



JTB: 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017

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## **Purpose of the report**

This information report seeks to provide a brief overview of the current situation with respects to air quality within the Ashford Borough.

## **Background**

As part of our statutory obligations, under the Environment Act, Ashford Borough Council submit an annual status report (ASR) with regard to air quality to DEFRA. The latest report for the 2016 calendar year, submitted on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017, awaits review and assessment.

## **Pollutant monitoring**

With regard to monitoring, Ashford Borough Council monitor nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in accordance with statutory duties utilising passive diffusions tubes. Particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>) monitoring is not conducted, as we have no air quality management areas (AQMA) within the borough.

Pollutants such as PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> are monitored by DEFRA through the national Automatic Urban and Rural Network (AURN), and other sites by agencies such as Highways England and electricity generating companies. Those authorities with AQMA and permanent monitoring stations also measure PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> for submission to DEFRA. PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> is generally associated with NO<sub>2</sub>, with the largest contributor for both being road traffic.

## **2016's results**

In summary, the ASR highlights, that air quality in Ashford is considered 'good' with concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> significantly below national air quality objectives. This is in line with current Kent trends towards continued improvements in air quality year-on-year.

The highest measurement location for 2016 was Lees Road (near to Junction 10 of the M20) which measured an annual concentration of 33µg/m<sup>3</sup> against the objective level of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup>. It is anticipated that the development of J10A will further reduce this level through reduced congestion. The next highest location measured 27µg/m<sup>3</sup>, but most sites in the borough measured 18 to 25µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

As we are below the national objectives, and not considered likely to exceed, there is no duty to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). It is worth noting that AQMA are declared in order to formally set out a strategy, action plan, and additional monitoring to bring pollutant levels back into compliance of the air quality objectives.

## **Further reading**

Further information on air quality across Kent as part of the Kent and Medway Air Quality Partnership (K&MAQP) please visit [www.kentair.org.uk](http://www.kentair.org.uk)

After review and acceptance of the ASR by DEFRA, the final report will be published on the [www.ashford.gov.uk](http://www.ashford.gov.uk) and [www.kentair.org.uk](http://www.kentair.org.uk) websites.