

Air Quality Progress Report 2006/07

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Summary

This report provides an update on the implementation of local air quality management in York. It sets out the progress made in:

- (a) achieving / maintaining pollutant concentrations below the air quality objectives
- (b) implementation of the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) measures

In accordance with air quality progress report guidance note LAQM.PRG(03) the following items have been included:

- New air quality monitoring results and consideration of historical trends in air quality data
- Details of new developments that may affect local air quality
- Summary of existing policies in relation to air quality and the planning process
- A full update on the AQAP and its recent integration into the Second Local Transport Plan (LTP2)

The report has been prepared in accordance with the guidance provided in Local Air Quality Management Progress Report Guidance LAQM.PRG(03) and Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance: Addendum LAQM.PGA(05).

The report concludes that in general there appears to have been an improvement in nitrogen dioxide concentrations across the city between 2000 and 2006. At most monitoring locations the highest concentrations recorded to date occurred in 2002 / 2003. The lowest concentrations occurred post 2004.

Outside the AQMA the annual average nitrogen dioxide objective is being met at most locations. Within the AQMA there remain a number of sites that remain above the objective level. There is currently no clear evidence of a downward trend at some of these sites making final objective compliance dates difficult to predict.

In 2006 the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) was fully integrated into York's second Local Transport Plan (LTP2). Over the past year good progress has been made with the implementation of many of the measures in AQAP2, particularly in the areas of walking, cycling and public transport. Other key successes include the introduction of a car club and the undertaking of the first stage of a Low Emission Zone (LEZ) feasibility study.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Reviews and assessments of air quality in York

Under the requirements of the Environment Act 1995, Part IV, all local authorities are required to periodically review and assess air quality in their areas against health based objectives prescribed by the Government. Where it is found that the objective levels are unlikely to be met, local authorities must declare Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and draw up Air Quality Action Plans (AQAPs) for improving air quality in those areas.

In December 1998 City of York Council completed the First Stage Review and Assessment of Air Quality in York. This report concluded that no further action would be needed to meet the air quality objectives for the following pollutants:

- benzene
- 1,3 butadiene
- lead
- carbon monoxide

For three other pollutants; nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and PM₁₀, the report concluded that more detailed reviews and assessments should be undertaken.

