



High Peak Borough Council
working for our community

Information Digest



Air Quality Update – Annual Status Report 2024

Councillor Jean Todd
Climate Change and Environment

Alicia E Patterson
Head of Environmental Health & Licensing

17 October 2024

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 To update members on the latest Air Quality data across the High Peak and the measures being proposed or undertaken in relation to the declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in Tintwistle, Dinting Vale and Fairfield, as part of the Air Quality Action Plans for these areas.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

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 Borough during 2023.
- 3.2 The main source of air pollution within High Peak is road traffic emissions from the major roads that cross the Borough (the A6, the A628 and the A57) and from key travel routes between the cities of Manchester and Sheffield, as well as the local roads that connect the Borough's main population centres (Glossop, New Mills, Whaley Bride, Chapel-en-le-Frith and Buxton) to these key travel routes. Residential exposure to the increased pollutant concentrations caused by these emissions is the primary concern as there are several properties located within close proximity to the road network.
- 3.3 Full details of the Air Quality results for 2023 can be found in the HPBC Annual Status Report 2024 attached and are summarised in the Detail section below.

4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities

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

Mark Trillo
Executive Director (Governance & Commissioning)

Web Links and Background Papers

ASR Report 2024

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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 Borough during 2023.
- 5.2 In 2023 the Council undertook non-automatic (passive) monitoring for NO₂ at 54 sites across the Borough. Twenty Five of these sites are located within the declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) – 5 in AQMA 1: Tintwistle, 5 in AQMA 2: Dinting Vale, and 7 in AQMA 3: Fairfield. The current monitoring locations are constantly reviewed with respect to any potential new hotspot areas of pollution being identified. In 2023, the Council incorporated 3 new sites (10a, 68 & 69) to the passive monitoring network in response to public queries regarding air quality.
- 5.4 In 2023 there were two reported exceedances of the annual mean NO₂ objective of 40µg/m³, following distance correction, from the 54 monitoring sites across the Borough. Both of the exceedances were recorded within the existing AQMAs, with a value of 41.1 µg/m³ recorded at HP5 in AQMA 1: Tintwistle and 41.5 µg/m³ at HP33 in AQMA 3: Fairfield. No exceedances were recorded in AQMA 2: Dinting Vale, which is the 4th consecutive year that no exceedances have been reported within this AQMA, though 2020 and 2021 results are viewed cautiously due to the impacts of the covid pandemic. A slight increase in NO₂ concentrations was recorded in 2023 at 12 (of 54) sites, relative to 2022 data. However, nearly all sites recorded significantly lower NO₂ annual mean concentrations than those reported in 2019 (pre-covid), demonstrating an overall decreasing trend in NO₂ annual mean concentrations.
- 5.5 The following actions are considered to be key priorities in ensuring the air quality conditions within the Council area comply with the AQS objectives:
- Encouraging the use of EV by providing the public with EV charging points to aid in the reduction of pollution within the Borough.
 - The installation of automatic monitors within AQMAs to better understand daily pollution trends (expected to be completed in 2024); and
 - To review Smoke Control Orders with a view to potentially introducing new zones in the areas not currently covered by existing Orders, to help facilitate a general reduction in air borne emissions at those locations.

Full details of the Air Quality results for 2023 can be found in the HPBC Annual Status Report 2024 attached. Further, on the basis of the evidence provided by the Council, DEFRA has confirmed, in its Annual Status Report Appraisal Report, that

the conclusions reached in the report are accepted for all sources and pollutants. The Department has further indicated that the report is well structured, detailed, and provides the information specified in the Guidance.