

Report to	North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority
Date	17 July 2023
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Contact Officer	Tim Christensen, Environment and Climate Change Manager
Subject	Environmental Strategy 2023-2030



PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report presents a proposed Environmental Strategy for consideration by the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority). Authority Members from each of the constituent local authorities have been convened in a Working Group to develop the Environmental Strategy and specific targets set out within.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2 Members are asked to approve the proposed Environmental Strategy for the period 2023-2030.

BACKGROUND

- 3 The proposed Environmental Strategy was presented to Members at a Working Group on 4 April 2023, and endorsed by the Executive Panel on 19 June 2023.
- 4 It affirms existing legislative and policy commitments under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- 5 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies to consider the long-term impacts of decisions in a number of ways. The relevant duties to the preparation of an environmental strategy for the Service fall under the heading 'A Resilient Wales':
 - 1) **Biodiversity and Soil** Maintain and enhance the natural environment through managing land appropriately to create healthy functioning ecosystems
 - 2) **Natural Green Space** Support social resilience and community well-being
 - 3) **Knowledge of Nature** Increase awareness of the importance of a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems
 - 4) **Water and Air Quality** Support ecological resilience, making the environment healthier for wildlife and people

- 6 The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 sets out an ambition for the Welsh Government to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in Wales to net zero by the year 2050.
- 7 In accordance with this duty, the Welsh Government has prepared a series of interim carbon budgets, including under Carbon Budget 3 (CB3) an ambition for the Welsh public sector to be net zero carbon by 2030. This is binding on the Welsh Government as a whole, and not specific public bodies.
- 8 The Service is a signatory to the Emergency Services Environment and Sustainability Group (EESG) Sustainability Charter, which sets out the following relevant commitments:
 - 1) Work towards net zero carbon emissions through improving the energy efficiency of our estate and sustainable business and personal travel.
 - 2) Improve resource efficiency and adopt circular economy approaches to reducing waste and save money.
 - 3) Restore and enhance local biodiversity through considered management of our estates.
 - 4) Adapt to inevitable climate change through proactively managing our ability to respond to extreme weather events and changes to service demand.
 - 5) Take action to avoid or mitigate pollution of water courses.
 - 6) Minimise our reliance on fossil fuels by actively seeking to generate renewable energy at our sites, and through the adoption of greener technologies and fuels for our fleet.

INFORMATION

- 9 Arguably the most pressing environmental issue facing the Service is the need to reduce our carbon emissions. To do this, we first need to quantify them, then take appropriate measures to minimise them in the most cost-effective way.
- 10 In accordance with internationally recognised standards, our carbon emissions are reported under three scopes:

Scope 1: Direct Emissions – These are our ‘exhaust pipe’ emissions where we emit greenhouse gases directly by burning hydrocarbon fuels ourselves

Scope 2: Indirect Emissions – These are emissions made by others on our behalf, where the supply is under our control and the degree of emissions is largely in direct proportion to the demand – the only thing we currently report under Scope 2 is our electricity supplies.

Scope 3: Indirect Emissions – This is principally our supply chain, where the carbon intensity of products or services can be unclear and not always linear in relation to demand

- 11 The proposed Environmental Strategy sets out how we will quantify our carbon emissions under each of these scopes, and requires the development of an emissions baseline in order to track progress in reducing them.
- 12 It then mandates the development of an Environmental Key Performance Indicators (KPI) dashboard for internal monitoring purposes, supplier engagement to reduce Scope 3 emissions, the development of a Procurement Awareness training package, and the adoption of a recognised Environmental Management System.
- 13 Finally, it sets out a requirement to develop and implement the following subordinate plans / strategies setting out how emissions will be minimised:
 - Social Value and Sustainable Procurement Strategy
 - Fleet Decarbonisation Plan
 - Waste Reduction Strategy
 - Heating Decarbonisation Plan
 - Power Decarbonisation Plan
- 14 The development of these documents is being undertaken in consultation with Authority Members through the Working Group.

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	Direct implication towards meeting one of the Authority's long-term improvement and well-being objectives
Budget	The proposed Environmental Strategy has implications for both capital and operational budgets within each financial year to calendar year 2030. These are not yet quantified.
Legal	Supports compliance with improvement planning, well-being and environment legislation
Staffing	No known impact on staffing levels
Equalities/Human Rights/ Welsh Language	The impact of specific actions on these aspects will be assessed at the appropriate point in their development
Risks	Reduces the risks of legal non-compliance and of failing to budget and plan appropriately

