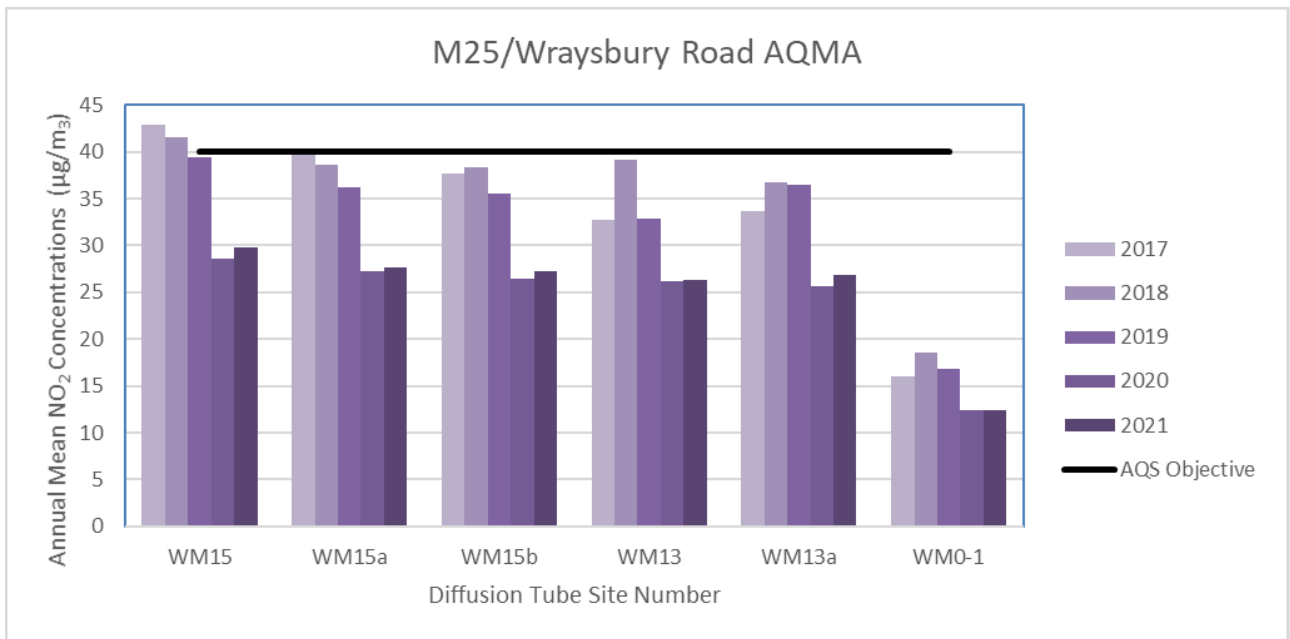


Table 8. NO₂ annual mean concentrations for diffusion tube sites at Wraysbury Road AQMA between years 2017 to 2021. There are no exceedances of the annual mean objective in 2021 and there is a general trend of reduction experienced across the sites.

