

Report to	<b>Executive Panel</b>
Date	<b>17 June 2024</b>
Lead Officer	<b>Justin Evans, Assistant Chief Fire Officer</b>
Contact Officer	<b>Tim Christensen Environment and Climate Change Manager</b>
Subject	<b>Report on 2021-22 Decarbonisation Review</b>



## PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To report on progress towards enacting the recommendations of the Audit Wales report 'Carbon Emissions Reduction – North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority' dated March 2022.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2 This report reviews the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority's (the Authority) progress in addressing the Audit Wales recommendations from March 2022 on reducing carbon emissions.
- 3 Key actions include appointing an Environment and Climate Change Manager, developing a comprehensive Environmental Strategy for 2023-2030, establishing a carbon baseline, drafting detailed decarbonisation plans, revising the vehicle replacement program, engaging staff through a working group, and developing an Environmental Management System.
- 4 Members are asked to note the actions taken and the forthcoming detailed decarbonisation plans to be presented to the Authority.

## RECOMMENDATION

- 5 That Members note:
  - i) actions taken to date; and
  - ii) recommendations for detailed decarbonisation policies to be presented to the Executive Panel over the coming year

## BACKGROUND

- 6 In March 2022, Audit Wales published a review into the progress made by the Authority towards decarbonisation. This looked specifically in the context of the Welsh Government's goal for the public sector to be Net Zero carbon emissions by 2030. This target is set out under Carbon Budget 2 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- 7 The review found that there was insufficient progress towards achieving this goal, and made a number of specific recommendations. In September 2022, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (the Service) appointed an Environment and Climate Change Manager, who has worked with stakeholders (including a Working Group of Authority Members) to develop a comprehensive Environmental Strategy for the period 2023-2030. This Strategy was adopted by the Authority on 17 July 2023.
- 8 Detailed decarbonisation plans have been developed in consultation with a Members Working Group covering Fleet, Estates, Procurement and Residual Emissions. These will be submitted for approval by the Executive Panel and Full Authority over the coming year.

## INFORMATION

- 9 The recommendations made by Audit Wales, together with completed and planned relevant actions are set out below.
- 10 **Develop an Accurate Carbon Baseline**  
A carbon baseline has been established, using emissions under reporting scopes one and two from Financial Year 2021/22, and Scope 3 from Financial Year 2022/23.
- 11 **Develop a Specific Plan for Carbon Reduction**  
Following a period of consultation, including sessions with the Members Working Group, the following documents have been drafted, for consideration by Members over the coming year:
  - Heating Decarbonisation Plan
  - Power Decarbonisation Plan
  - Fleet Decarbonisation Plan
  - Residual Carbon Emissions Plan

Notable planned carbon reduction activities include introducing a sustainable diesel substitute, phased replacement of existing hydrocarbon heating systems, and installation of solar photovoltaic panels where commercially viable to do so.

12 **Revise Vehicle Replacement Programme**

Our draft Fleet Decarbonisation Plan requires the purchase of only zero or ultra-low emission vehicles from the end of calendar year 2024, in accordance with Welsh Government requirements.

It is anticipated the Service's 'white fleet' will eventually be made up of electric vehicles with a number of diesel vans running solely on Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), until operationally-suitable and commercially viable electric vans become available.

13 **Engage and Involve Staff**

An 'Environment and Sustainability Working Group' was established in early 2023, with an open invitation to staff to participate. The Group now meets on a six-weekly basis with good attendance, and is chaired by the Environment and Climate Change Manager.

14 **Strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Environmental Strategy mandates the development and adoption by the Service of an Environmental Management System (EMS). The development process is currently underway. It is anticipated that the completed EMS will satisfy the requirements of this recommendation.

## IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	This work directly supports the Authority's Well-being Objectives, aligning with broader goals for environmental sustainability and public health.
Budget	There are budgetary considerations, however these will be presented to Members at the point of consideration of the detailed decarbonisation plans.
Legal	Risk of non-compliance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
Staffing	No known staffing considerations.
Equalities/Human Rights/ Welsh Language	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Manager consulted throughout development of Environmental Strategy. No known issues arising.
Risks	Risks of specific decarbonisation strategies will be presented to Members at the point of consideration.