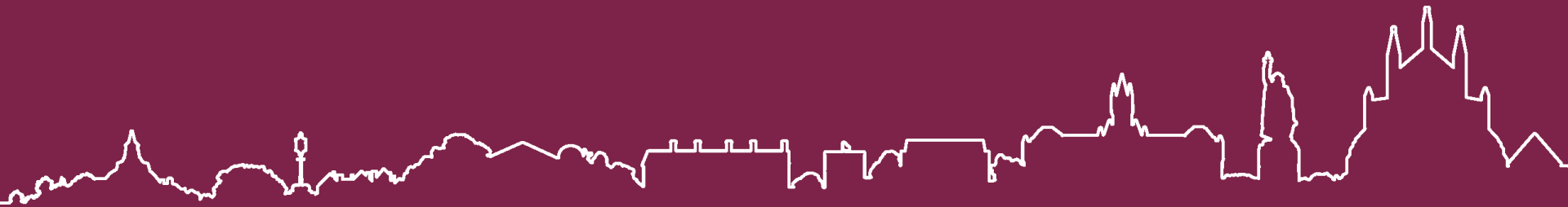
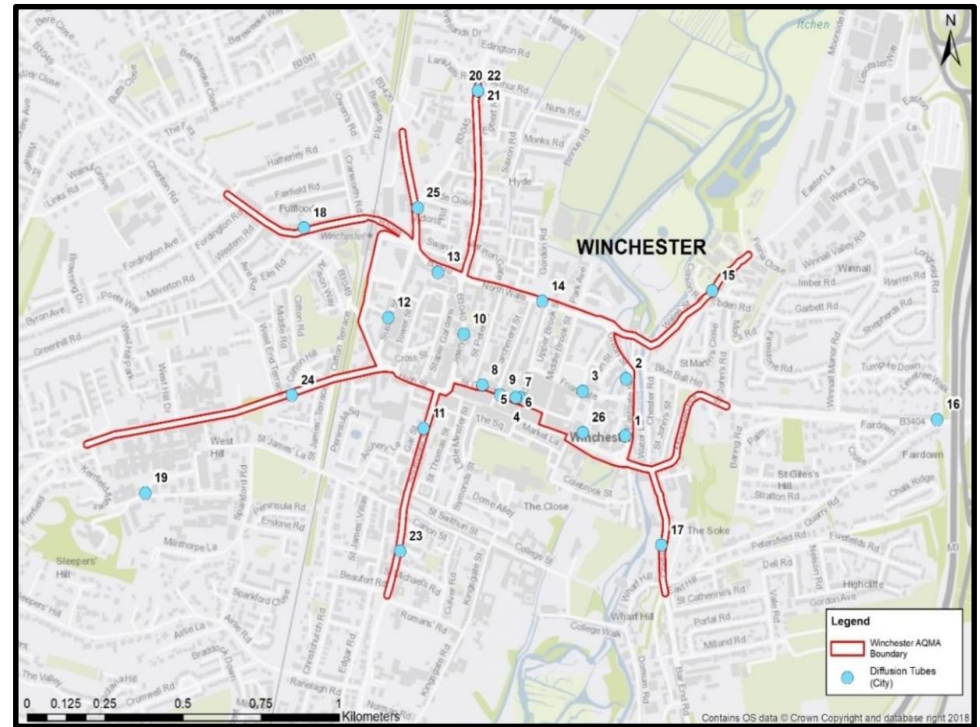


Air Quality Update
Health and Environment Policy
Committee
7th December 2021



Background

- 2003 WCC declared an Air Quality Management Area
- 2006 WCC Adopted its first AQAP
- 2017 AQAP updated
- AQMA covers the City Centre and 8 arterial routes
- Monitored particulates PM_{10} and nitrogen dioxide NO_2
- 2 static AQMS, 28 City and 8 district diffusion tubes
- In 2020 installed a FIDAS 200 particulate monitor to measure $PM_{2.5}$
- Recent exceedances of NO_2 annual mean standard of $40\mu g/m^3$ – Romsey Road



