

Report for Resolution

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Report to Executive
30 September 2009

Report of Head of Legal, Regulatory and Democratic Services

Subject Declaration of a further Air Quality Management Area for
Norwich

Purpose

To advise Executive of the outcome of the latest air quality review and assessment and the action now necessary to manage the air quality for Norwich.

Recommendations

Executive resolve to:

1. Declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for the Riverside area of Norwich:
2. Retain the existing Grapes Hill AQMA
3. Maintain a watching air quality brief for King Street, Magdalen Street and Boundary Road.

Financial Consequences

The financial consequences of this report are nil, any additional air quality monitoring will be picked up at part of the existing air quality monitoring programme.

Risk Assessment

N/A

Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities

The report helps to meet the strategic priority “Safe and healthy neighbourhoods – working in partnership with residents to create neighbourhoods where people feel secure, where the streets are clean and well maintained, where there is good quality housing and local amenities and where there are active local communities” and the service plan priority putting environmental sustainability, culture and creativity at the heart of everything we do.

Executive Member: Councillor Bremner - Community Safety and Community Cohesion

Ward: Thorpe Hamlet

Contact Officers

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Background Documents

N/A.

Air Quality Review & Assessment: Latest Developments

Background

1. The Government prepared the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland for consultation in August 1999. It was published in January 2000 (DETR, 2000). A revised version was published in July 2007 (DEFRA, 2007).
2. At the centre of the Air Quality Strategy is the use of national air quality standards to enable air quality to be measured and assessed. These also provide the means by which objectives and timescales for the achievement of objectives can be set.
3. Local authorities are required to review and assess the air quality in their areas from time to time to determine whether the air quality objectives are likely to be met.
4. The Council completed the first round of air quality reviews in 2001 and the outcome was the declaration of three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) for an exceedance of nitrogen dioxide:
 - 1 Grapes Hill,
 - 2 Castle Meadow; and
 - 3 St Augustines Street.
5. The 2003 & 2006 Updating and Screening Assessment and the 2004 & 2005 Progress Reports concluded that there was no need to make any changes to the AQMAs already in place. No action was required for any of the other pollutants considered.
6. In Jan 2007 the Council rationalised the monitoring carried out and new areas of potential exceedance of the nitrogen dioxide annual objective were identified. A detailed investigation was carried out and this was partially funded by a grant secured from Defra.
7. The following locations were considered:

Grapes Hill;
King Street;
Riverside Road;
Magdalen Street;
Boundary Road.
8. The detailed investigation concluded the following:

Grapes Hill

- The modelled nitrogen dioxide concentrations on the west facing (city) side of Grapes Hill are below the national air quality standard¹.

¹ 40µg m⁻³ (milligram's per cubic metre)

- The modelled and measured nitrogen dioxide concentrations on the east facing side of Grapes Hill are below or very close to the national air quality standard;
- The measured nitrogen dioxide concentrations in the Grapes Hill AQMA are below the national air quality standard;

On the basis of the modelled and measured results in the Grapes Hill it is recommend that this AQMA is retained for the present.

King Street

- The modelled nitrogen dioxide concentrations are above the national air quality standard;
- The predicted concentration for 2010 at 256 King Street is $41\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$.
- The measured concentration was $38\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ in 2008.

On the basis of the modelled and measured results in King Street it is recommended that we continue to monitor this site and review each year.

Riverside Road

- The predicted concentrations at Riverside Road are above the air quality limit at the facades of the buildings situated on the east facing side of the road;
- The forecast concentration for 2010 based on the diffusion tube at 5/6 Riverside Road is $44\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$.

On the basis of the modelled and measured results in Riverside Road it is recommended that we declare an AQMA in this area.

Magdalen Street

- The measured nitrogen dioxide concentration in Magdalen Street is equal to the national air quality standard;
- The future predicted concentration at the location is $37\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$.

Taking into account that the concentration measured at the location of the diffusion tube in Magdalen Street marginally exceeded the objective in 2007, and was under the objective in 2008, it is recommended that we continue to monitor the area.

Boundary Road

- The measured nitrogen dioxide concentration in Boundary Road is below the national air quality standard;

- The future predicted concentration at the location is $23 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$.

On the basis of the results it is recommended that the Council continue to monitor the area.

