Local Authority:	**North Dorset District Council**
Reference:	**ASR17-139**
Date of issue	**September 2017**

Annual Status 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.

North Dorset District Council has no AQMA, and consequently no associated air quality action plan (AQAP). The report highlights there has been no routine monitoring carried out since 2009, a decision made due to pollutant concentrations being consistently and significantly below objective levels.

The ASR highlights that there are no sources of concern within the district. The most recent detailed assessment for PM_{10} at the HGV wash facility in Gillingham concluded that it was unlikely objectives would be exceeded. There was no recommendation for further monitoring; however, it has been recommended that activities at the facility be kept under review.

The report outlines a number of on-going measures the council undertakes to protect and improve local air quality, including the Carbon Management Programme, Local Transport Plan, and recently updated Local Plan. Interactive cycle maps, cycle training, and a car share scheme are also provided. The council has committed to addressing climate change, and have been working in collaboration with Public Health Dorset and Southampton University to formulate a $PM_{2.5}$ monitoring and modelling project.

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority the conclusions reached are acceptable for all sources and pollutants, under the provisos listed below.

The next step for North Dorset District Council is to submit an Annual Status Report in 2018.

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Commentary

The report is well structured, detailed, and provides the information specified in the Guidance.

1. It is noted that the District Council does not appear to have conducted any routine air quality monitoring, and previous assessments have all been made on the basis of modelling.

2. We suggest it is possible that the status of air quality in North Dorset may have changed over the last 10 years, traffic levels are likely to have increased, and we recommend that air quality should be monitored at locations where raised pollution levels can be expected.

3. We recommend that the council undertake a short monitoring campaign for a minimum of a year at locations that are likely to experience the highest nitrogen dioxide concentrations at locations of relevant public exposure within the district. This should provide reassurance that pollution levels are reviewed based upon current evidence.

4. Monitoring should be considered for road junctions or areas of traffic congestion in Gillingham, Shaftesbury and Blandford Forum.

5. This will provide the Council with updated information to aid them in future air quality decisions, and ensure compliance with section 82 of the Environmental Act 1995, which provides that every local authority shall review the air quality within its area, both at the present time and the likely future air quality.

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 Assembly Government, Scottish Government or DOE, as appropriate.

For any other queries please contact the Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk:
Telephone: 0800 0327 953
Email: LAQMHelpdesk@uk.bureauveritas.com

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Appraisal Response Comment Form

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
Contact email address:	

Comments on appraisal/Further information: