
Revocation of Lickey End and Redditch Road Air Quality Management Areas in Bromsgrove

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Assistant Director	Simon Wilkes, Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Report Author: Chris Poole	Job Title: Specialist Lead Officer (Air Quality) Contact email: chris.poole@worcestershire.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01562 738069
Wards Affected	Redditch Road Avoncroft Ward Rock Hill Ward Lickey End Norton District Ward Marlbrook Ward Catshill South Ward Lowes Hill Ward
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	Yes
Relevant Council Priority	Environment
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is asked to RECOMMEND that

- 1) the Lickey End, Bromsgrove Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and the Redditch Road, Bromsgrove, AQMA be revoked.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Local Air Quality Management Framework, underpinned by Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, places an obligation upon all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether relevant concentration limits are being achieved. If exceedances of national air quality standards and objectives are

identified, or considered likely, the local authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).

2.2 Currently there are 3 AQMAs declared within the Bromsgrove District:

- Worcester Road, AQMA declared 24th October 2011
- Redditch Road, AQMA declared 17th February 2010
- Lickey End, AQMA declared 26th July 2001

2.3 Following the Environment Act 2021, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) have updated national policy on revocation of AQMAs. Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance (LAQM.PG22) and Technical Guidance (LAQM.TG22) states the following on the revocation of an AQMA:

'The revocation of an AQMA should be considered following three consecutive years of compliance with the relevant objective as evidenced through monitoring. Where NO₂ monitoring is completed using diffusion tubes, to account for the inherent uncertainty associated with the monitoring method, it is recommended that revocation of an AQMA should be considered following three consecutive years of annual mean NO₂ concentrations being lower than 36µg/m³ (i.e. within 10% of the annual mean NO₂ objective). There should not be any declared AQMAs for which compliance with the relevant objective has been achieved for a consecutive five-year period.' (Section 3.57 of TG22).

2.4 An AQMA Revocation Order is required to officially revoke an AQMA.

2.5 Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) has observed that annual average concentrations of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) measured at monitoring locations within the Lickey End and Redditch Road AQMAs have been compliant with national objectives and standards for a significant period of time. There have been no measured exceedances of the annual mean objective and standard for NO₂ of 40µg/m³ for over 5 years and no measured concentrations within -10% of the objective at either AQMA.

2.6 Monitoring records demonstrate the last exceedance of NO₂ in Lickey End AQMA (at relevant exposure) was recorded in 2014 and the last exceedance of NO₂ in Redditch Road was recorded in 2016.

2.7 Consequently, Bromsgrove District Council are required to revoke the Lickey End AQMA and Redditch Road AQMA in compliance with national policy and guidance.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

Air Quality will remain an important high profile issue in the area, therefore monitoring will continue to ensure air quality objectives continue to be met.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications in making this revocation.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, the Local Air Quality Management process (LAQM) and subsequent Policy Guidance (LAQM.PG22) and Technical Guidance (LAQM.TG22) documents set out the duty of local authorities to review and assess local air quality within their areas against a set of health-based objectives and work to improving poor air quality identified. The objective of most importance to the Council is the annual mean nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) objective which should not exceed 40 microgrammes per cubic metre of air at the façade of a residential property, schools, hospitals, care homes.

5.2 Poor air quality in general can affect peoples' health, playing a role in many chronic conditions such as cancer, asthma, heart disease and neurological changes linked to dementia. Air pollution contributes to about 38,000 deaths per year in England (Chief Medical Officers Report, 2022). Nitrogen Dioxide in particular is known to cause respiratory illnesses and possibly increase the risk of lung infections. Young children and asthma sufferers are most sensitive to this pollutant.

- 5.3 Where there is robust evidence to demonstrate that the objective is being met and will continue to be met, an AQMA can be revoked (LAQM.TG22). The decision to revoke an AQMA can be taken either following a detailed study or following a screening assessment based on robust monitoring evidence.

In this regard WRS consider there is sufficient data to support revocation of the AQMAs.

6. OTHER – IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Reorganisation Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct implications for Local Government Reorganisation.

Relevant Council Priority

- 6.2 Improving Air Quality leads to improved health and wellbeing of the population by breathing cleaner air. This results in a safer environment and quality of life for all.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.3 The revocation of these AQMAs has no climate implications. However it supports a reduction in harmful emissions to combat climate change and deliver more immediate local health benefits that come from improved air quality.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.4 The ongoing monitoring of proposed air quality objectives continue to be met with help to improve equality amongst Bromsgrove residents, including tackling areas of poorer air quality for example, that have fuel poverty and/or active travel measures.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

The risks of undertaking the proposed actions are considered to be low – robust monitoring data indicates that air quality objectives within the area are being met.

The reputational risks of not undertaking the proposed actions are considered to be high as the council would not be acting in compliance with national guidance as detailed in paragraph 2.7.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1: Graphical representations of NO₂ concentrations at sensitive receptors within the AQMAs

Background papers

DEFRA's Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance (PG22)

August 2022

DEFRA's Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance (TG22)

August 2022

Appendices

AQMA Order No.3 Redditch Road

Lickey End Air Quality Management Area Order

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Kit Taylor, Portfolio Holder	9 July 2025
Lead Director / Assistant Director	Judith Wills, Assistant Director Community and Housing	1 July 2025
Financial Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director Finance & Customer Services	30 June 2025
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings, Principal Solicitor	1 July 2025
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	N/A	N/A
Climate Change Team (if climate change implications apply)	Matt Eccles, Climate Change Manager	30 June 2025