

CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF: CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY
DATE: 23 JUNE 2021
REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMISSIONING
AUTHOR: PETER HAYES

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
STRATEGY 2020-2025

Purpose of Report

1. To allow Members to consider and approve a new environment and sustainability strategy.

Recommended: That Members

- [1] Consider and approve the Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025.

Background

2. The previous Environment and Sustainability Strategy, covering the period 2014 to 2020, was developed in response to new legislation and government targets. Whilst the chief aim of it was to steer the Service towards its carbon emissions reduction goals, which were achieved during this period, the Strategy also explored ways to reduce waste, reduce water consumption and encouraged staff, both at work and at home, to adopt behaviours and practices that supported the environmental agenda. Through education it was hoped that employees and the Service would be better prepared to deal with the impacts of climate change. In addition actions were also expected to ultimately reducing operating costs.
3. From 2014 to 2020 the Service delivered a range of initiatives in line with the 5 'arms' of the Strategy



4. Some of the achievements are listed below:

- Introduction of biomass boiler at the Sadler Road site
- Introduction of electric vehicle fleet
- Installation of solar PV at 7 sites
- Upgrades to boilers and lighting at various locations (removing oil as heating fuel and introduction of LED lighting)
- Doubling of recycling rates
- Diversion of 99.9% of all waste from landfill
- Moving away from printed communications to reduce paper and printing, e.g. The Green and Alert

Information

5. The Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025 is attached to this report as Appendix 1. It builds upon the achievements of the previous Strategy and is intended to keep up the momentum that exists in a number of areas. It has been developed in line with the UK Government's 25 year environmental plan.
6. The Strategy only covers a five year period, because it is believed that the environment and sustainability agenda will continue to develop and that the Strategy will need to be significantly updated/replaced by 2025.
7. The Vision on page 3 of the Strategy is ambitious. In order to meet that Vision there will need to be a concerted and consistent effort by staff, Members and partners. Environmental considerations will need to take greater precedence when decisions are being made, policies are being approved etc.
8. Built on the back of the previous Strategy and in the knowledge that there is a need to work towards even more challenging targets the new Strategy presents 6 Key Objectives which will help drive environment and sustainability initiatives across the Service:

- 1 Provide buildings that are energy efficient
 - 2 Reduce the fuel used by our fleet, cut emissions and costs
 - 3 Reduce business travel mileage
 - 4 Reduce waste and improve recycling rates
 - 5 Use purchasing power to drive environmental and social benefits
 - 6 Increase carbon literacy across the Service to help encourage and embed behavioural change
9. The Strategy has been produced and reviewed in conjunction with the Environment and Sustainability Working Group (ESWG). The ESWG is made up of a number of staff from around the Service, some Cheshire Constabulary colleagues and four Members.
10. Underpinning the delivery of the Strategy will be an action plan that will be reviewed by the Environment and Sustainability Working Group on a quarterly basis. Progress will be measured and reported on by the Group.

Financial Implications

11. There will be costs associated with the delivery of the various initiatives associated with the Strategy. Initiatives will be reviewed for viability (costs and benefits) prior to agreement to proceed.

Legal Implications

12. Whilst there are currently no penalties for organisations that fail to achieve Government environmental targets it is possible that there will be at some time in the future, e.g. additional taxes associated with environmental impacts. Therefore, the Service should place itself in the best possible position to meet targets, which might be expected to become even more challenging if climate change continues to accelerate. When an initiative is being considered the legal implications will be considered.

Equality and Diversity Implications

13. There are no equality and diversity implications associated with the approval of the Strategy. Such implications will be considered when an initiative is under consideration.

Environmental Implications

14. Achievement of the Key Objectives in the Strategy will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the environment.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE