



Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY STATEMENT

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 23 September 2022

Purpose of Report:

To advise Members that the Service's Environment and Sustainability Policy Statement has recently been reviewed to ensure that it remains current in terms of content and signatories.

Recommendations:

That Members endorse the Policy Statement to reaffirm their commitment to matters relating to environment and sustainability.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report presents the annual review of the Service's Environment and Sustainability Policy Statement. This was last considered and endorsed by the Fire Authority on 24 September 2021.
- 1.2 Since this time a new Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2022 – 2025 has been adopted by the Service.
- 1.3 Strategic Goal 6 within the CRMP defines the Service's goals with regards to environmental sustainability and the policy statement has been reviewed to ensure that these are reflected within the updated version.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to gain endorsement from the Fire Authority for the review of Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service's (NFRS) Environment and Sustainability Policy Statement.
- 2.2 The content of the current Environment and Sustainability Policy Statement communicates the commitment of both the Service and the Authority and it reflects NFRS's approach to discharging its duty of care to minimise its impact on the environment,
- 2.3 The statement has been revised to ensure the legislation is the most up to date, and fully reflects the services aspirations with regards to environmental sustainability.
- 2.4 The key commitments within the CRMP relating to environmental sustainability are that the Service will:
 - Include environmental and sustainability considerations in decision making, governance and procurement processes;
 - Ensure that all new build and property refurbishments are sustainable and energy efficient;
 - Review processes to understand where the Service can minimise its impact on the environment;
 - Invest in electric vehicles and infrastructure;
 - Engage with partners and other agencies for a collaborative approach to reducing impacts where possible.
- 2.3 Endorsement signatures of the Chief Fire Office and the Chair of the Fire Authority will provide continued confirmation of the Service's high-level commitment to the management of environmental risk.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Although not directly related to the endorsement of the Policy Statement, there may be financial implications arising from environmental risk management initiatives in the future.
- 3.2 It is anticipated that improved environmental risk management can be used to achieve efficiency savings, for example reduced spending on vehicle fuel and energy bills. Any implications that arise will be reported to the Fire Authority as they occur.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

One of the aims of the Policy Statement is to raise the awareness of employees to environmental issues. Training currently includes elements of environmental risk management for all operational employees and enhanced training for a core group of Officers who are available as environmental advisors during incidents.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken because the Policy Statement does not introduce new policy or services.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

NFRS must comply with applicable environmental legislation. Non-compliance can result in criminal sanction. By following available good practice, the Authority can be assured of meeting its legal responsibilities.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The policy statement provides a basis for Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service's commitment to identifying hazards, quantifying risk and applying proportionate risk controls as a means of reducing loss.

9. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS

NFRS owns and occupies a number of shared premises with a variety of partners. The Service will endeavour to collaborate with joint owners and occupiers to reduce environmental impact where possible.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members endorse the Policy Statement to reaffirm their commitment to matters relating to environment and sustainability.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

Craig Parkin
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER



Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service [NFRS] is fully committed to minimising the impact that the organisational activities have on the environment. The Service is aware that factors such as changing climate, resource scarcity and the generation of waste will all have an effect on our local communities and that NFRS has a duty to reduce our impact on the environment where possible to do so.

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service aims to minimise its impact on the environment by:

- Including environment and sustainability considerations in our decision making, governance and procurement processes
 - Setting targets on key aspects of our environmental performance and monitoring these at a strategic level
 - Reviewing our processes to understand where we can minimise our impact on the environment
 - Reducing carbon emissions from our buildings by investing in energy efficient design and technology during construction and refurbishment projects, better managing energy consumption and influencing colleagues behaviour
 - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles by managing business travel, reducing the need to travel by the use of video conferencing and other technology, encouraging the use of public transport and investing in electric vehicles and infrastructure
 - Raising employee's awareness of environmental issues, encouraging environmentally responsible behaviour and providing appropriate training to enable them in playing a full role in implementing environmental objectives
 - Reducing the volume of waste which is produced at our sites with an ultimate aim of sending zero waste to landfill
 - Applying industry best practice when considering the environmental impact of our work at fires and other incidents to reduce the risk of contamination of air, land and water courses.
 - Working with partners and other agencies for a collaborative approach to reducing environmental impacts

NFRS's duty extends beyond merely reducing environmental impacts to ensuring we fulfil our responsibility for 'creating safer communities' by responding to flooding and other events associated with a changing climate.

The Service will continue to:

Work with the Environmental Agency and other local organisations to review the areas of flood risk with Nottinghamshire and ensure appropriate equipment, resources and trained firefighters are available to respond to flooding when they are needed

Endorsed by the Combined Fire Authority at its meeting of 16 September 2022

Signed _____ Chief Fire Officer _____

Signed Chair of CFA