

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

Reports on air quality have been submitted to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on a rolling cycle since 2001. Currently, Ipswich Borough Council has declared a total of four AQMAs. In each case Detailed Assessments concluded that annual acceptable levels for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) 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: https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/local-authorities?la_id=133

Since the AQMAs were declared, the Council has produced Air Quality Action Plans (AQAPs) in both 2008 and 2019 containing a wide range of measures aimed at reducing levels of pollution. The current 2019 AQAP, together with the Councils air quality reports can be found on our website at: <https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/airqualitymanagement>

Continued monitoring data indicates that there have been no measured exceedances of the annual mean air quality objective for NO₂ concentrations over the last five years in AQMA No.1.

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:

- **AQMA Order No.1** – Encompassing the land in and around the junction of Norwich Road, Chevallier Street and Valley Road, this area extends along Chevallier Street to the junction with Providence Lane; the AQMA to be revoked.

The full report outlining the assessment of air quality which led to the recommendation of the above actions is available in the 2024 Air Quality Detailed Assessment for Ipswich Borough Council.

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:

- Revoking AQMA 1 does not mean that the Council will not continue in its efforts to further improve air quality, only that the legal basis for maintaining the status of the AQMA no longer exists because air quality has improved and no longer exceeds the legal limit and is unlikely to exceed the legal limit in the future.
- Following amendments of the AQMAs, the Council would update its existing Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to ensure the AQAP and measures stay up to date and where required, added to or amended, to enable the Council to further pursue the air quality objectives.

The closing date for this consultation is **27th October 2024**. To have your say, please email environmental.health@ipswich.gov.uk with your views.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this consultation, please email Environmental Protection at environmental.health@ipswich.gov.uk or call on 01473 432000.

5. Wards Affected

Westgate

6. Further Sources of Information

- [Detailed Assessment of Air Quality for Ipswich Borough Council, June 2024](#)
- Ipswich Air Quality Action Plan 2019-2024. Available at: https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/sites/www.ipswich.gov.uk/files/air_quality_action_plan_2019_-_executive_approved_pdf_version.pdf
- Local Air Quality Management - Technical Guidance (DEFRA) LAQM.TG(22). Available at: <https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/LAQM-TG22-August-22-v1.0.pdf>
- Local Air Quality Management – Policy Guidance (DEFRA) LAQM.PG(22). Available at: <https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/LAQM-Policy-Guidance-2022.pdf>