



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**  
**Fire & Rescue Service**  
*Creating Safer Communities*

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham  
Fire and Rescue Authority

# **ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY STATEMENT**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

**Date:** 23 September 2016

**Purpose of Report:**

To gain Fire Authority endorsement of Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service's Environment and Sustainability Policy Statement in support of its Integrated Risk Management Plan Priority 5.

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service's (NFRS) Integrated Risk Management Plan identified 'The Environment' as one of the six Service priorities for 2014-2019.
- 1.2 An initial environmental review has been undertaken to determine those aspects of the Service's activities that are having the most significant impacts on the environment. The results of this review have been used to inform the aims of an Environment and Sustainability Policy Statement.
- 1.3 The Policy Statement demonstrates the Service's commitment to environmental and sustainability issues and provides an overview of Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service's aims and objectives with regard to environmental and sustainability performance.

## **2. REPORT**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to gain endorsement from the Fire Authority for the NFRS Environment and Sustainability Policy Statement.
- 2.2 The Environment and Sustainability Policy Statement is intended to communicate the commitment of NFRS to environmental improvement to employees, members of the public, the supply chain and other stakeholders.
- 2.3 Endorsement signatures of the Chief Fire Officer and the Chair of the Fire Authority provide confirmation of the Service's high level commitment to the management of environmental risk.
- 2.4 Departmental audits have already been completed within the Service, with a supporting action plan, which is routinely reported to the Executive Delivery Team to ensure highlighted actions are being completed and now forms part of day to day activity.
- 2.5 A framework of measures that ensure the Authority meets its committed environmental priorities within its IRMP are already in place, these include the agreed Estates Strategy, procurement framework and Transport Strategy currently in development.
- 2.6 It is planned to report progress against the audit actions at the February 2017 Policy and Strategy committee meeting, this will seek to assure members that NFRS are proactively working towards its environmental responsibilities and commitment of the Authority.

## **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**

- 4.1 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. Awareness training will be extended to all employees.
- 4.2 It is anticipated that awareness training can be delivered via internal communication channels, e-learning and existing learning and development provision.

#### **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**

No additional implications are presented by this report or the attached Environmental and Sustainability Statement.

#### **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. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members endorse the Policy Statement to fully support its Integrated Risk Management Plan.

<b>10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)</b>
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None.

John Buckley  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**



Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service are fully committed to minimising the impact that our organisational activities have on the environment. The Service is aware that factors such as a 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 it is possible to do so.

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service has committed to reducing the Service's impact on the environment as part of its five year plan which runs from 2014-2019. As a minimum this plan requires compliance with all relevant legislation; however as a Service we aim to go further than this through innovation and the adoption of best practice

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

- Setting targets on key aspects of our environmental performance and reviewing them periodically.
- 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 other less polluting forms of transportation.
- Raising employees' awareness of environmental issues, encouraging environmentally responsible behaviour and providing appropriate training to enable them to play a full role in implementing environmental objectives.
- Reducing the volume of waste that is produced at our sites with the 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, water courses and land.

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 Environment Agency and other local organisations to review the areas of flood risk within 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 23 September 2016.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chief Fire Officer**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chair of the FA**