

Local Authority:	Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council
Reference:	ASR25-2775
Date of Issue:	July 2025

Annual Status Report Appraisal Report

The Annual Status Report sets out new information on air quality obtained by Newcastle-Under-Lyme Borough Council (NULBC) as part of the Review & Assessment process required under the Environment Act 1995 (as amended by the Environment Act 2021) and subsequent Regulations.

NULBC have three air quality management area (AQMAs) within their jurisdiction. These are AQMA 1 (Liverpool Road, Kidsgrove), AQMA 2 (Newcastle-under-Lyme Town Centre), and AQMA 3 (Maybank-Wolstanton-Porthill. AQMA 4 had shown compliance with the UK objective for annual mean NO₂ for 8 years, and as such was revoked in 2025. The process of revoking AQMA 3, which has achieved compliance for 6 years, and AQMA 1, which has achieved compliance for 5 years, has begun and NULBC are to go before the Borough Council’s Licensing & Public Protection Committee on the 19th of August 2025 and the AQMAs will be formally revoked shortly afterwards if approval is given..

The revocation of an AQMA should be considered following three consecutive years of compliance with the relevant objective as evidenced through monitoring. Where there have been no exceedances for the past five years, local authorities must proceed with plans to revoke the AQMA. The LAQM Technical Guidance 2022 is clear in this respect:

AQMA 2 is exceeding the NO₂ annual mean concentration objective and therefore needs to remain in place. Information regarding an update to the AQAP has been included, stating that a revised AQAP will likely be published in late 2025. The statutory LAQM guidance is clear that AQAPs must be kept up to date. NULBC should finalise their AQAP and submit it to Defra as a priority.

NULBC monitors nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) using non-automatic (passive) monitoring across a network of 77 diffusion tube sites and 1 automatic monitoring site (site CM1) during 2024. Site DT100 did not record any data in 2024 as the site was not accessible due to construction. NULBC did not undertake any PM monitoring in their jurisdiction during 2024. Almost all diffusion tube sites and automatic sites in NULBC measured concentrations below the UK air quality objective of 40 µg/m³ for NO₂ annual mean during 2024, except for DT102, which measured concentrations of 40.3 µg/m³ after distance correction calculations. This site is located in AQMA 2. The maximum concentrations measured at the automatic site for annual mean NO₂ was 21.2 µg/m³, below the

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air quality objective. Trends suggest that concentrations have decreased between 2023 and 2024 at the majority of sites. Due to staffing issues, no tubes were deployed between February and May.

NULBC have highlighted three key measures in yellow in Table 2.2. These measures will be fed into UK-AIR to raise awareness amongst local communities of local authority action to improve air quality. These key measures are:

1. Redevelop Kidsgrove Railway Station and surrounding area to create transport interchange and improve walking, cycling and public transport access
2. Comply with Ministerial Direction to reduce NO₂ in Basford Bank Area served on NULBC in the soonest possible timeframe
3. Support and participate in appropriate initiatives to encourage uptake of Zero and Low Emission Vehicle Technologies

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached in the report are **accepted** for all sources and pollutants. Following the completion of this report, NULBC Council should submit their final AQAP to Defra. An Annual Status Report is also due by 30 June 2026.

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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. Some minor formatting errors including consistently not subscripting for terms like 'NO₂' and 'µg/m³'. This is a minor issue but should be rectified next year.
2. The discussion around the revocation of AQMA 1 and 3 is commended and the justification provided is sufficient to conclude that both AQMAs should be revoked.
3. The response to last years comment on calculating a local bias factor is welcomed. However, as the national bias factor was used a screenshot of the national bias adjustment factor spreadsheet would also be welcomed.
4. No tubes were deployed between February and May due to staffing shortages. Whilst this is not ideal, the correct QA/QC procedures were conducted with the annualisation of the data.
5. Clear trend graphs have been included which is commended.
6. NULBC's involvement in the AIR PT scheme showcases their continued commitment to QA/QC. One comment would be to include an appendix showing figures with the AIR PT data.

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 Annual Status 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 Government, Scottish Government or DOE.

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

Telephone: 0800 0327 953

Email: LAQMHelpdesk@bureauveritas.com

The [Air Quality Hub](#) is now run by Defra, it is a free online information and knowledge sharing resource for local authority air quality professionals. Please consider onboarding on the Air Quality Hub to access a multitude of air quality resources and be kept up to date with local authority air quality activity and air quality news.

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Appraisal Response Comment Form

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

Comments on appraisal/Further information: