



MERTHYR TYDFIL

County Borough Council

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

MERTHYR TUDFUL

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

2016 Air Quality Progress Report .

Executive Summary

In fulfillment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995
Local Air Quality Management

January 2017

Executive Summary (English)

This report fulfils the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management process as set out in Part IV of the Environment Act (1995), the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007 and the relevant Policy and Technical Guidance documents.

The LAQM process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. Where exceedances are considered likely, the local authority must then 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. As exceedances have been detected in the Twynyrodyn Road area, a detailed assessment was carried out in November 2015 and on 30th January 2017 an AQMA was declared. An AQAP is being prepared for consultation.

Diffusion tubes indicated that nitrogen dioxide levels found at sites around 55 Twynyrodyn Road exceeding the annual mean air quality objective, AQO were similar to results in 2014. It is predicted once measures to reduce traffic numbers and improve traffic flow on Twynyrodyn Road are implemented the NO₂ concentrations will reduce, with an aim of achieving concentrations of not more than 36µg/m³.

There are two new developments with the potential to affect air quality. Firstly modelling has been carried out as part of a planning application to build a new bus station at Swan Street. It indicates the NO₂ AQO will be complied with. It uses 6 months diffusion tube data, however this comprises less than 3 months winter data. MTCBC intends to confirm the predictions made by the model using diffusion tubes when the bus station begins operating. Secondly Trago Mills retail development is under construction. Similar developments in the South West of England have resulted in congestion and elevated NO₂ once in use. A diffusion tube on Swansea Road will be opened to monitor this.