

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 26 September 2019

Subject:	Update on the Borough's Air Quality
Lead Officer:	Head of Environmental Services
Portfolio Holder:	Portfolio Holder for The Environment
Link to Council Priorities:	Character and Environment
Exempt information:	None
Delegated status:	For information

Executive summary:

This report provides an update on the Borough's air quality as reported in the 2019 Annual Status Report along with the priorities for improving local air quality.

Recommendation: that

- (a) **The Committee note the requirements on Local Authorities under the Local Air Quality Management Framework and note the current air quality data as reported in the 2019 Annual Status Report along with the priorities for improving local air quality.**

Report:

1. Background and context

- 1.1 Under the Environment Act 1985 and the associated Local Air Quality Management Framework, local authorities have a statutory duty to review and assess air quality against National Air Quality Standards. When a pollutant fails to comply with an objective and there is a relevant public exposure, an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) must be declared and an Air quality Action Plan (AQAP) prepared, detailing measures which will be implemented to improve air quality within the AQMA.
- 1.2 Elmbridge has 7 AQMA's, high streets in Esher, Weybridge, Cobham, Hinchley Wood and Walton on Thames; Hampton Court and the Walton Road Molesey due to exceedances of Nitrogen Dioxide a primary pollutant of motor vehicles.
- 1.3 Monitoring of NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide) within the AQMA's is via Nox tubes and two air quality stations, Hampton Court and Weybridge High Street. The monitoring results are reported each year in the Annual Status Report (ASR) to Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). DEFRA recommendations from the review of the 2018 ASR were incorporated into the 2019 ASR, for example the use of a local bias adjustment factor. When approved they are published on the Councils website.

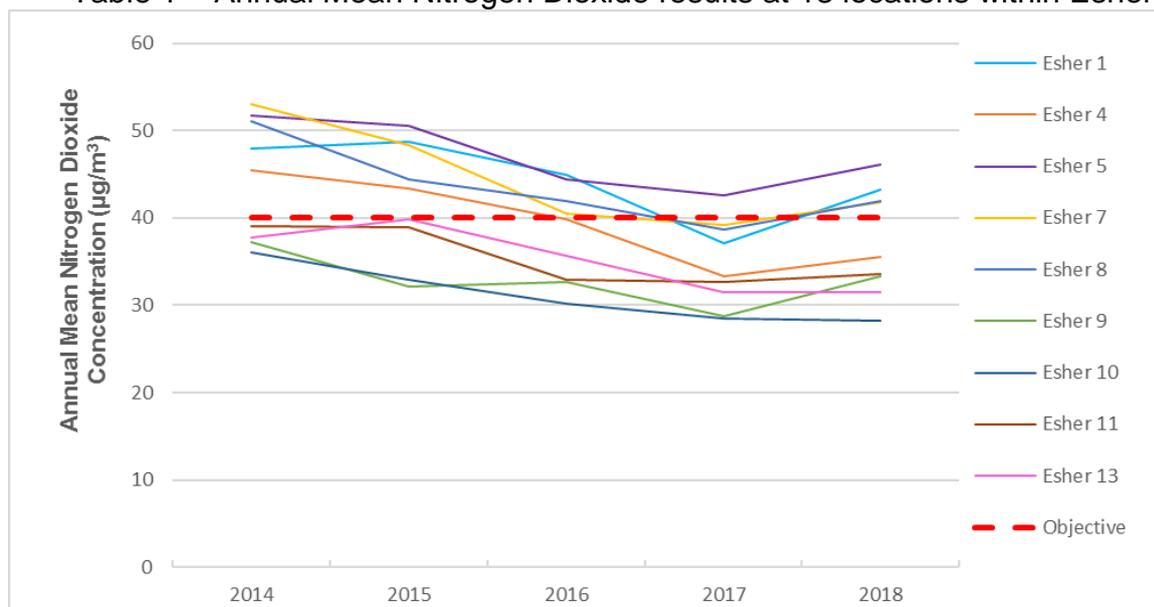
2. 2019 Annual Status Report

2.1 The 2019 ASR submitted to DEFRA in July is based on the monitoring results from 2018. Air quality (NO₂) has shown a continued improvement within the AQMA's. Exceedances of the annual mean NO₂ level of 40µg/m³ remain at four locations, three within the Esher AQMA as show in table 1 below. The fourth

location is Esher 5 – Copsem Lane Roundabout. The uplift from 2017 to 2018 is due to the application of a local bias adjustment.

