

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 04 March 2024

Portfolio:	Health and Public Protection
Subject:	Air Quality Update and Review of Gosport Road and Portland Street Air Quality Management Areas
Report of:	Director of Neighbourhoods
Corporate Priorities:	Respond to Climate Change and Protect the Environment

Purpose:
To revoke the Gosport Road and Portland Street Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's).

Executive summary:

Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 introduced a requirement on all local authorities to carry out duties in relation to Local Air Quality Management (LAQM). All local authorities are obliged to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether the air quality objectives for different pollutants are likely to be achieved.

Between 1998 and 2001, Fareham Borough Council undertook its first round of review and assessments of air quality. Following subsequent monitoring and progress reports the results showed that the NO₂ annual mean objective would be exceeded both in 2005 and 2010 in Gosport Road at the junction with Newgate Lane and Redlands Lane, and therefore Fareham Borough Council were required to declare an AQMA in the area. The Fareham AQMA was declared in April 2006. Following the 2006 Updating Screening Assessment the Portland Street AQMA was declared on 1 December 2007 for nitrogen dioxide from vehicle exhaust emissions.

Due to the actions identified and implemented within the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) and subsequent improvements in technology, following discussion and review of the 2023 data with Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Fareham Borough Council have been instructed to revoke both AQMA'S in early 2024. This would be achieved by the Executive approving the order shown at Appendix A. If approved there will then be no AQMA's in Fareham.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

It is recommended that the Executive approves the Revocation of the two Air Quality Management Areas as detailed in the report.

Reason:

This is because of the sustained improvement in Air Quality in the areas and the subsequent instruction from DEFRA.

Cost of proposals:

There are no costs associated with this proposal.

Appendices: **A:** Order Revoking the Air Quality Management Areas

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Fareham and Gosport Borough Councils Annual Status Report 2023 Bureau Veritas
June 2023

Reference Papers:

Fareham and Gosport Borough Councils Annual Status Report 2023 Bureau Veritas
June 2023

2022 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) In fulfilment of Part IV of the
Environment Act 1995 Local Air Quality Management Date: June, 2022

Fareham Borough Council Local Air Quality Management Updating and Screening
Assessment Ref: BV/AQ/AGGX0567/EC/2420 June 2006

Fareham and Gosport Environmental Health Partnership Annual Status Report 2016
Bureau Veritas January 2017

LAQM Technical Guidance 2022

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	04 March 2024
Subject:	Air Quality Update and Review of Gosport Road and Portland Street Air Quality Management Areas
Briefing by:	Director of Neighbourhoods
Portfolio:	Health and Public Protection

INTRODUCTION

1. The UK government are required under the Environment Act 1995 to produce a national air quality plan. The plan sets out the UK's air quality objectives and recognises that action at national, regional, and local level may be needed, depending on the scale and nature of any air quality problem.
2. Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 introduced a requirement on all local authorities to carry out duties in relation to Local Air Quality Management (LAQM). All local authorities are obliged to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether the air quality objectives for different pollutants are likely to be achieved. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) require Annual Reporting which goes through an approval process with them.
3. Air quality objectives have been set for seven pollutants, but only particulates (PM10 – particles less than 10 microns in diameter) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) are seen as a potential problem in most locations in the U.K.
4. Where it is likely that air quality levels are such that certain pollutants are above specified levels the Local Authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of the objectives.

AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREAS

5. Between 1998 and 2001, Fareham Borough Council undertook its first round of review and assessments of air quality. Following subsequent monitoring and progress reports the results showed that the NO₂ annual mean objective would be exceeded both in 2005 and 2010 in Gosport Road at the junction with Newgate Lane and Redlands Lane, and therefore Fareham Borough Council were required to declare an AQMA in the area. The Fareham AQMA was declared in April 2006 and the Council installed a continuous analyser in Gosport Road to measure traffic related NO₂ concentrations.

6. Following the 2006 Updating Screening Assessment the Portland Street AQMA was declared on 1 December 2007 for nitrogen dioxide from vehicle exhaust emissions.
7. In 2008 Fareham Borough Council published its Air Quality Action Plan which contained 48 measures aimed at reducing NO₂ concentrations.
8. In 2012 the Council installed a continuous analyser Portland Street to measure traffic related NO₂ concentrations.
9. Following the introduction of the environmental Health Partnership with Gosport, since 2016 Fareham and Gosport Borough Councils have been submitting joint Annual Status Reports (ASR) reports to Defra for review.
10. In 2017 following a detailed assessment within the 2016 ASR, both the Fareham AQMA's were extended due to predicted exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean air quality objective (AQS) outside the original AQMA boundaries. Maps of the current AQMA's can be seen as part of the proposed revocation order at Appendix A .
11. The 2018 data did not show any exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean air quality objective (AQS) within the new AQMA boundaries.
12. The review of the 2019 ASR by Defra commented that there had been no exceedances within the AQMA's since 2015 and agreed that Fareham Borough Council would retain the AQMA's and continue to monitor at the existing locations.
13. The 2022 ASR proposed to revoke the AQMA's based on continual compliance once the impacts of COVID-19 were better understood. The review of the report by Defra agreed that annual mean concentrations have been below the air quality objective and agreed with the proposal to revoke the AQMA's the following year.
14. The LAQM Technical Guidance 2022 states "there should not be any declared AQMAs for which compliance with the relevant objective has been achieved for a consecutive five-year period".
15. No major development, which is considered likely to generate additional nitrogen dioxide, is proposed in the area and therefore it is not expected that pollution levels will significantly increase in future years.
16. Following discussion and review of the 2023 data with Defra, Fareham Borough Council are instructed to revoke both AQMA'S in early 2024. This would be achieved by the Executive approving the order shown at Appendix A. If approved there will then be no AQMA's in Fareham.
17. As per the Environment Act 2021, Fareham Borough Council will move forward with producing its new Air Quality Strategy to replace the existing Air Quality Action Plan ensuring continued air quality improvements beyond statutory designations.

NATIONAL NO₂ PROGRAMME

18. In 2017 the Government published its revised National Action Plan and subsequently issued a Ministerial Direction to Fareham to formulate separate additional plans (as part of the National NO₂ Programme) to address a perceived issue at Eastern Way Fareham. Those plans were accepted and measures to improve air quality at that

location introduced. Work is ongoing to demonstrate compliance to the Joint Air Quality Unit to enable Fareham to Exit the National NO₂ Programme as well.

RISK ASSESSMENT

19. There is a risk of reputational damage and further Directions from DEFRA is Fareham does not revoke its AQMA's.

CONCLUSION

20. Monitoring has shown that the air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide in the Fareham AQMA and Portland Street AQMA is not currently exceeded. Assessment indicates it is not likely to be exceeded in the future, and as such both should be revoked by order.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A Order Revoking the Air Quality Management Areas

REFERENCE PAPERS:

Fareham and Gosport Borough Councils Annual Status Report 2023 Bureau Veritas June 2023

2022 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) In fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 Local Air Quality Management Date: June, 2022

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LAQM Technical Guidance 2022

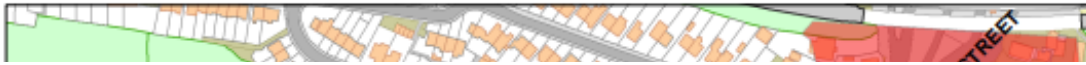
Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Ian Rickman on 01329 824773

Figure One – Fareham AQMA – An area encompassing the junction of Gosport, Redlands Lane and Newgate Lane Fareham and the surrounding area up to the Quay Street roundabout Fareham.

