

Air Quality Monitoring Station – Bridge Street

Lawful Development Certificate

Supporting Statement

1. Background

- 1.1 Poor air quality has a real and significant effect on people's health and according to Public Health England is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK. In particular, long-term exposure to high levels of air pollution is known to contribute to the development of respiratory illnesses, such as asthma or bronchitis, as well as cardiovascular problems, and reduces life expectancy.
- 1.2 Whilst air quality has been generally improving over time, particular pollutants remain a serious concern in many urban areas. The most serious air pollutants are oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), principally nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) that are not visible to the naked eye but are found at dangerous levels in many urban areas and on busy roads. In Greater Manchester (GM) road transport is responsible for approximately 80% of NO₂ concentrations at the roadside, of which diesel vehicles are the largest source.
- 1.3 Like many other conurbations in the UK, Greater Manchester contains areas that suffer from poor air quality. There are 152 stretches of road within the conurbation where concentrations of NO₂ are forecast to exceed the legal Limit Value for NO₂ (40 µg/m³) beyond 2020 and a single Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) has been declared for the conurbation which covers sections of each of the ten districts.
- 1.4 Since 2010 the UK has been in breach of the Limit Value for annual mean concentration of NO₂, as set by the Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC), which was implemented into English law by the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010. This is as a result of elevated NO₂ concentrations in major urban areas, including GM.
- 1.5 Under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 each of the local authorities in Greater Manchester has a statutory duty to review air quality within its area, both at the present time and the likely future air quality. The UK Government's Air Quality Plan requires local authorities with persistent exceedances to undertake local action to consider the best option to meet the NO₂ Limit Value in the shortest possible time. The Secretary of State has instructed GM to take quick action to reduce harmful NO₂ levels, issuing a direction under the Environment Act 1995 to undertake feasibility studies to identify measures for reducing NO₂ concentrations to within the legal Limit Value in the "shortest possible time".
- 1.6 The GM Clean Air Plan (GM CAP) which aims to reduce concentrations of NO₂ in areas which have been forecast to exceed the legal limits in the shortest possible time and by 2024 at the latest, in line with Government guidance.
- 1.7 The predicted last location to comply with legal limits is the A34 at Bridge St, Manchester. Greater Manchester is required to demonstrate that the legal limits are being met, and that

the proposed Clean Air Zone measures which would come sequentially into force are delivering the necessary rate of predicted improvements to measured air quality. It is therefore critical that reference standard monitoring is available, and is located at the last sites used to underpin the GM CAP and response to the Ministerial Directive. The siting requirements as set out in the Ambient Air Quality Directive are prescriptive and therefore the options of siting are restricted to the location identified and selected.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 To address the Secretary of State's direction under the Environment Act 1995 to undertake feasibility studies to identify measures for reducing NO₂ concentrations to within the legal Limit Value in the "shortest possible time" it is proposed to install a new air quality monitoring station on A34 at Bridge St, Manchester (see the map attached). The proposed monitoring station will accommodate instruments to monitor concentrations of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x).
- 2.2 It is proposed that the monitoring station will be sited on the northern side of Bridge Street in line with the bollards outside of nos. 71 – 75 Bridge Street (Granada Dry Cleaners). This proposed location is indicated in the image below. There may however be a requirement to microsite the monitoring station within the area shown in the red line boundary to avoid impacting on underground utilities infrastructure.

Fig 1: Proposed Location of Monitoring Station



- 2.3 The monitoring equipment will be housed within a roadside enclosure, the dimensions of which are: 1300mm x 300mm x 1030mm. An air conditioning unit and cover will be mounted to the side of the enclosure – this will project 240mm from the side of the enclosure and will

be 570mm in height. A sample pump and inlet(s) will protrude above the enclosure and will be enclosed within a protective mesh cage. This mesh cage will project a maximum of 160mm above the enclosure.

3. General Permitted Development Order

3.1 The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 sets out classes of development for which a grant of planning permission is automatically given, provided that no restrictive condition is attached or that the development is exempt from the permitted development rights.

3.2 Schedule 2, Part 12 of the Order relates to development by local authorities. Class A of this section of the order states that the following is considered to be permitted development:

“The erection or construction and the maintenance, improvement or other alteration by a local authority or by an urban development corporation of—

(a) any small ancillary building, works or equipment on land belonging to or maintained by them required for the purposes of any function exercised by them on that land otherwise than as statutory undertakers;

(b) lamp standards, information kiosks, passenger shelters, public shelters and seats, telephone boxes, fire alarms, public drinking fountains, horse troughs, refuse bins or baskets, barriers for the control of people waiting to enter public service vehicles, electric vehicle charging points and any associated infrastructure, and similar structures or works required in connection with the operation of any public service administered by them.”

3.3 The interpretation to this section of the order clarifies that the reference to any small ancillary building, works or equipment is a reference to any ancillary building, works or equipment not exceeding 4 metres in height or 200 cubic metres in capacity.

4. Assessment

4.1 As detailed above, under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 all local authorities have a statutory duty to review air quality within their area, both at the present time and the likely future air quality.

4.2 The proposed location of the monitoring station on A34 at Bridge St, Manchester, is within the designated AQMA. It is also on a section of highway where concentrations of NO₂ are forecast to exceed the legal Limit Value for NO₂ (40 µg/m³) beyond 2020. Therefore a monitoring station in this location is required in order to provide the evidence base required to assess the impact of local actions made to improve air quality and to assist the Council with exercising its duties under the Environment Act.

- 4.3 The monitoring station would be installed on an area of footway that forms part of the adopted highway. As such, it would be located on land that is within the Council's ownership.
- 4.4 The monitoring station enclosure would have a height of 1,300mm with a mesh protective cage projecting an additional 160mm above this. As a result, the total height of the enclosure (1,460mm) is below the maximum height referred to in Schedule 2, Part 12, Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. The volume of the proposed monitoring station would also be significantly less than the 200 cubic metres in capacity referred to in this section of the Order.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The proposed monitoring station would constitute a small ancillary building / works / equipment required for a purpose exercised by the Council. The monitoring station would be located on adopted highway and would therefore be on land within the Council's ownership. In addition, it would be less than 4m in height and less than 200 cubic metres in capacity.
- 5.2 As a result, it is considered that the proposed air quality monitoring station would constitute permitted development under Schedule 2, Part 12, Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015.