Both air quality stations provide real time NO₂ levels accessible via the Councils website.

Table 1 – Annual Mean Nitrogen Dioxide results at 13 locations within Esher



2.2 The 2019 ASR details areas prioritised for action in 2019/20 as

- Working in partnership with the Surrey air Alliance (SAA) to conclude the modelling project and provide a better understanding of air quality in Surrey;
- Reviewing existing AQMA's and investigate any potential areas for further investigation identified by the modelling project. The modelling project would give an indication of the air quality outside the Borough's schools.
- Seeking provision of infrastructure through the planning process for the promotion and support of low emission vehicle usage;
- Utilising development management control within the Borough's AQMAs to avoid introducing more people to poor air quality or additional sources of pollution;
- Working collaboratively with other Surrey authorities, SCC Public Health team, Surrey's Clinical Commissioning Groups, SCC Local Highway and Transport Authority, in addition to actively participating in the SAA.
- Promoting air quality, raising awareness and seeking to change behaviours

- Increasing electric vehicle charging points in Council car parks and exploring further incentives for electric vehicle users.
- Update the Council's Air Quality Action Plan.

3. Collaborative working

3.1 In May 2016, the SAA was established made up from officers from all eleven District and Borough Councils, Surrey County Council (SCC) Highways and Public health Services to work collaboratively to improve air quality within Surrey.



- 3.2 SCC as the Highway Authority have responsibility for the road network a principle source of pollutions (N02 and particulates PM10 and PM2.5). Air quality can have a significant impact on health particularly for the young and elderly and other vulnerable groups. SCC Public Health Services are able to provide health expertise and support to the SAA.
- 3.3 A key SAA workplan task on which the Council has taken the lead is the Surrey-wide air quality modelling project. The air quality modelling project will be used to establish a clear baseline for key pollutants (NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) across Surrey. The modelling, undertaken by Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants (CERC), has recently been completed and is being reviewed, the final reports will follow later in 2019. The information will assist in the review of current AQMA's and identify any potential areas that require investigating.
- 3.4 The second SAA workplan project Elmbridge was involved in is directed at raising awareness of air quality within schools close to AQMAs. In Spring 2018 the SAA was awarded £145,188 from the DEFRA AQ Grant Fund to undertake an engagement and behaviour change programme with up to 40 schools across Surrey that were within 2km of an AQMA. The aim being to give school children an increased awareness of the health impacts of poor air quality and, where the AQMA is close to the school, to understand what they could do to improve local air quality and reduce exposure, seeking to change behaviours. This project was highlighted as an example of good practice in the Government's Clean Air Strategy 2019

4 Particulate Monitoring

- 4.1 There is currently no requirement on Local Authorities to monitor particulates (PM10 and 2.5). The principle local sources of particulates are diesel motor vehicles and wood burning stoves. Aircraft are the principle source of ultrafine particles whose size are nanoscale (less than 0.1um in diameter).

Particulate pollution can have significant health impacts and many local authorities monitor particulates. Environmental Services are to evaluate whether the addition of a particulate monitor within our area would be of benefit.

Financial implications:

There are no financial implications at this time.

Environmental/Sustainability Implications:

There are no environmental implications at this time.

Legal implications:

There are no legal implications at this time.

Equality Implications:

There are no equality implications at this time.

Risk Implications:

There are no risk management implications at this time.

Community Safety Implications:

There are no community safety implications at this time.

Background papers:

None

Enclosures/Appendices:

None

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