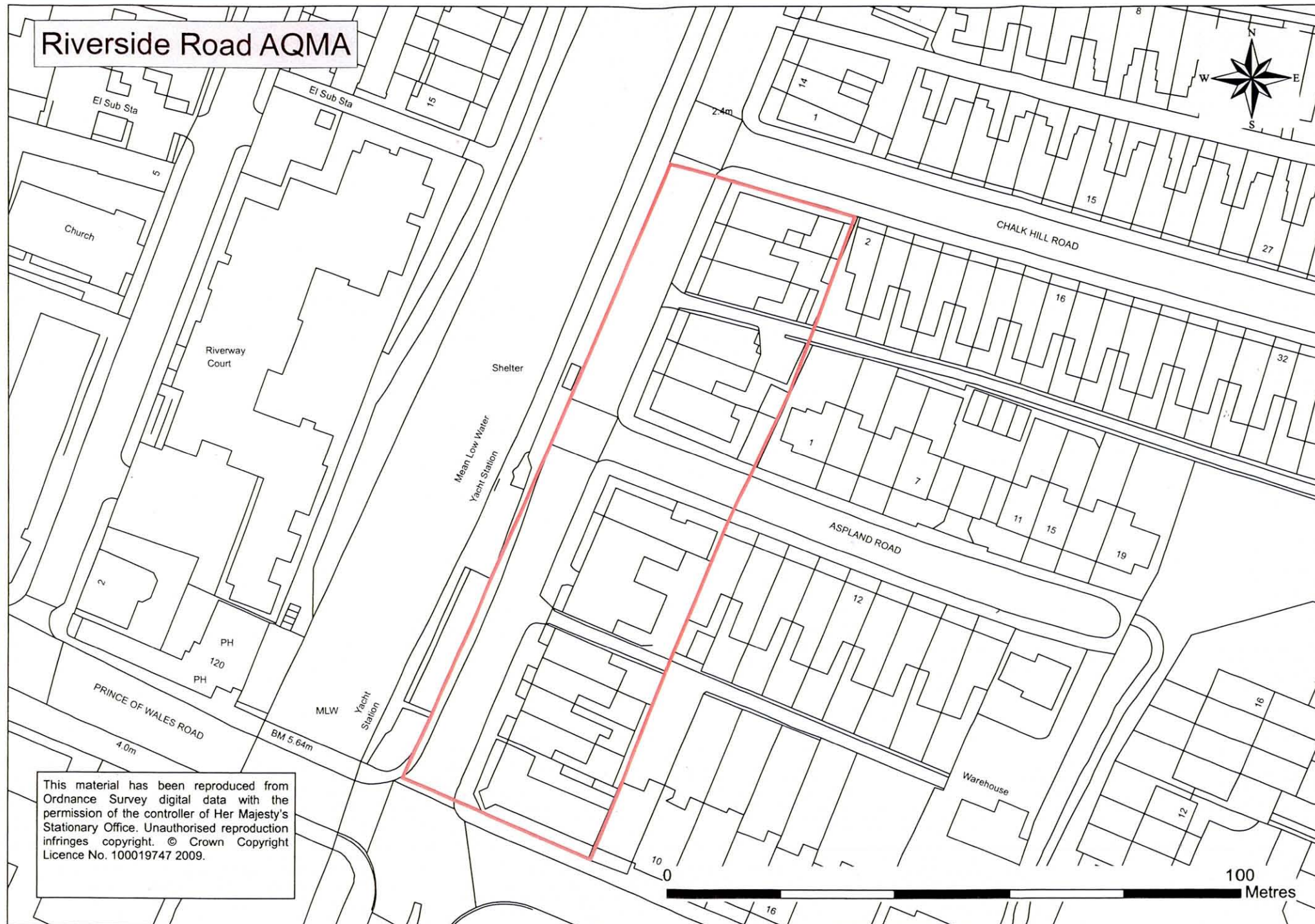
Conclusion and recommendation

9. The 2008 detailed assessment of nitrogen dioxide indicates that we need to declare an additional Air Quality Management Area in Riverside Road due to the exceedance of the annual mean objective level for that pollutant.

It is recommended that members approve the declaration of the air quality management area.

10. Grapes Hill AQMA should be retained.
 11. King Street should continue to be monitored and reviewed each year.
 12. Magdalen Street should continue to be monitored and reviewed each year.
 13. Boundary Road should continue to be monitored and reviewed each year.
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Riverside Road AQMA



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