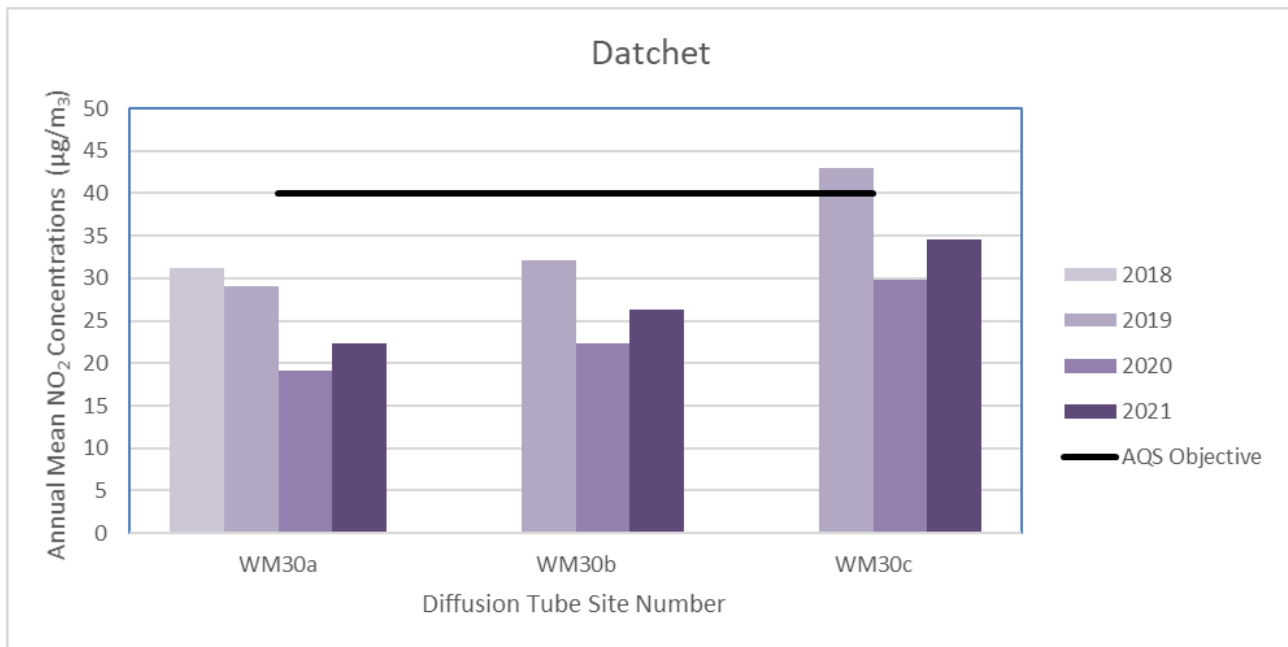


Table 9. NO₂ annual mean concentrations for diffusion tube sites in Datchet between years 2018 to 2021. There are no exceedances of the annual mean objective in 2021.

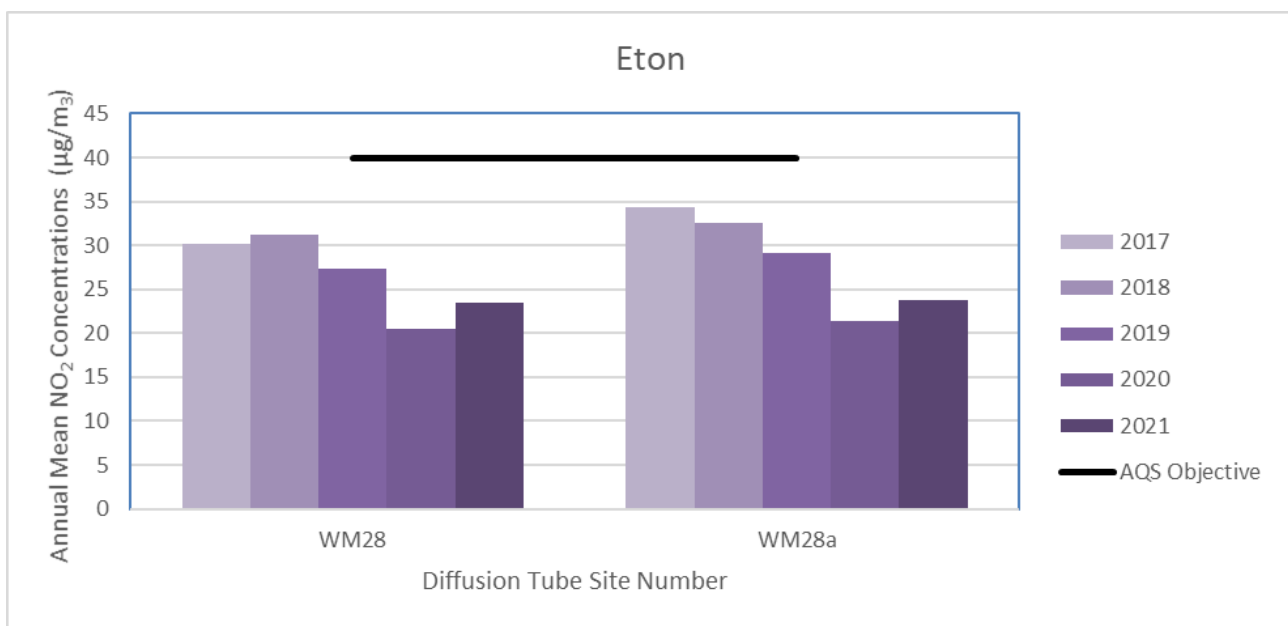


Table 10. NO₂ annual mean concentrations for diffusion tube sites in Eton between years 2017 to 2021. There are no exceedances of the annual mean objective in 2021 and there is a general trend of reduction experienced across the sites.

