

Local Authority:	<b>Uttlesford District Council</b>
Reference:	<b>ASR20-0629</b>
Date of issue	<b>September 2020</b>

## Annual Status Report Appraisal Report

The Report sets out the Annual Status Report, which forms part of the Review & Assessment process required under the Environment Act 1995 and subsequent Regulations.

There is one Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) declared across Uttlesford District Council within Saffron Walden Town Centre.

The Council undertook automatic monitoring at three sites during 2019: Hill St in Saffron Walden (UTT1), Junction Thaxted Rd & Radwinter Rd in Saffron Walden (UTT2) and London Road in Saffron Walden (UTT3). The London Road monitor was commissioned in 2019 for PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitoring with tubes co-located with the automatic monitor. The council have detailed why the monitor cannot be annualised. The automatic monitor (UTT3) has data capture issues (74.33%) due to small intraday issue. This is deemed to be acceptable in the circumstances with the data capture very close to the 75% threshold and the concentrations monitored are well below the Air Quality Objectives. The other automatic monitoring analysers had good data capture in 2019 (>75%). NO<sub>2</sub> was measured by a network of 2 automatic monitoring sites (UTT2 and UTT3) with the annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations meeting the national objectives. The UTT3 monitor met the PM<sub>10</sub> 24-hour mean objective and the annual mean objective in 2019.

The Council undertook passive diffusion tube monitoring of NO<sub>2</sub> at 31 monitoring locations, with one of these containing triplicates co-located with an automatic monitor. During 2019, prior to distance correction for relevant exposure, there were no exceedances at passive monitoring sites. UT046 recorded the highest NO<sub>2</sub> concentration in 2019 (37.25 µg/m<sup>3</sup>). It should be noted that the concentrations have fluctuated around the same levels with some sites such as UTT04 and UTT05 show increases of more than 4 µg/m<sup>3</sup> over 2019. These concentrations are therefore required to be monitored further before any amendments/revocations to the AQMA can be made.

The Council has robust QA/QC procedures, which were applied appropriately and accurately to the 2019 monitoring data; both national and local bias adjustment factors have been determined (the national factor was selected), annualisation was not carried for any diffusion tubes or the automatic monitor, and distance-correction was conducted for sites exceeding the

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objectives and not representative of relevant exposure. All calculations were clearly outlined and justified.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached are acceptable for all sources and pollutants. Following the completion of this report, Uttlesford District Council should submit an Annual Status Report in 2021.

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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. Robust and accurate QA/QC procedures were applied. Calculations for bias adjustment, annualisation and distance-correction factors were outlined in detail.
2. The Council has included discussion and review of its AQMAs and monitoring strategy, informed due to the extensive monitoring network and also the additional automatic monitor in place to provide data. This demonstrates the Councils proactive and dedicated approach to improving air quality across the area.
3. Comments from last year's ASR have been addressed. This is welcomed, and we encourage for the comments to be included in the report in future ASRs.
4. The Public Health Outcomes Frameworks was mentioned. The Council have referred specifically to indicator D01, which is the fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution, and this is encouraged.
5. Council have provided a clear map of the diffusion tube monitoring network; trends are displayed and discussed in the report, this is welcomed.
6. No amendments/revocation of the AQMA can be considered at this stage with some notable increases in concentrations being observed. We recommend the council to continue observing those increases with a view to carry out further monitoring if the concentration do continue to increase over the next reporting year.
7. Overall the report is detailed, concise and satisfies the criteria of relevant standards. The Council should continue their good and thorough work.

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.**

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

Telephone: 0800 0327 953

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## Appraisal Response Comment Form

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

**Comments on appraisal/Further information:**