



Hambleton District Council Air Quality Action Plan

Bedale Air Quality Management Area

In fulfilment of Part IV of the
Environment Act 1995
Local Air Quality Management

October 2018

Local Authority Officer	John Warren
Department	Environmental Health
Address	Civic Centre, Stone Cross, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 2UU
Telephone	01609 767093
E-mail	john.warren@hambleton.gov.uk
Report Reference number	HDC/AQAP/Bedale/2018
Date	22 October 2018

Executive Summary

This Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) has been produced as part of our statutory duties required by the Local Air Quality Management framework. It outlines the action taken to improve air quality in Hambleton following declaration of Hambleton District Council Air Quality Management Area (Bedale) in November 2017.

In July 2014, full approval was granted for a new A684 Bedale bypass in order to relieve traffic congestion and pollution levels in Bedale, Aiskew and Leeming Bar. The bypass officially opened in August 2016.

The diffusion tube monitoring for 2017, the first full calendar year since the bypass opened, generated an annual average for nitrogen dioxide of $37.7\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (bias adjusted and corrected for distance), which is an 8.3% reduction from 2016 and 24.9% since 2015.

The council is confident that the bypass has produced the desired reduction in pollution concentrations and will continue to do so into the future. Air quality monitoring will continue to provide data which will confirm improvements in air quality. Therefore, at present, the council does not propose to consider other actions in order to achieve an improvement in air quality.

Responsibilities and Commitment

This AQAP was prepared by the Environmental Health service of Hambleton District Council with the support and agreement of the following officers and departments:

John Warren, Senior Scientific Officer, Environmental Health

This AQAP has been approved by:

- Hambleton District Council Cabinet;
- Hambleton District Council Senior Management Team

This AQAP will be subject to an annual review, appraisal of progress and reporting to Cabinet and the Senior Management Team. Progress each year will be reported in the Annual Status Reports (ASRs) produced by Hambleton District Council, as part of our statutory Local Air Quality Management duties.

If you have any comments on this AQAP please send them to:

John Warren, Senior Scientific Officer

Hambleton District Council

Civic Centre

Stone Cross

Northallerton

DL6 2UU

Telephone 01609 767093

Email john.warren@hambleton.gov.uk

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1 Introduction

This report outlines the actions that Hambleton District Council will deliver from 2017 in order to reduce concentrations of air pollutants and exposure to air pollution in and around the area subject to the AQMA; thereby positively impacting on the health and quality of life of residents and visitors to the Hambleton area.

It has been developed in recognition of the legal requirement on the local authority to work towards Air Quality Strategy (AQS) objectives under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 and relevant regulations made under that part and to meet the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) statutory process.

This Plan will be reviewed at least every five years and progress on measures set out within this Plan will be reported on annually within Hambleton District Council's air quality ASR.

2 Summary of Current Air Quality in Hambleton

The major source of air pollution within Hambleton is from road transport, both NO₂ and PM₁₀. The A1(M) and A19 run north/south through the district and there are several other 'A' class roads in rural areas and in the district's towns and villages.

The council monitors air quality at 33 sites throughout the district. These are situated mainly within the market towns of Northallerton, Bedale and Thirsk and near sensitive receptors such as residential properties. Most are roadside locations with a few urban background sites which are used to measure long term pollution trends as they are unaffected by variations in traffic flow.

Concentrations of NO₂ are lower at the majority of sites in 2016 than in 2015, and although annual fluctuations can occur due to weather conditions and localised traffic issues such as roadworks or diversions, the long term trend is showing reducing pollution concentrations. Despite this overall reduction, there are some sites that show elevated results that are close to the air quality objectives.

The council declared its first Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) at the junction of Market Place and Bridge Street in Bedale on 1st November 2017 due to elevated NO₂ concentrations. The council is confident that the recently opened A684 Bedale bypass, designed to re-direct traffic from Bedale and Leeming Bar centres to ease congestion and reduce air pollution, will result in lower pollution concentrations in the AQMA and the wider area.

The monitoring results for 2017 at the Bedale AQMA monitoring site show that the nitrogen dioxide annual average is **37.7µg/m³** (bias adjusted and distance corrected). This is below the nitrogen dioxide air quality objective of 40µg/m³. The 2017 annual average represents an 8.3% reduction from 2016 (41.1µg/m³) and a 24.9% reduction since 2015 (50.2µg/m³). This demonstrates that the council's reliance on the bypass scheme producing the desired effects is justified.

The 2017 monitoring results for Thirsk and Northallerton have shown a slight increase in nitrogen dioxide concentrations but not to the extent that an AQMA has had to be declared. Monitoring is continuing at these sites so any further changes in pollution concentrations can be observed.

All of the other monitoring locations in the district show that the concentrations of NO₂ are below the air quality objectives.

Full details of all monitoring results from 2017 were presented in the 2018 Annual Status Report which has been accepted by Defra.

3 Hambleton's Air Quality Priorities

3.1 Planning and Policy Context

Hambleton District Council's Local Development Framework contains a Core Strategy document for 2007 to 2026, and subject to periodic review at least every five years, detailing the strategic objectives relevant to air quality. These include ensuring that all development is sustainable, reducing the need for travel and encouraging the use of sustainable forms of transport such as public transport, walking and cycling, reducing the adverse impact of society on the environment (e.g. reducing pollution) and responding to the implications of climate change. The strategy documents can be found on the council's website

http://www.hambleton.gov.uk/info/20039/planning/283/adopted_local_development_framework.