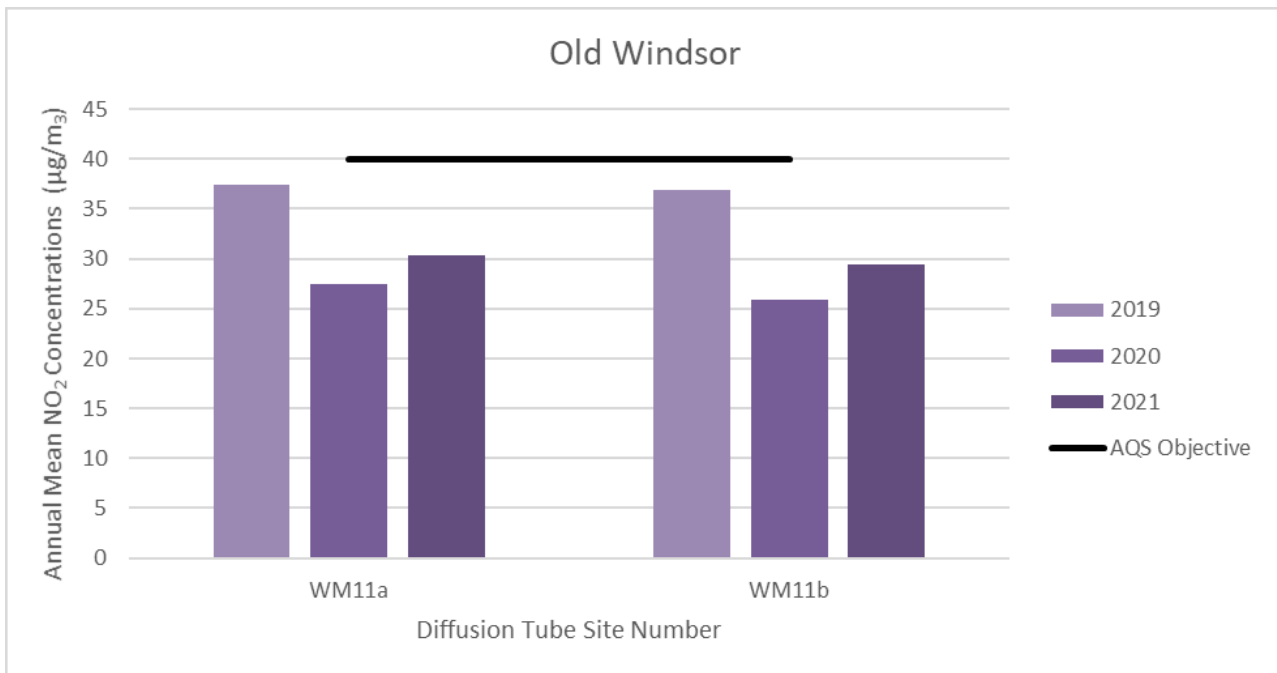


Table 11. NO₂ annual mean concentrations for diffusion tube sites in Old Windsor between years 2019 and 2021. There were no exceedances of the annual mean objective.

- 2.16. Monitoring results indicate NO₂ levels fall rapidly further away from the specific hotspots.
- 2.17. To give an appreciation on improvement, in 2009 the highest recorded NO₂ annual mean concentration in RBWM was 60 µg/m³. In 2021, this was 35 µg/m³ (a decrease of over 40%).
- 2.18. To date, the recorded concentrations within four of the five AQMAs have been below 36 µg/m³ for three consecutive years.
- 2.19. The AQMA at Imperial/St Leonards Road Junction has recorded concentrations below 36 µg/m³ for five consecutive years.
- 2.20. The monitoring PM₁₀ began in 2016. The concentration has decreased from 25 µg/m³ to 19 µg/m³ this is well below the annual mean objective level of 40 µg/m³.
- 2.21. Road transport is a significant source of NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} emissions. The decreasing levels of NO₂ is also leading to a reduction in the emissions of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}.
- 2.22. The current air quality monitoring results provided suggest the Council are currently achieving the National Air Quality Objectives.
- 2.23. The Council's 2022 air quality Annual Status Report (ASR) has been appraised and accepted by Defra and is available online:
https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-08/eh_air_quality_annual_report.pdf
- 2.24. The ASR sets out new information on air quality within the borough as part of the Review & Assessment process required under the Environment Act 1995 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021) and subsequent Regulations.
- 2.25. The Council's review of its AQMAs, and monitoring strategy is an ongoing process, informed due to the extensive monitoring network. The observed NO₂ and PM₁₀ concentrations show levels well below the annual mean air quality objectives.