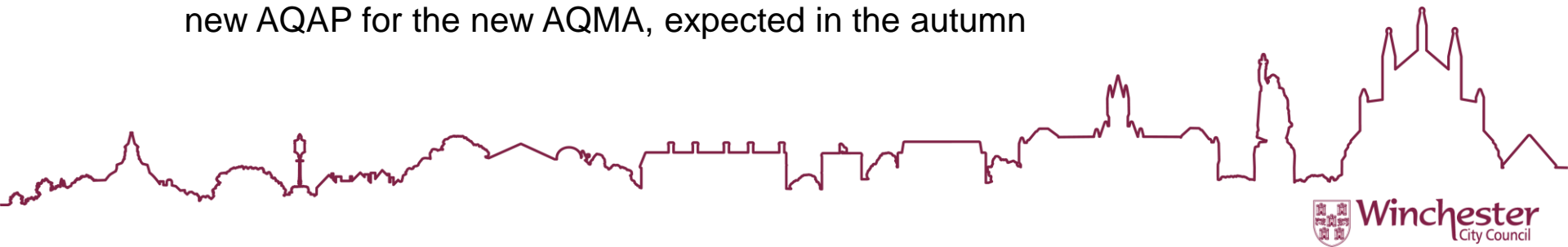
Current Air Quality in Winchester

- 2016 - 2020 decreasing trend in NO₂ in all areas of the City and District
- Significant improvement (circa 26%) in air quality in the AQMA in 2020 due to Covid 19 lockdowns
- All areas met the statutory air quality standards during 2020
- NO₂ diffusion tubes show that Romsey Road is comparatively high, so remains an area of concern
- All district NO₂ showed to be well within compliance of annual mean standard
- Notable increase in traffic during 2021 approaching pre pandemic levels. 2020 data therefore atypical and cannot be relied upon
- However high degree of confidence that all district areas remain compliant
- AQAP committed to deliver several core and complimentary actions, to date:
 - Differential Parking tariffs
 - Investigation of CAZ (discounted)
 - Air Quality Supplementary planning document
 - Delivery of EVCP network in Council Car Parks
 - Adoption of a sustainable procurement strategy
 - Review of taxi policy to encourage uptake of plug in fleet

Next Steps

Statutory Duty to Review the AQAP

- 2020 pre pandemic discussion to review the size of AQMA with Cabinet agreeing that officers review 2020 data set to see if AQMA can be reduced
- Covid then hit, so national lock downs have caused atypical data set for 2020 which cannot be relied upon to un declare current AQMA
- WCC statutory duty to review its AQMA every 5 years, so must be done in 2022.
- However since 2020 data set is atypical officers will need full 2021 set before reviewing AQMA and AQAP i.e. 1 year delay on previous expectation
- Will require AQ Consultant to undertake a review of the data and recommend a new AQMA
- Further conduct a source apportionment study model from which it can make recommendations for further actions for control
- This study will then inform the Annual Status Report required by June 2022 and the new AQAP for the new AQMA, expected in the autumn



New Impending Air Quality Standards

Environment Act 2021 (Royal Assent 10th September '21)

- Empowers government to set new PM_{2.5} standards
- New regulatory standards unknown but expected by the end of 2022
- May necessitate further review of AQMA and AQAP in 2023






New World Health Organisation Air Quality Guidelines

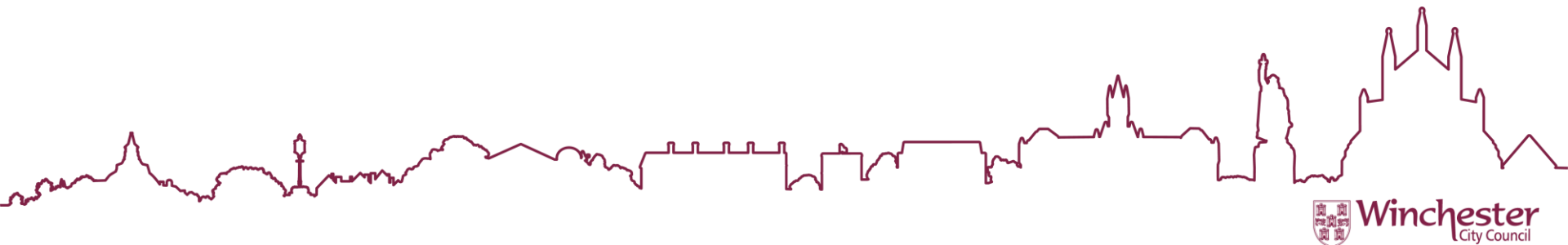
- Sept '21 WHO adopted new stringent Air Quality Guideline standards for both NO₂, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} based on no 'safe' level of pollutants

Pollutant µg/m ³	Averaging Time	Interim Target*				Air Quality Guideline level (AQG)
		1	2	3	4	
PM _{2.5}	Annual	35	25	15	10	5
	24 hr	75	50	37.5	25	15
PM ₁₀	Annual	70	50	30	20	15
	24 hr	150	100	75	50	45
NO ₂	Annual	40	30	20	-	10
	24 hr	120	50	-	-	25

New Impending Air Quality Standards

Aspirational Local Air Quality Targets

-  Officers tasked with investigating new local air quality targets
-  Previous standards were Oxford City Council has adopted its own $30\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ standard based on an independent AQ Consultancy report
-  Adoption of more stringent AQ standards will require both additional resource and more radical measures in controlling NO_2 and particulates at source.
-  Officers will need to commission an independent study to identify the relative public health benefits from more stringent targets, how they can be delivered and by when.
-  Study would be conducted concurrently with AQMA/AQAP, however the adoption of any Policy (AQIP) will likely take longer to achieve



Conclusions

- ✚ Air Quality in Winchester AQMA and wider district is steadily improving and in majority of locations is compliant with statutory standards
- ✚ However 2020 data is atypical so cannot be used to un declare current AQMA
- ✚ 2021 data set to be used to review current AQAP in 2022
- ✚ New fine particular PM_{2.5} statutory standards expected soon, which will likely place new and additional demands on Local Authorities
- ✚ New stringent WHO Air Quality Guidelines issued in 2021
- ✚ Winchester may seek to go beyond current statutory standards in recognition of no 'safe' level of pollutants
- ✚ To commission an independent air quality consultant study to inform both the AQAP review and local AQ targets
- ✚ Adoption of a new AQAP by early 2023



Questions

