

Report to	Executive Panel
Date	20 March 2023
Lead Officer	Stuart Millington, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Environment)
Contact Officer	Tim Christensen, Environment and Climate Change Manager
Subject	Development of the Environmental Strategy 2023-2030



PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 A working group for North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) Members took place on 14 March 2023. During this meeting, Members were given a presentation by the Environment and Climate Change Manager introducing the concept of an Environmental Strategy, and discussing some of the decisions which will need to be made in order to develop one. This report outlines the information presented to the Working Group.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2 That Members note the contents of this report.

BACKGROUND

- 3 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

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 sets out an ambition for the Welsh Government (WG) to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in Wales to net zero by the year 2050.

In accordance with this duty, the WG 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 WG as a whole, and not specific public bodies.

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

- 4 As a Fire and Rescue Service, it is important that we recognise the importance of protecting and preserving our natural environment for future generations. Our actions have a direct impact on the environment and we have a duty to reduce our environmental footprint and promote sustainability in all areas of our operations.

The proposed Environmental Strategy will outline our commitment to reducing our environmental impact. This will include implementing sustainable practices in our daily operations, reducing our carbon emissions, and promoting environmental awareness amongst our staff and members of the community.

The Strategy will set out a number of detailed plans to be developed over the coming financial year, detailing specific measures and timescales for implementation in a number of areas, including procurement, fleet, and our station estate.

Specific proposals are to be made to a subsequent Members working group on 04 April 2023.

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	Direct implication for agreeing the steps towards meeting one of the Authority's long-term improvement and well-being objectives
Budget	No budgetary implications at this stage, however the proposed Environmental Strategy will have 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