



# Hambleton District Council Air Quality Action Plan

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

XXXX 2018

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## 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.

Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts. It is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer. Additionally, air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society: children and older people, and those with heart and lung conditions. There is also often a strong correlation with equalities issues, because areas with poor air quality are also often the less affluent areas<sup>1,2</sup>.

The annual health cost to society of the impacts of particulate matter alone in the UK is estimated to be around £16 billion<sup>3</sup>. Hambleton District Council is committed to reducing the exposure of people in Hambleton to poor air quality in order to improve health.

The main action that has been developed to improve air quality relates to transport planning and infrastructure in the form of the Bedale, Aiskew and Leeming Bar Bypass (BALB). The scheme, which opened in August 2016, was created in order to relieve traffic congestion passing through these towns and villages along the former A684, with a corresponding reduction in pollution concentrations.

Our main priority is to reduce pollution concentrations in Bedale so that an AQMA is no longer required. The diffusion tube monitoring for 2017, the first full calendar year since the bypass opened, has generated an annual average for nitrogen dioxide of 37.7µg/m<sup>3</sup> (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. Therefore, at present, the Council does not propose to consider other actions in order to achieve an improvement in air quality.

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<sup>1</sup> Environmental equity, air quality, socioeconomic status and respiratory health, 2010

<sup>2</sup> Air quality and social deprivation in the UK: an environmental inequalities analysis, 2006

<sup>3</sup> Defra. Abatement cost guidance for valuing changes in air quality, May 2013

## 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 Senior Management Team

This AQAP will be subject to an annual review, appraisal of progress and reporting to 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 at:

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# 1 Introduction

This report outlines the actions that Hambleton District Council will deliver 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 every five years at the latest and progress on measures set out within this Plan will be reported on annually within Hambleton District Council's air quality ASR.

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## 2 Summary of Current Air Quality in Hambleton

The major source of air pollution within Hambleton is from road transport, both NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>. 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. Concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> are lower at the majority of sites in 2016 than in 2015, and although annual fluctuations can occur, the long term trend is showing reducing pollution concentrations.

The Council declared its first Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) at Bridge Street in Bedale on 1st November 2017. The Council is confident that the recently opened Bedale/Aiskew/Leeming Bar Bypass Scheme (BALB), 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 latest monitoring results for 2017 at the Bedale AQMA monitoring site show that the nitrogen dioxide annual average is 37.7µg/m<sup>3</sup> (bias adjusted and distance corrected). This is below the nitrogen dioxide air quality objective of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup>. The 2017 annual average represents an 8.3% reduction from 2016 and a 24.9% reduction since 2015. This demonstrates that the Council's reliance on the bypass scheme producing the desired effects is justified.

The 2017 monitoring results for Thirsk show that there is a marginal exceedance of the nitrogen dioxide annual average objective at one site on Westgate, with an annual average of 40.1µg/m<sup>3</sup> (bias adjusted and distance corrected).

In January 2018 increased monitoring at 14 sites in Northallerton was initiated in response to housing and other developments. This has identified that three locations on Brompton Road and Quaker Lane have elevated pollution levels. Therefore further monitoring will be carried out at an additional 10 sites.

All of the other monitoring locations in the district show that the concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> are below the air quality objectives.

Full details of all monitoring results will be presented in the 2018 ASR.

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## 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 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](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 including Thirsk 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. Other challenges include identifying pollution and traffic congestion hotspots and working with developers to ensure air quality is properly considered.

## 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\*:

- DEFRA
- North Yorkshire County Council Highways Authority
- Public Health England
- Secretary of State
- Environment Agency
- Neighbouring local authorities
- Parish councils
- General public

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

*\*Consultation will take place when this document is approved by Cabinet*

## 5 AQAP Measures

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

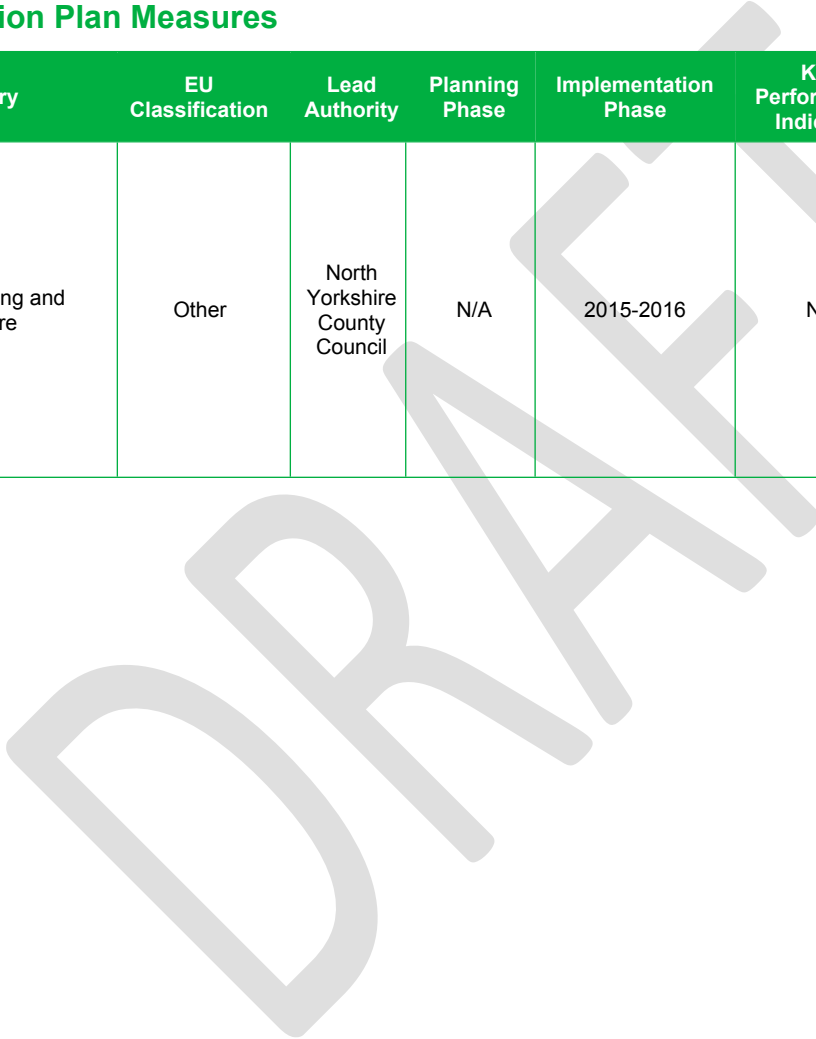
- the action that forms part of the plan
- the responsible individual and departments/organisations who will deliver this action
- expected benefit in terms of pollutant emission and/or concentration reduction
- the timescale for implementation
- how progress will be monitored

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

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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	N/A	100%	August 2016	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
e.g. Chamber of Commerce	Business	E.g. Disagree with plan to remove parking on High Street in favour of buses and cycles; consider it will harm business of members.

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## 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 <sub>2</sub>	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO <sub>x</sub>	Nitrogen Oxides
NYCC	North Yorkshire County Council
PM <sub>10</sub>	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10µm (micrometres or microns) or less
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	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.