World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines

- 2.26. The Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP) stated they welcome the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) revised Air Quality Guidelines (AQGs), which they regard as suitable long-term targets to inform policy development in the UK.
- 2.27. They are guidelines only and are not binding on any country unless that country chooses to adopt them into its own legislation.
- 2.28. The Council are aware of the new WHO guidelines and will consider what additional actions the Council may take moving forward in accordance with any national guidance that may be issued by central government and/or the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra).

Air Quality Action Plan

2.29. The Borough's Air Quality Action Plan has been developed as an integral part of the Local Transport Plan through shared objectives to tackle congestion and reducing car journeys by improving public transport and promoting active travel. Current priorities that will contribute to further improvements on air quality include:

- on-street electric vehicle charge points across 6 sites in residential areas with no off-street parking.
- a multi-modal corridor study along the A308 between Marlow and Staines-upon-Thames has recently been completed, identifying key traffic and transport issues. Options are now being assessed to understand fully what can be achieved and develop a package of measures to improve connectivity by walking, cycling and public transport and address congestion. This will form the basis for future funding bids to the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership and the Department for Transport (the A308 now forms part of the Major Roads Network).
- the Borough's Big Conversation exercise has led to the development of a Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). The plan, setting out how walking and cycling facilities could be improved over the next 10 years was adopted by Cabinet in June 2022. A £1.5m fund has been allocated for delivering a first suite of walking and cycling improvements as prioritised within the LCWIP.

Monitoring of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}

2.30. PM₁₀ is monitored at a site in Frascati Way, MAIDENHEAD. The site is on the A308, one of the main arterial roads in the borough. It is also close to Maidenhead Town Centre where major construction works are underway, which is monitored as an area likely to see the highest levels of PM¹⁰ in the borough.

