

Air Quality Progress Report 2007/08

City of York Council Environmental Protection Unit

Directorate of Neighbourhood Services
9 St. Leonard's Place
York
YO1 7ET

Andrew Gillah
Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Air Quality)

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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

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 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
- An update on the AQAP

The report concludes that there appears to have been a general improvement in nitrogen dioxide concentrations across the city between 2000 and 2007. At most monitoring locations the highest concentrations recorded to date occurred in 2002 / 2003. The lowest concentrations were recorded post 2004.

All real time monitoring within the current AQMA has indicated a slight improvement this year when compared with monitoring undertaken in 2006. In each of the five AQMA 'technical breach' areas there remain a number of sites where annual average nitrogen dioxide concentrations (as upper 95% confidence limits) remain above the $40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ annual average objective level. Due to the continued existence of these breaches no changes to the current AQMA 'technical breach' areas are proposed at this time, although some reduction in the size of the technical breach areas may become appropriate in the future.

Outside the AQMA the annual average nitrogen dioxide objective is being met at most locations. There are a handful of sites which have given rise to ad-hoc elevated concentrations in recent years but at present it is not considered necessary to bring them within the AQMA. It is proposed to continue monitoring at these sites and to re-assess their position in 2009. The one exception to this is Fulford Main Street, where elevated concentrations of nitrogen dioxide have been consistently observed over recent years. City of York Council is currently exploring options for funding real time monitoring at

this location on Fulford Road. Also, in a bid to improve air quality along this corridor, City of York Council is considering a range of improvement measures as part of the 'Fulford Road Corridor Study'.

Monitoring of other pollutants, including particulate matter (PM₁₀), has not indicated any issues with respect to any air quality objective values, and thus no further AQMAs are proposed at this time. A further, comprehensive screening assessment for other pollutants will be provided as part of City of York Council's Update and Screening Report, due in April 2009.

Over the past year, good progress has been made with implementation of many of the measures in AQAP2 – progress with each measure is documented in Chapter 11.

Any queries regarding the content of this Air Quality Progress Report should be directed to:

Andrew Gillah
Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Air Quality)

City of York Council
Directorate of Neighbourhood Services
9 St. Leonard's Place
York
YO1 7ET

e-mail: andrew.gillah@york.gov.uk
Tel : (01904) 551532
Fax : (01904) 551590

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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.

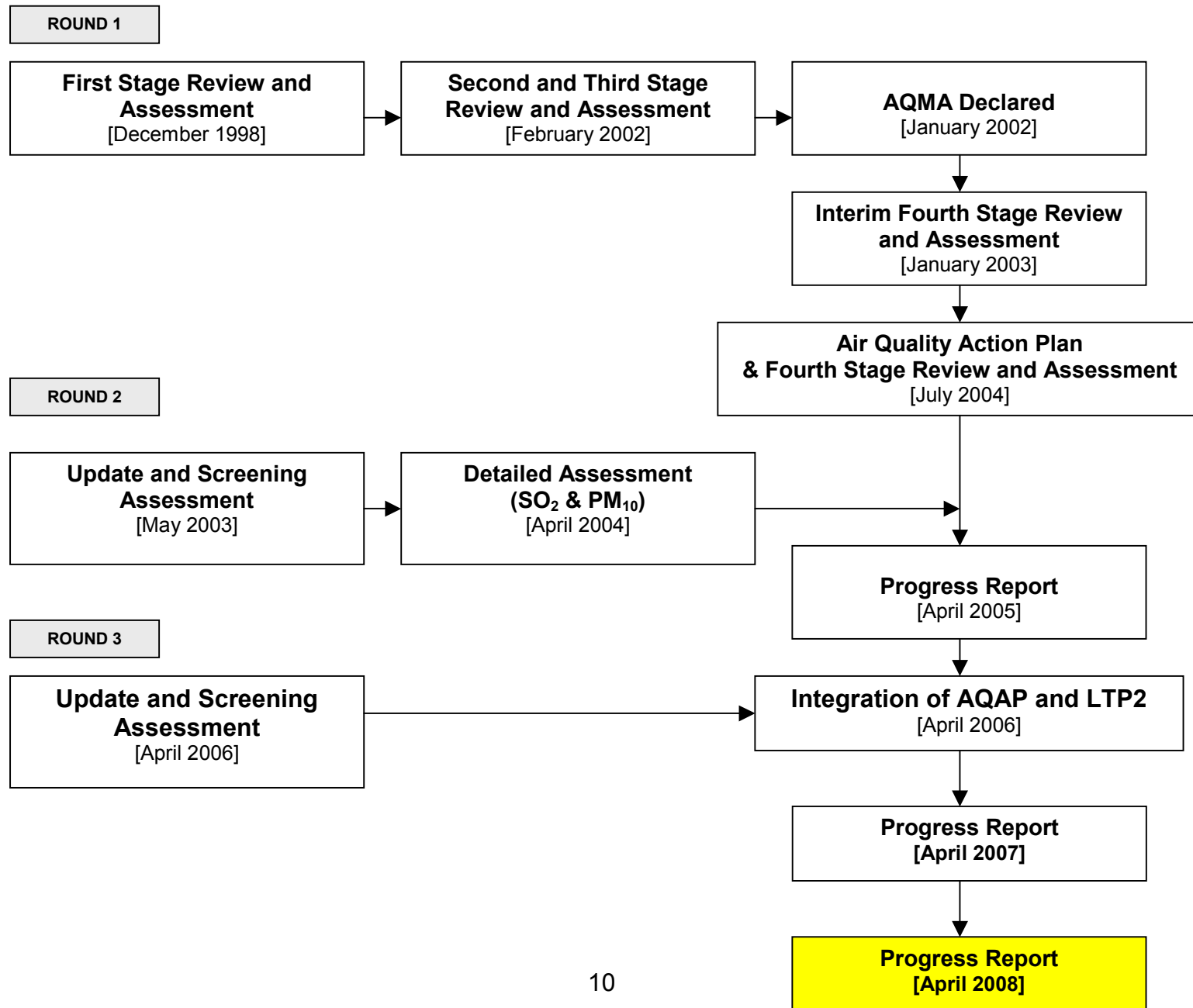
In February 2000 City of York Council completed the Second and Third Stage Review and Assessment of Air Quality in York. This report concluded that the air quality objectives for sulphur dioxide and PM₁₀ would be met, but recommended that an AQMA should be declared due to potential breaches of the annual 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)
- Progress Report (2007)

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

In accordance with air quality progress report guidance note 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 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).