

Information Digest



Air Quality Update – Annual Status Report 2023

**Councillor Nigel Yates
Climate Change and Environment**

**Alicia E Patterson
Head of Environmental Health & Licensing**

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 To update members on the latest Air Quality data across the Staffordshire Moorlands and the measures being proposed or undertaken in relation to the declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in Leek and Cellarhead, as part of the Air Quality Action Plans for these Areas.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Members note the contents of the report.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 In accordance with the Council's statutory duty to manage air quality in the District, monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) was completed across the District during 2022.

- 3.2 The primary source of air pollution within SMDC is road traffic emissions from the major roads that cross the District, as well as the local roads (A52, A520, A522 and A523) that connect the District's main population centres of Leek, Cheadle and Biddulph. Residential exposure to the increased pollutant concentrations caused by these emissions is the primary concern as there are a number of properties located within close proximity to the road network.

- 3.3 Full details of the air quality results for 2022 can be found in SMDC Annual Status report 2023 attached.

4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities

This report supports the following Corporate Aims of the Council:

- Aim 1: To help create a safer and healthier environment for our residents to live and work.
- Aim 4: To protect and improve the environment.

Mark Trillo

Executive Director (Governance & Commissioning)

Web Links and Background Papers

Attached ASR 2023

Contact details

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5. Detail

- 5.1 In accordance with the Council's statutory duty to manage air quality in the District, monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) was completed across the District during 2022.
- 5.2 The primary source of air pollution within SMDC is road traffic emissions from the major roads that cross the District, as well as the local roads (A52, A520, A522 and A523) that connect the District's main population centres of Leek, Cheadle and Biddulph. Residential exposure to the increased pollutant concentrations caused by these emissions is the primary concern as there are a number of properties located within close proximity to the road network.
- 5.3 In 2022, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council undertook non-automatic (passive) monitoring for NO₂ at 43 sites across the District. Twenty of these sites were located within declared AQMA areas – twelve in AQMA 1: Leek and eight in AQMA 2: Cellarhead. The current monitoring locations are constantly reviewed with respect to any hotspot area(s) of pollution being identified. In 2022, the Council incorporated 4 new sites (62 to 65) to the passive monitoring network in response to public queries regarding air quality.
- 5.4 There were no reported exceedances of the annual mean NO₂ objective of 40µg/m³ at any of the 43 monitoring locations during 2022. The maximum concentration reported was 35.7µg/m³ at site 38, which is within AQMA No.2, Cellarhead, at the A520 (Leek Rd). An increase in NO₂ concentrations was recorded at 31 sites. This is likely due to the recovery of traffic activities from impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic as national health management measures were still in place until March 2021. The recorded 2022 NO₂ concentrations remain below those recorded in 2019.
- 5.5 Full details of the air quality results for 2022 can be found in SMDC Annual Status report 2023 attached.