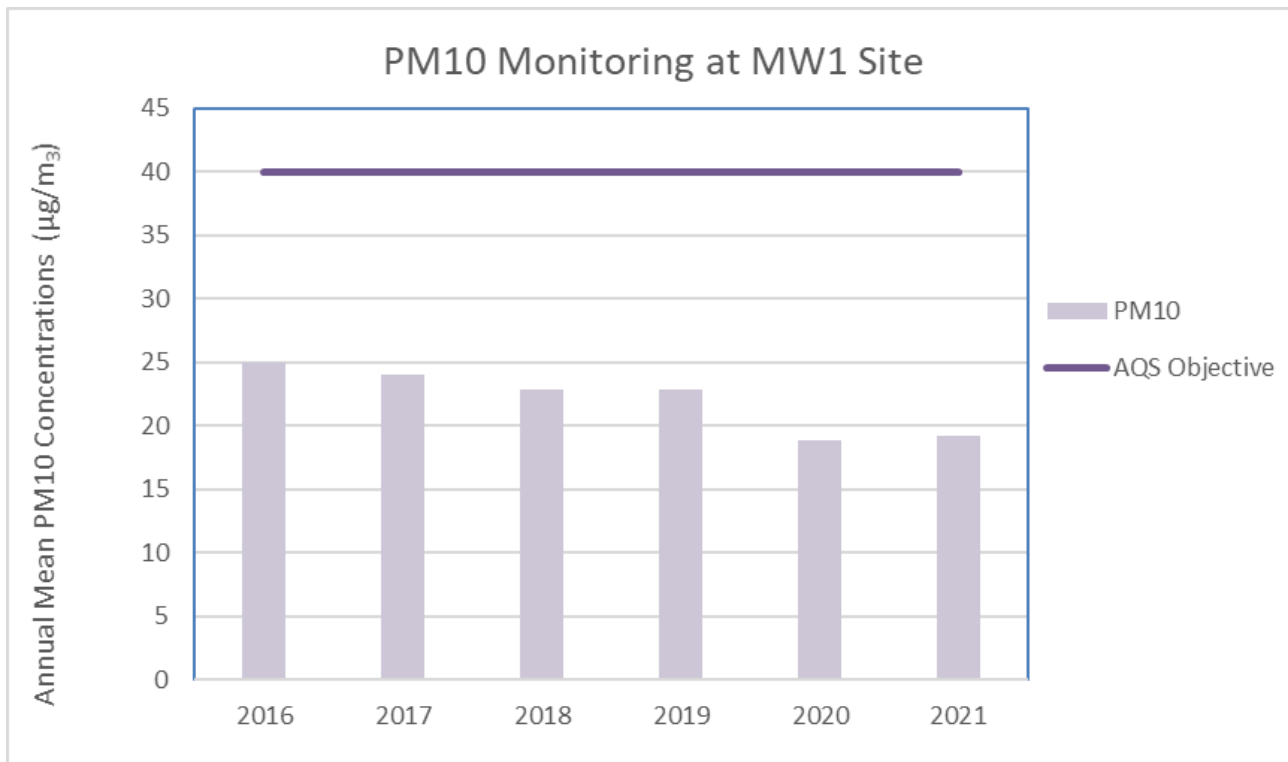


Table 12. PM₁₀ annual mean concentrations in Maidenhead between years 2016 to 2021. There are no exceedances of the annual mean objective in 2021 and there is a general trend of reduction experienced at the site

- 2.31. The PM_{2.5} annual mean is calculated from PM₁₀ concentrations in accordance with Defra Technical Guidance LAQM.
- 2.32. Within the development of the Local Borough Plan the Council has undertaken a detailed air quality assessment across the borough. The dispersion modelling study shows low level concentrations for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} within the five AQMAs. The predicted levels show full compliance with the air quality objectives and there is currently no identified risk the objective may be exceeded in the future.
- 2.33. The local decline of PM_{2.5} as detailed above is also reflected at national level. The decline in concentrations of PM_{2.5} at roadside monitoring sites approximately follows the trends seen for the decline of PM₁₀, this is because PM_{2.5} is a subset of PM₁₀.
- 2.34. Based on the low-level concentrations measured at Frascati Way there are no concerns for both PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} to consider additional monitoring in other areas within the borough at this time.
- 2.35. Currently, PM_{2.5} is not incorporated into Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) regulations. There is currently no statutory requirement to review and assess PM_{2.5} for LAQM purposes.

- 2.36. Whilst responsibility for achieving the PM_{2.5} target sits with national government; local authorities have a role to play in delivering reductions in PM_{2.5}.
- 2.37. The Council's priority is to continue to reduce emissions from local sources by taking several steps to address PM_{2.5} including traffic management, promoting workplace, school, and personalised travel planning, improving facilities for cycling and walking, promoting bus services, the implementation of a scheme for Maidenhead station interchange and the provision of electric vehicle charge points.
- 2.38. There are currently no concerns for both PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} exceeding the air quality objectives, this is based on the low-level concentrations measured at Frascati Way and predictions across the five AQMAs.

3. KEY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Any increase in extending the current monitoring regime will incur additional financial costs to the Council.
- 3.2 For the recommended option, the key implications are no additional air monitoring units or cost for 2022/23, a review of the 2022 air monitoring data and report back to Full Council to discuss if further action is required.

4. FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

- 4.1 There are financial implications arising from the options in this report if the recommended option is not accepted.
- 4.2 The recommended option of continuing with the existing monitoring regime (and reporting the results) is currently costed for within the existing budget for air quality monitoring. There is currently no existing budget to extend the air quality monitoring regime beyond what is currently in place.
- 4.3 The option to replicate the monitoring equipment in use at Frascati Way would include an estimated £25,000 to £30,000 unit cost for the air monitoring equipment and enclosure and a £5,000 annual cost for ongoing service and data verification by the Environmental Research Group (ERG). A request for additional budget would be required to proceed with this option and funding of this would need to be identified.
- 4.4 The option to use low-sensor equipment would include an estimated £3,000 cost for each senior unit (at least 5 would be required, one in each AQMA) and an annual cost of £2,500 for ongoing service and data verification by a third party. A request for additional budget would be required to proceed with this option and funding would have to be identified.
- 4.5 The option to use the Casella Guardian 2 Boundary Monitor as suggested by petitioners would include an estimated cost of £10,000 plus additional costs for

service and data validation. A request for additional budget would be required to proceed with this option and funding found.

4.6 The current financial outlook in terms of rising inflation and interest rates, combined with the increasing costs of living rises affecting residents, businesses and the Council are areas that are likely to be prioritised as part of short and longer-term financial planning.

4.7 Unlike some other councils, the Council has the lowest council tax in the country outside of London and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy already identifies funding gaps in future years. The Council are required to make £7.306m savings in 2023/24 to bridge the currently identified gap in our resources. The Council has insufficient reserves to sustain a budget deficit which can only be used on a one-off basis, and will have to generate substantial cost reductions or increased income plans during that period even prior to the potential costs identified here..

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The Council are currently meeting all legal obligations in relation to air quality monitoring.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 The identified and potential risks associated with the options and the proposed course of action are detailed in table 13.

Table 13: Impact of risk and mitigation

Risk	Level of uncontrolled risk	Controls	Level of controlled risk
Challenge to the validity of the current air quality management regime.	Medium. Reputational risk to the Council and potential court costs.	Annual Status Report overseen by Defra suggests air quality objectives are currently being met.	Low
Applying the WHO guidelines to air quality within the borough without wider consultation or direction from Defra.	Medium. The Council would be seen to be acting out of step with the national regulator and potentially acting	Await further information/guidance/direction from Defra once they have determined suitable long-term targets to inform policy developments in the UK.	Low

	'without authority'.		
Use low-cost sensor equipment (not certified and higher uncertainty on measurement data)	High. Likely that data veracity would be open to wide interpretation and/or challenge and provide a false sense of air quality in the borough	Recommendation this option is not pursued due to the concerns with lack of certification and uncertainty on measurement data.	Low
Use of the Casella Guardian 2 Boundary Monitor as suggested by petitioners.	High. Likely that data veracity would be open to wide interpretation and/or challenge as this equipment is suited to building/constructions sites. Use may provide a false sense of air quality in the borough.	Recommendation this option is not pursued <u>unless</u> there is demonstrable evidence to support data validation and additional budget is provided to cover the operation and data validation costs.	Low

7. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

7.1 Equalities. An Equality Impact Assessment is available as Appendix A.

7.2 Climate change/sustainability – the current air quality monitoring regime suggests that air quality objectives are currently being met.

7.3 Data Protection/GDPR. No Data Protection/GDPR issues arise from this report.

8. CONSULTATION

8.1. This is a report that responds to a petition. No consultation has been undertaken.

9. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

9.1 Not applicable.

10. APPENDICES

10.1 This report is supported by one appendix:

- Appendix A – Equality Impact Assessment

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

11.1 This report is supported by four background documents:

- Emissions of air pollutants in the UK – Particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5): <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/emissions-of-air-pollutants/emissions-of-air-pollutants-in-the-uk-particulate-matter-pm10-and-pm25>
- National Air Quality Objectives: https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/Air_Quality_Objectives_Update.pdf
- RBWM Air Quality Annual Status Report 2022: https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-08/eh_air_quality_annual_report.pdf
- Local Air Quality Management Guidance: [Guidance | LAQM \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://www.defra.gov.uk/guidance/laqm/)

12. CONSULTATION

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
<i>Mandatory:</i>		<i>Statutory Officers (or deputies)</i>	
Adele Taylor	Executive Director of Resources/S151 Officer	08/11/22	14/11/22
Emma Duncan	Director of Law, Strategy & Public Health/ Monitoring Officer	08/11/22	09/11/22
<i>Deputies:</i>			
Andrew Vallance	Head of Finance (Deputy S151 Officer)	-	-
Elaine Browne	Head of Law (Deputy Monitoring Officer)	8/11/22	10/11/22
Karen Shepherd	Head of Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer)	8/11/22	8/11/22
<i>Mandatory:</i>		<i>Procurement Manager (or deputy) - if report requests approval to go to tender or award a contract</i>	
Lyn Hitchinson	Procurement Manager	-	-
<i>Mandatory:</i>		<i>Data Protection Officer (or deputy) - if decision will result in processing of personal data; to advise on DPIA</i>	
Emma Young	Data Protection Officer	8/11/22	8/11/22
<i>Mandatory:</i>		<i>Equalities Officer – to advise on EQiA, or agree an EQiA is not required</i>	

Ellen McManus-Fry	Equalities & Engagement Officer	08/11/22	11/11/22
<i>Other consultees:</i>			
<i>Directors (where relevant)</i>			
Kevin McDaniel	Executive Director of People Services	08/11/22	14/11/22
<i>Heads of Service (where relevant)</i>			
Tracy Hendren	Head of Housing, Environmental Health & Trading Standards	08/11/22	11/11/22
<i>External (where relevant)</i>			
N/A			

