

Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Air Quality Management Areas within Ipswich

1. Legal Duty

Ipswich Borough Council is required under Part IV of the *Environment Act 1995* to periodically review and assess the air quality in their area in line with guidance issued by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Present and likely future quality of the air is compared to the National Air Quality Objectives and where the objectives are found to be exceeded in areas of public exposure, an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) must be declared.

2. Current Situation

The Council maintains a monitoring network that records average concentrations of nitrogen dioxide and since 2001 has submitted regular reports on local air quality to DEFRA. Based on the results of this monitoring, in 2006 three AQMAs were declared within Ipswich, with a fourth following in 2010. In each case Detailed Assessments concluded that annual acceptable levels for nitrogen dioxide would be exceeded at these locations.

Maps showing the location and boundaries of the current AQMAs within Ipswich Borough are available via the DEFRA website [<http://tinyurl.com/ybpclcjr>]

Since the AQMAs were declared, continued monitoring has indicated that the annual average nitrogen dioxide level is now being exceeded at locations outside of these areas on St Matthews Street and Woodbridge Road. In addition to this, recent data has also identified small areas within existing AQMAs where annual average nitrogen dioxide is now at acceptable levels.

3. Proposed Actions

Considering the changes detailed above, and in recognition of the fact that the boundaries of existing AQMAs need to be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that they remain relevant, the following actions are proposed:

- a) **The declaration of a new AQMA (No. 5)** – St Matthews Street / Norwich Road between the Civic Drive roundabout and Bramford Road.
- b) **The amendment of AQMA Order No. 1** – Norwich Road, Chevallier Street and Valley Road junction: the AQMA will be amended to remove the ‘arms’ along Norwich Road and Valley Road.
- c) **The amendment of AQMA Order No. 2** – Crown Street, Fonnereau Road and St Margarets Street / St Margarets Plain: the AQMA will be amended to cover part of St Margarets Street (removing Fonnereau Road and St Margarets Green), extending up Woodbridge Road to Argyle Street, and taking in part of the existing AQMA No. 3 at the top of Grimwade Street (with slight amendments).
- d) **The amendment of AQMA Order No. 3** – Star Lane gyratory system and St Helens Street / Grimwade Street: the AQMA will be amended to exclude the St Helens Street / Grimwade Street junction area (which will be included in the amended AQMA No.2), and to exclude the area east of Grimwade Street, south of Bridge Street and the east part of Star Lane.

The full report outlining the assessment of air quality which led to the recommendation of the above actions is available in the 2015 Air Quality Detailed Assessment for Ipswich Borough Council [<http://tinyurl.com/y78nypla>].

4. Consultation

Although legally obliged to declare an AQMA in areas where the air quality objectives are exceeded, Ipswich Borough Council would like to hear your views on the proposed actions detailed above.

When considering your response to these proposals the following should be borne in mind:

- Although required by law, the declaration of an AQMA is intended to be a positive and proactive step towards improving air quality.

- An AQMA is not meant to indicate all properties within its boundary have exceedances (some authorities, such as the London Boroughs have declared the whole of the borough as an AQMA) but rather the geographical boundary of the AQMA is set to identify the general area in which the Council wants to target improvement actions so that the problem doesn't get worse and affect more people.
- Following the declaration of an AQMA an Air Quality Action Plan will be developed to identify actions to reduce air pollution levels. Typically developed over a 12 month period, this action plan would also be subject to consultation.

The closing date for this consultation is **12th July 2017**. To have your say, please either email andrew.loosley@ipswich.gov.uk with your views or send your comments to:

AQMA Consultation (FAO Andrew Loosley)
Ipswich Borough Council
Grafton House
15 -17 Russell Road
Ipswich
Suffolk IP12DE

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this consultation, please call Environmental Protection on 01473 433 115

5. Wards Affected

- Westgate
- St Margarets
- Alexandra

6. Further Sources of Information

- Ipswich Core Strategy: Air Quality Report, May 2016 (WSP / Parsons Brinckerhoff) [<http://tinyurl.com/m2jvpdv>]
- Local Air Quality Management - Technical Guidance (DEFRA)
 - LAQM.TG(16) [<http://tinyurl.com/yaegeqpm>]
 - LAQM.TG(09) [<http://tinyurl.com/yd7a3r3x>]

- Local Air Quality Management – Policy Guidance (DEFRA)
 - LAQM.PG(16) [<http://tinyurl.com/y93hwrqd>]
 - LAQM.PG(09) [<http://tinyurl.com/ny8tuhk>]