



MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council 2017 Air Quality Progress Report – Executive Summary

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

September 2017

Executive Summary (English)

This report fulfils the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) 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.

The main cause of air pollution in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough is road traffic. As exceedances of the NO₂ annual mean air quality objective, AQO, have been detected in the Twynrodyn Road area on 30th January 2017 an AQMA was declared. Diffusion tubes indicated that in 2016 NO₂ at sites around 55 Twynrodyn Road exceeded the annual mean air quality objective, AQO, or were within 10% of it. All the diffusion tubes of concern are within the existing AQMA.

MTCBC are developing an action plan for consultation and publication. It is likely to include proposed modifications to traffic volumes along Twynrodyn Road by traffic calming and alternative routes. A potential alternative route to the North side of Twynrodyn Road is being considered, and in anticipation 4 additional diffusion tube sites have been installed.

There are two developments with the potential to affect air quality. Firstly, a planning application to build a new bus station at Swan Street. Modelling indicated the NO₂ AQO will be complied with. MTCBC intends to confirm this using diffusion tubes. Secondly Trago Mills retail development is under construction, due to open in early 2018. Similar developments in the South West of England have resulted in congestion and elevated NO₂. A diffusion tube was opened on Swansea Road in April 2017 to monitor background NO₂ for comparison when the development opens in early 2018.

The Environmental Health Department is a statutory consultee on planning applications, and attends the Strategic Tourism and Economic Regeneration Board. This allows us to consider and advise on air quality in the development process.