NORWICH City Council

A fair and thriving city, full of ambition

Air Quality Action Plan 2026–2031

Norwich City Council

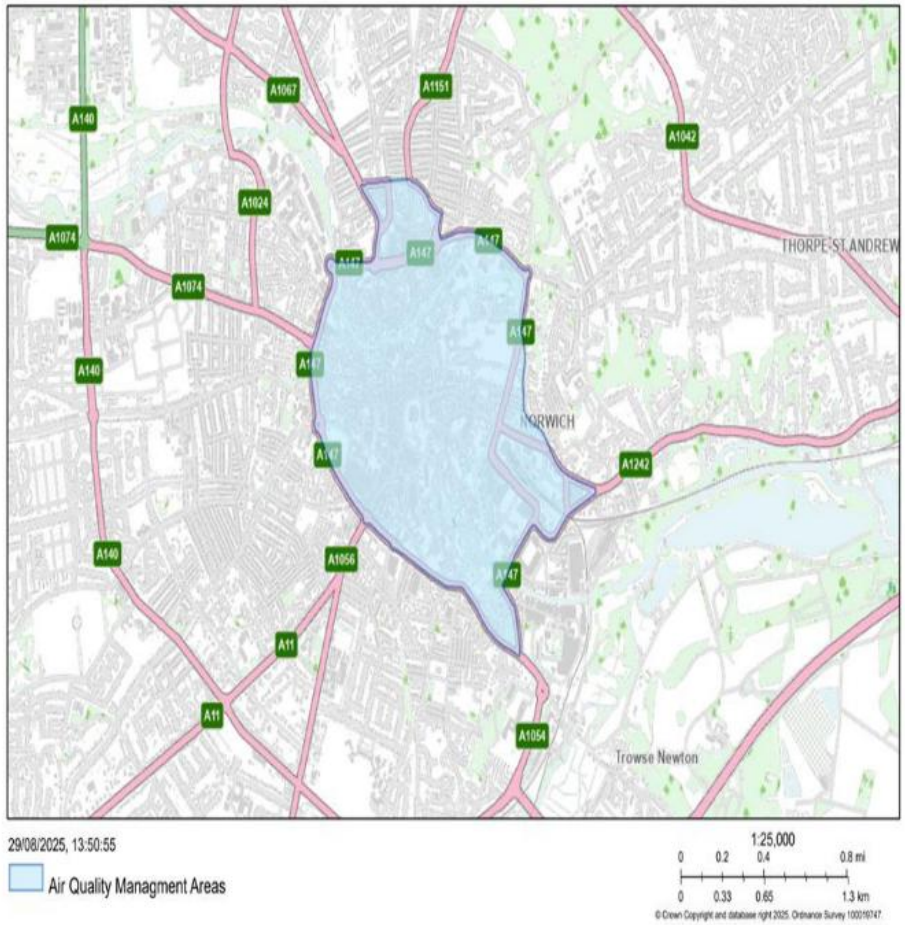
AQAP Draft Consultation

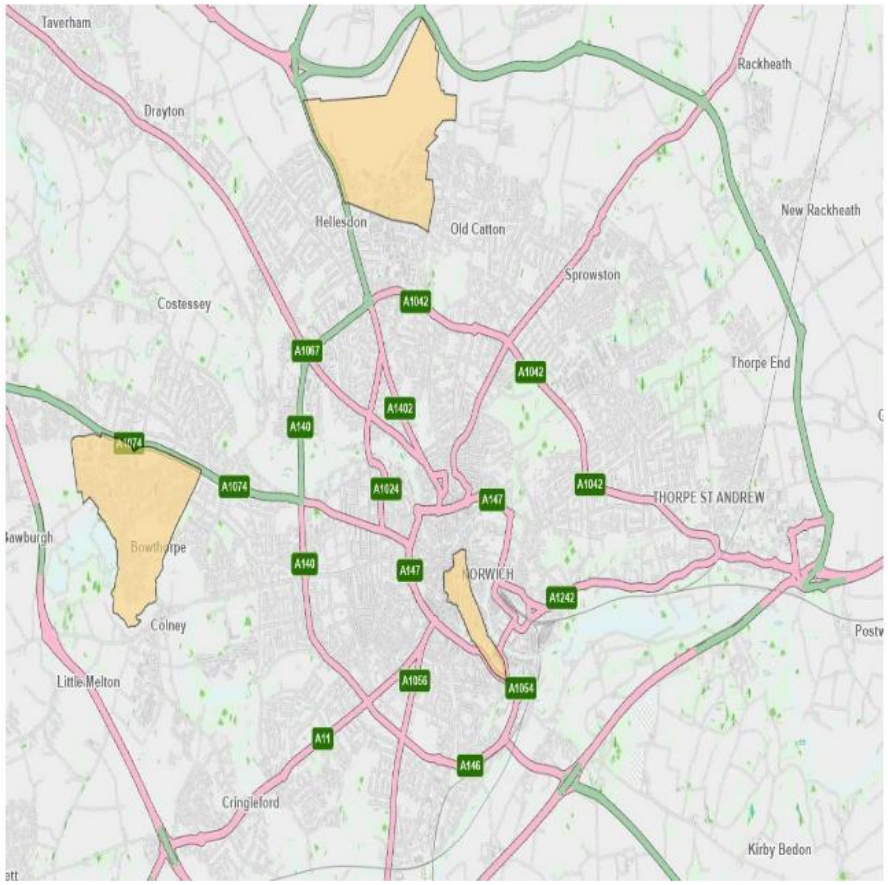
10th February 2026

What is an Air Quality Action Plan

- An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared in Norwich in 2012 due to exceedances of the national air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), and under the Local Air Quality Management framework Defra requires local authorities to produce an AQAP every five years
- This identifies measures that aim to: Reduce NO_2 concentrations, Improve public health and work towards meeting national air quality objectives across the city.

Air Quality Management Area & Smoke Control Areas

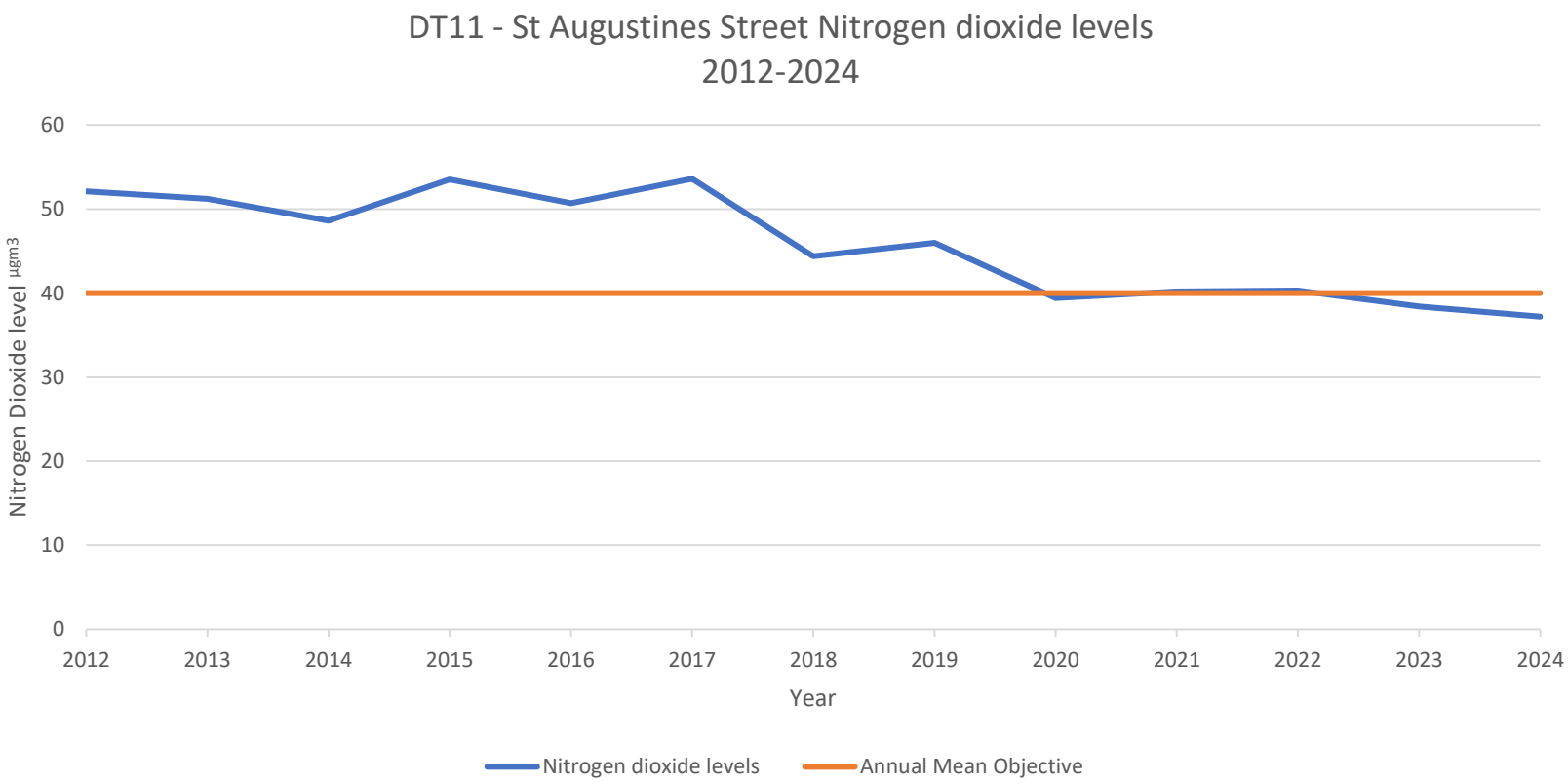




Current Air Quality Status

- The results of 2024's air quality monitoring found that the highest NO_2 levels monitored in the AQMA was 37.2 µg/m³
- This is below the 40µg/m³ air quality objective but above the 36 µg/m³ threshold
- The AQMA cannot be considered for review or until this threshold is met for 3 years

Nitrogen Dioxide levels from 2012-2024



Key Improvements from 2021 Plan

- The introduction of 76 zero-emission buses rolled out.
- A new Air Quality Monitoring Station was commissioned on Castle Meadow
- Major traffic management improvements have been made
- Cycling and active travel schemes delivered

Key Priorities 2026–2031

- Further Zero-emission transport (buses & taxis)
- EV charging expansion
- Reduce congestion & idling
- Promote active travel
- Burn Better & Smoke Control
- Heating decarbonisation

Predicted Outcomes

- Additional 4.6% NO_2 reduction required to meet target. (There has been a 17% reduction since 2020)
- Cleaner, healthier environment

$PM_{2.5}$ (fine particulates)

- National policy requires local authorities to assess and report $PM_{2.5}$ and to take proportionate action to reduce population exposure. Norwich $PM_{2.5}$ is largely transboundary but partly influenced by local sources such as transport-related wear and domestic combustion.

- Including $PM_{2.5}$ in the AQAP ensures national policy requirements are met and demonstrates a proportionate and comprehensive approach to air quality management and public health protection.

Next Steps

- Consultation closes on 30th March, responses reviewed, and changes made
- The AQAP shall go to cabinet in June for sign off and submitted to Defra
- The Air Quality Annual Status Report shall be produced and submitted to DEFRA by the end of June
- Norwich shall work in partnership with stakeholders to implement the measures in action plan over the next 5 years.

AQAP Consultation

Please share the AQAP with your networks:

https://gettalking.norwich.gov.uk/aqap2026

https://www.norwich.gov.uk/news/2026/have-your-say-future-air-quality-norwich