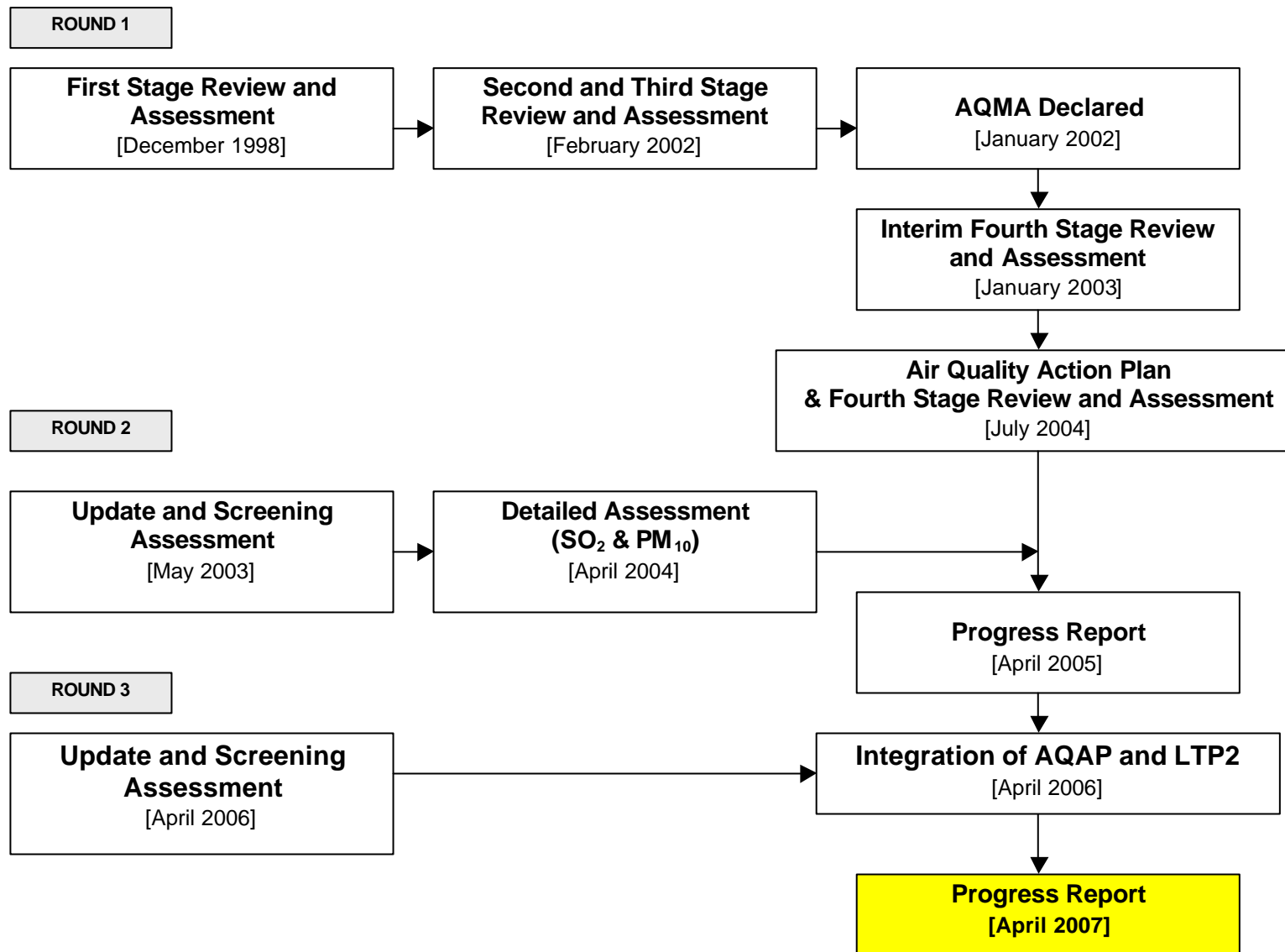
In February 2000 City of York Council completed the Second and Third Stage Review and Assessment of Air Quality in York. This report concluded that the air quality objectives for sulphur dioxide and PM₁₀ would be met, but recommended that an AQMA should be declared due to potential breaches of the annual average nitrogen dioxide objective. Following a period of extensive public participatory consultation an AQMA was declared in January 2002.

The declaration of the AQMA in York placed a duty on City of York Council to undertake a fourth stage review and assessment of nitrogen dioxide concentrations in the city and to submit an AQAP to the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). A final Fourth Stage Review and Assessment of Air Quality in York, and an AQAP were submitted to DEFRA in July 2004.

Since the declaration of the AQMA and the drawing up of the first AQAP the implementation of local air quality management in York has continued. As detailed in figure 1 the following activities have been undertaken in recent years:

- Update and Screening Assessments (2003 and 2006)
- Detailed assessment of PM₁₀ from domestic coal burning and SO₂ from trains (2004)
- Progress report (2005)
- Integration of the AQAP into LTP2 (2006)

Figure 1 : Summary diagram of City of York Council's Air Quality Review and Assessment Process



1.2 Purpose of the Air Quality Progress Report

Progress reports are designed to ensure continuity in the local air quality management process. They are designed to fill the gaps in the years when local authorities are not undertaking an Update and Screening or Detailed Assessment.

The overall aim of this Progress Report is to provide an update on the implementation of local air quality management in York. It sets out the progress made in:

- (c) achieving / maintaining pollutant concentrations below the air quality objectives
- (d) implementation of the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) measures

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