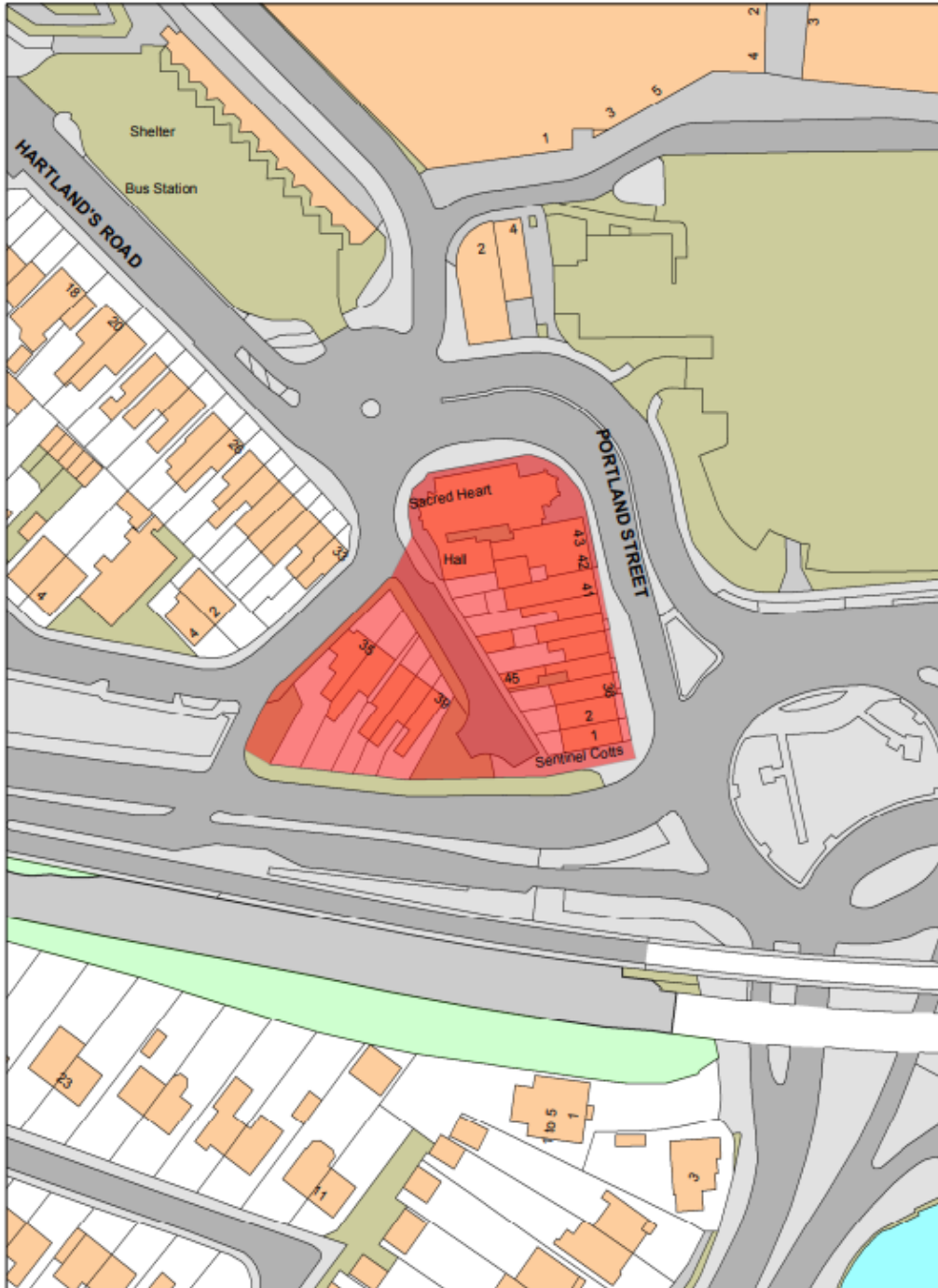
**AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA 2017 (A)
GOSPORT ROAD FAREHAM**

FAREHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL



**AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA 2017 (B)
PORTLAND STREET FAREHAM**

FAREHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL



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Figure Two –

Portland Street AQMA – An area encompassing residential properties and the Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Portland Street and the southern end of Hartland Road Fareham.