

Report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Environmental Sustainability Plan: 2021-2025

Purpose of report

1. For Members to approve the Environmental Sustainability Plan: 2021-25, prior to publication on the Service's website.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members approve the Environmental Sustainability Plan for 2021-25 and approve publication.

Introduction & Background

2. As a publicly funded organisation the Service recognise the importance of reducing our carbon emissions and the impact we have on the environment. Whilst measures to address the impact of climate change have been taken in recent years, there has not been a structured plan in place to steer how the organisation can best utilise its resources to minimise its impact on the environment and make measurable improvements in our ways of working.

Context

3. This Environmental Sustainability Plan (2021-2025) sets out how we will improve the ways in which we use our resources to ensure the least harm to our environment. It aims to put in place some prompt measures to assess and address our energy usage, and also establishes the foundations to enable future changes and improvements to the way the organisation uses and disposes of carbon based resources, water, and minimises pollution and wastage.

Key Areas of Focus

4. This plan aims to utilise any available funding to realise long term reductions in costs wherever possible, such as utilities; however this plan is not an efficiency or cost saving plan and will most likely not be cost neutral. There will be additional costs to provide the appropriate infrastructure and changes to the way we work, items we procure and how we dispose of end of life items. These costs can be contained within the medium term financial plan, alongside other identified funding within the revenue, reserve or capital programme.

Action Plan 2021 & 2022

5. The first two years of the plan intend to establish a baseline for how efficient we are today and identify areas where immediate measures could have the largest impact. It is envisaged that this will most likely be focussed on improving the insulation and efficiency of our buildings. The baseline data and initial improvements will allow the Service to measure and quantify how any future changes are contributing to reducing our impact on the environment.
6. Some investment in years 1 and 2 will facilitate future changes, such as the installation of electric vehicle charging points to enable the procurement of electric vehicles, or changes to equipment or processes enabling renewable resources or recycling to be more widespread.

Next Steps

7. Should Members approve this plan, the Senior Management Board will then be tasked to ensure that each element detailed on pages 10 and 11 will be allocated to a senior lead officer and timescales set for the delivery of each area.

Conclusion/Summary

8. This plan represents a significant step forward for the Authority in meeting governmental and public expectation in reducing the impact Hereford and Worcester Fire & Rescue Service has on the environment. This plan also aims to ensure that the Service keeps pace with the changes in technology and infrastructure required to minimise our energy and water usage and to ensure we reduce, reuse, and recycle in as many areas as possible.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues).	Financial impact has been considered and identified within the plan, reserve funding and MTFP.
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	This plan establishes a new strategic policy and links with governmental and societal expectations. It will need to be considered in future strategic reviews, such as the Asset Management Strategies.
Risk Management/Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	N/A
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter).	N/A

Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	An equalities impact assessment will be undertaken as necessary. At this stage the plan does not impact on any such issues.
--	---

Supporting Information

Appendix 1: Environmental Sustainability Plan: 2021-2025