**12th May 2023**

**Air Quality Matters Briefing Note associated with EIP discussion around Delivery Policy ES5.**

Maps of all monitoring points in the District are attached as separate PDFs.

Air quality in the Stroud District continues to be good. The current Annual Status Review (ASR) identifies improving air quality as a result of a general trend towards lower NO2 concentrations. At present it is only necessary for Nitrogen Dioxide to be monitored which the Council carry out at locations in the District. In fact, only one monitoring location experienced a NO2 concentration just in excess of 30µg/m3 which compares favourably with the annual air quality objective of 40µg/m3.

Note that ASRs are produced for the previous year - i.e the 2021 ASR was produced in 2022. This is because it requires a full year of data and laboratory bias correction data is not available until approximately April of the following year. The 2022 ASR will be produced later this year – currently anticipated this Autumn. Likewise the new monitoring points shown on the maps will not yet have data available.

The ASR provides an overview of air quality in Stroud District. It fulfils the requirements of Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) as set out in Part IV of the Environment Act (1995) and the relevant Policy and Technical Guidance documents. The Council therefore currently await the bias correction data for 2022 in order to commence work on the 2022 ASR. The concentrations in the Stroud District do not exceed nationally set levels. Where air quality is thought likely to be a material factor, Environmental Protection Officers would request an Air Quality Report as part of the planning process.

All air quality monitoring results are contained within the ASRs. As stated under MIQs DEFRA does also produce air quality Background Maps for the whole country based on **estimated** annual mean concentrations over 1 km grid squares. Although it provides background data as modelled by DEFRA, the information on which it is based is often a number of years out-of-date (current data is from 2018) and is an estimate.