

Report to	North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority
Date	17 April 2023
Lead Officer	Stuart Millington, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Environment)
Contact Officer	Tim Christensen, Environment and Climate Change Manager
Subject	Environmental Strategy 2023-2030



PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report provides an update in relation to the progress made in the Environment and Sustainability working group towards the completion of an overarching Environmental Strategy. Upon completion, the draft strategy will be brought to North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2 Members are asked to note the progress made towards the completion of a draft Environmental Strategy for the period 2023-2030.

BACKGROUND

- 3 The areas for inclusion in a draft Environmental Strategy were presented to members at a Working Group on 4 April 2023.
- 4 Upon completion, this strategy will affirm 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 North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (the Service) fall under the heading 'A Resilient Wales':
 - a) **Biodiversity and Soil** Maintain and enhance the natural environment through managing land appropriately to create healthy functioning ecosystems.
 - b) **Natural Green Space** Support social resilience and community well-being.

- c) **Knowledge of Nature** Increase awareness of the importance of a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems.
 - d) **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:
- i. Work towards net zero carbon emissions through improving the energy efficiency of our estate and sustainable business and personal travel.
 - ii. Improve resource efficiency and adopt circular economy approaches to reducing waste and save money.
 - iii. Restore and enhance local biodiversity through considered management of our estates.
 - iv. Adapt to inevitable climate change through proactively managing our ability to respond to extreme weather events and changes to service demand.
 - v. Take action to avoid or mitigate pollution of water courses.
 - vi. 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 The most pressing environmental issue facing most public services relates to a requirement to reduce carbon emissions, and this is equally applicable to the Service. To do this, it is necessary to quantify emissions, 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 Environmental Strategy will set out how we will quantify our carbon emissions under each of these scopes, and will require the development of an emissions baseline in order to track progress in reducing them.
- 12 It will then mandate the development of an Environmental Key Performance Indicator (KPI) dashboard for internal monitoring purposes. It will also mandate the need for 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 will set out the requirement to develop and implement a number of sub plans or strategies setting out how emissions will be minimised. These include:
- A Social Value and Sustainable Procurement Strategy
 - A Fleet Decarbonisation Plan
 - A Waste Reduction Strategy
 - A Heating Decarbonisation Plan
 - A Power Decarbonisation Plan
- 14 The completion of the overarching Environmental Strategy, and the development of these sub documents, will be undertaken in consultation with Authority members in a number of future Working Groups, with dates already diarised for:

Tuesday 2 May 2023 at 14:00hrs

Wednesday 31 May 2023 at 14:00hrs

Thursday 22 June 2023 at 09:00hrs

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.
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.