

Executive summary

The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk is continuing with the ongoing process of air quality review and assessment, in which sources of air pollutant emissions in the Borough are reassessed to identify whether the situation has changed since the previous year, and if so, what impact this may have on compliance with Air Quality Strategy objectives.

For those authorities implementing Air Quality Action Plans, there is a separate requirement to prepare annual Progress Reports. It is advised that authorities needing to report progress on Action Plans produce a single Progress Report covering both the review and assessment and Action Plan reporting requirements. The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk has reported the progress on its Action Plan requirements in this Progress Report.

The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk has recently undertaken the following rounds of Review and Assessment:

- Updating and Screening Assessment (August 2003)
- Progress Report (November 2004)
- Detailed Assessment (November 2005)
- Updating and Screening Assessment (November 2006)

Previous rounds of review and assessment have predicted NO₂ and PM₁₀ exceedences at some locations in the town of King's Lynn. Two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) were declared: one for NO₂ at Railway Road and one for PM₁₀ at South Quay. The South Quay AQMA was revoked in June 2006 due to the effective implementation of an Air Quality Action Plan. Conversely, the 2005 Detailed Assessment recommended that the Railway Road AQMA should be extended. The Council have since approved a variation order (February 2007) to extend the Railway Road AQMA to include all of Railway Road, Austin Street, Blackfriars Road, St James Road and London Road in King's Lynn, as recommended by the 2005 Detailed Assessment.

Modelling undertaken by Fenland District Council has predicted a potential exceedence of the NO₂ objective along Elm High Road of Wisbech, lying within the Borough of King's Lynn & West Norfolk. Both local authorities have deployed additional NO₂ diffusion tubes in the affected area to confirm this modelling.

This **Progress Report (2007)** considers all updated monitoring information, local developments and Action Plan updates made available since the 2006 Updating and Screening Assessment.

The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk continues to undertake ambient monitoring of NO₂, PM₁₀ and SO₂. Benzene monitoring has commenced at the PACE Petroleum storage depot, although the data are not yet reliable. Concentrations of SO₂ and PM₁₀ remain within the appropriate objectives, although the upward trend of particulate concentrations measured by the Railway Road TEOM should continue to be monitored.

The new diffusion tubes located along Elm High Road, Wisbech, continue to show satisfactory NO₂ concentrations and the Council is confident that a Detailed Assessment for NO₂ is not required. Concentrations will continue to be monitored. Exceedences of the NO₂ annual mean objective are seen at the majority of monitoring sites within the Railway Road AQMA, justifying its extension in February 2007. Outside the AQMA, the 'Wootton Road 2' diffusion tube showed an exceedence of the 2005 annual mean objective the 2005 annual mean objective for NO₂ in 2006. A concentration of 42 µgm⁻³ was measured at a location with relevant public exposure, and a Detailed Assessment is therefore recommended, focussing on the Gaywood area of King's Lynn.

No new industrial, residential, commercial or transportation developments have been identified that could have a significant impact on air quality in the Borough.

It is recommended that the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk should progress to a **Detailed Assessment for nitrogen dioxide**, focussing on the Gaywood area of King's Lynn, around diffusion tube Wootton Road 2. All current monitoring should continue to support any decision made.