Confirmation relevant Cabinet Member(s) consulted	Councillor Cannon, Cabinet Member for Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime, and Public Protection	Yes
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REPORT HISTORY

Decision type:	Urgency item?	To follow item?
Petition for debate	No	No

Report Author: Obi Oranu, Environmental Health Service Manager, 07811 847647
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APPENDIX A - EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Essential information

Items to be assessed: (please mark 'x')

Strategy		Policy		Plan		Project	X	Service/Procedure	
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Responsible officer	Tracy Hendren	Service area	Housing, Environmental Health & Trading Standards	Directorate	People Services
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Stage 1: EqIA Screening (mandatory)	Date created: 03/10/2022	Stage 2 : Full assessment (if applicable)	n/a
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Approved by Head of Service / Overseeing group/body / Project Sponsor:

"I am satisfied that an equality impact has been undertaken adequately."

Signed by (print): Tracy Hendren

Dated: 08/11/2022

Guidance notes

What is an EqlA and why do we need to do it?

The Equality Act 2010 places a 'General Duty' on all public bodies to have 'due regard' to:

- Eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act.
- Advancing equality of opportunity between those with 'protected characteristics' and those without them.
- Fostering good relations between those with 'protected characteristics' and those without them.

EqlAs are a systematic way of taking equal opportunities into consideration when making a decision, and should be conducted when there is a new or reviewed strategy, policy, plan, project, service or procedure in order to determine whether there will likely be a detrimental and/or disproportionate impact on particular groups, including those within the workforce and customer/public groups. All completed EqlA Screenings are required to be publicly available on the council's website once they have been signed off by the relevant Head of Service or Strategic/Policy/Operational Group or Project Sponsor.

What are the "protected characteristics" under the law?

The following are protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010: age; disability (including physical, learning and mental health conditions); gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

What's the process for conducting an EqlA?

The process for conducting an EqlA is set out at the end of this document. In brief, a Screening Assessment should be conducted for every new or reviewed strategy, policy, plan, project, service or procedure and the outcome of the Screening Assessment will indicate whether a Full Assessment should be undertaken.

Openness and transparency

RBWM has a 'Specific Duty' to publish information about people affected by our policies and practices. Your completed assessment should be sent to the Strategy & Performance Team for publication to the RBWM website once it has been signed off by the relevant manager, and/or Strategic, Policy, or Operational Group. If your proposals are being made to Cabinet or any other Committee, please append a copy of your completed Screening or Full Assessment to your report.

Enforcement

Judicial review of an authority can be taken by any person, including the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) or a group of people, with an interest, in respect of alleged failure to comply with the general equality duty. Only the EHRC can enforce the specific duties. A failure to comply with the specific duties may however be used as evidence of a failure to comply with the general duty.

Stage 1: Screening (Mandatory)

1.1 What is the overall aim of your proposed strategy/policy/project etc and what are its key objectives?

An e-petition has been received and has secured 2,151 signatures so will be debated at Full Council.

The e-petition says “we the undersigned petition the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead to increase measurements of air polluting PM10 and PM2.5 particulates as soon as possible to multiple locations within all five Air Quality Measurement Areas in the Borough”

This paper explains the current work underway in relation to air quality within RBWM with a recommendation to report back to Full Council with the 2022 air quality monitoring results.

Protected characteristics	Relevance	Level	Positive/negative	Evidence
Age	Relevant	Low	Positive.	Any future monitoring regime will consider the impacts that air quality has on children and the elderly.
Disability	Relevant	Low	Positive.	Any future air quality monitoring regime will consider the impacts that air quality has on those with disabilities, such as asthma and similar conditions.
Gender re-assignment	Not Relevant			
Marriage/civil partnership	Not Relevant			
Pregnancy and maternity	Relevant			
Race	Not Relevant			
Religion and belief	Not Relevant			
Sex	Not Relevant			
Sexual orientation	Not Relevant			

Outcome, action and public reporting

Screening Assessment Outcome	Yes / No / Not at this stage	Further Action Required / Action to be taken	Responsible Officer and / or Lead Strategic Group	Timescale for Resolution of negative impact / Delivery of positive impact
Was a significant level of negative impact identified?	No	None	n/a	n/a
Does the strategy, policy, plan etc require amendment to have a positive impact?	No	None	n/a	n/a