3.2 Source Apportionment

Source apportionment is not required as the air quality improvements have been achieved and the nitrogen dioxide annual average air quality objective is no longer being exceeded.

3.3 Required Reduction in Emissions

The required reduction in emissions calculations are not required as the air quality improvements have been achieved and the nitrogen dioxide annual average air quality objective is no longer being exceeded.

3.4 Key Priorities

The council's main priorities in addressing air quality involve:

- Continuing monitoring at the Bedale AQMA to assess whether the predicted reduction in concentrations will be achieved;
- Continuing monitoring at other locations across the district to highlight any potential exceedances of air quality objectives;

- Commencement of new monitoring sites in Northallerton to assess the impact of future development, particularly the North Northallerton Development scheme;
- Identifying potential new locations where air pollution or traffic congestion is perceived to be a problem;
- Reporting information to Defra, NYCC and other stakeholders such as Public Health and neighbouring local authorities;
- Increase sharing of information between NYCC and Public Health;
- Ensuring new development does not have a negative impact on air quality.

Challenges faced in addressing these priorities are primarily financial due to reduced local authority funding, increasing costs of monitoring and diminishing resources. Hambleton District Council and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) operate a two-tier system for local government which can present various challenges. Hambleton is responsible for air quality, monitoring reporting, declaring AQMAs and development management whereas NYCC is responsible for roads and traffic management. Effective channels of communication are therefore required so that the two organisations can keep each other informed about progress with their respective areas of work. Other challenges include identifying pollution and traffic congestion hotspots and working with developers to ensure air quality is properly considered as part of new development schemes.

4 Development and Implementation of Hambleton District Council AQAP

4.1 Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

In developing this AQAP, we have consulted with the following organisations and individuals:

- North Yorkshire County Council transport and highways team
- the Environment Agency
- Public Health England
- Bedale Town Council
- Aiskew and Leeming Bar Parish Council
- all neighbouring local authorities
- Hambleton residents (via the council's website and press release)

The council received three responses to the consultation from the following organisations/individuals:

- North Yorkshire County Council (local highways authority)
- Richmondshire District Council (neighbouring local authority)
- Resident of Aiskew (member of the public)

The responses were generally supportive of the measures proposed to reduce pollution within the AQMA and therefore the council does not need to alter the AQAP.

The response to our consultation stakeholder engagement is given in Appendix A.

5 AQAP Measures

Table 5.1 shows the Hambleton District Council AQAP measures. It contains:

- a list of the actions that form part of the plan
- the responsible individual and departments/organisations who will deliver this action
- expected benefit in terms of pollutant emission and/or concentration reduction
- the timescale for implementation
- how progress will be monitored

NB: Please see future ASRs for regular annual updates on implementation of these measures

Table 5.1 – Air Quality Action Plan Measures

Measure No.	Measure	EU Category	EU Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Target Pollution Reduction in the AQMA	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
1	Bedale, Aiskew Leeming Bar Bypass Scheme	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Other	North Yorkshire County Council	N/A	2015-2016	N/A	<40µg/m3	100%	December 2017	The bypass scheme was completed in August 2016 and the council has continued to monitor pollution concentrations within the AQMA. The 2017 results show that the nitrogen dioxide air quality objective is no longer being exceeded.

Appendix A: Response to Consultation

Table A.1 – Summary of Responses to Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement on the AQAP

Consultee	Category	Response
North Yorkshire County Council Highways	Local Highways Authority	Traffic count 1 year after the bypass opened shows that traffic levels on the approach to Bridge Street have reduced by 45%. Monitoring carried out by Hambleton District Council and proposal to review the plan within 5 years seems justified.
Richmondshire District Council	Local Authority	Agrees with the proposed measures for improving air quality
Resident of Aiskew	Member of the public	Claims the level of oxides of nitrogen is still high and potentially damaging to health. Concerned about heavy good vehicles still using Bridge Street causing pollution and damage to buildings. Suggests placing a weight limit on Bedale Beck bridge so that heavy vehicles must use the bypass.

Glossary of Terms

Abbreviation	Description
AQAP	Air Quality Action Plan - A detailed description of measures, outcomes, achievement dates and implementation methods, showing how the local authority intends to achieve air quality limit values'
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area – An area where air pollutant concentrations exceed / are likely to exceed the relevant air quality objectives. AQMAs are declared for specific pollutants and objectives
AQMS	Air Quality Monitoring Station
AQS	Air Quality Strategy
ASR	Air quality Annual Status Report
BALB	Bedale, Aiskew, Leeming Bar Bypass Scheme
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EU	European Union
LAQM	Local Air Quality Management
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO _x	Nitrogen Oxides
NYCC	North Yorkshire County Council
PM ₁₀	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10µm (micrometres or microns) or less
PM _{2.5}	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5µm or less

References

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, Local Air Quality Management: Technical Guidance LAQM.TG(16), DEFRA, London, 2016.

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, Local Air Quality Management: Policy Guidance (PG16), DEFRA, London, 2016.

Hambleton District Council, Air Quality Review and Assessment, Annual Status Report, December 2017.

Hambleton District Council, Local Development Framework Development Plan Document – Core Strategy, April 2007.

North Yorkshire County Council, Local Transport Plan (LTP) 4, February 2016.
Public Health England, Public Health Outcome Framework (PHOF) data tool, 2016.