



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

Meeting and date: Overview and Audit Committee, 10 November 2021

Report title: Climate Action Plan

Lead Member: TBC

Report sponsor: Mark Hemming, Director of Finance and Assets

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Action: Decision

Recommendations: It is recommended that:

1. The Climate Action Plan be recommended to the Authority for approval;
2. The Authority be recommended to nominate and appoint a Lead Member for climate change.

Executive summary:

This paper is being presented to the Committee following the debate at the meeting in July, and the commitment from officers to bring a paper for further consideration and debate. The Committee is asked to consider the Climate Action Plan in Appendix 1 before recommending it to the Authority for approval.

Production of the Plan has been informed by Local Government Association (LGA) guidance and case studies, as well as consideration of the strategies, frameworks and policies of other public sector bodies within the Thames Valley region.

The Plan sets out how the Authority will respond to climate change through:

- Adaptation – optimising Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service’s response to extreme weather events such as flooding and wildfires
- Mitigation - taking action to reduce its own carbon emissions, while encouraging its staff and communities to do the same

The Plan details five key areas, the first of which falls within the adaptation category, with the rest coming under the mitigation category:

- Prevent, Protect, Respond
- Buildings and Energy
- Transportation
- Waste Reduction
- Supply Chain

For each of these five areas, the Plan sets out current actions being taken, as well as future aims. Actions to achieve the future aims are then scheduled into an action plan on page 5 of Appendix 1.

As far as possible, actions are to be included within updates to existing strategies as and when they become due for renewal.

Financial implications: There are no direct financial implications associated with the Climate Action Plan. Any implications of future actions that have a financial impact will be subject to approval in accordance with Financial Regulations and Instructions.

Risk management: The Authority's [2020-25 Public Safety Plan](#) (PSP) identifies climate change as a risk to the communities it serves. In addition to ensuring that Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) is properly prepared to deal the effects of climate change on its risk and demand profile, the PSP also commits to reducing the impact on the environment from BFRS's own operations and infrastructure. Specific projects and actions designed to address this issue will be included in the Corporate Plan and progress monitored by the Business Transformation Board. Also, Authority Members (and specifically the Lead Member if appointed with such responsibility) will be updated on progress with the Climate Action Plan and the impact of measures taken.

Legal implications:

The Authority can use environmental and social award criteria (provided that the criteria are linked to the subject matter of the contract and non-discriminatory) when awarding contracts (regulation 68(3)(a), the Public Contracts Regulations 2015).

The [Cleaner Road Transport Vehicles Regulations 2011](#) (SI 2011/1631), as amended by the [Cleaner Road Transport Vehicles \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#) (2020/964) impose obligations on the Authority to take into account energy consumption and emissions when purchasing or leasing vehicles.

On 3 June 2021, the Cabinet Office published [Procurement Policy Note 05/21: National Procurement Policy Statement](#) (PPN 05/21), which has immediate effect, together with the [National Procurement Policy Statement](#) (NPPS). PPN 05/21 states that "The Government intends to bring forward legislation when Parliamentary time allows to ensure that [...] all contracting authorities are required to have regard to the [NPPS] when undertaking procurements." In turn the NPPS states that "tackling climate change and reducing waste" is one of three national priorities to which the Authority must have regard when exercising its procurement functions. It states that bodies including the Authority "should consider the following social value outcomes alongside any additional local priorities:

- contributing to the UK Government’s legally-binding target¹ to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050;
- reducing waste, improving resource efficiency and contributing to the move towards a circular economy;
- identifying and prioritising opportunities in sustainable procurement to deliver additional environmental benefits, for example enhanced biodiversity, through the delivery of the contract.”

Privacy and security implications: No direct impact.

Duty to collaborate: The Plan has been developed with reference to the corresponding Thames Valley Police and South Central Ambulance Service policies, as well as those of Buckinghamshire Council, Milton Keynes Council and Oxfordshire County Council. The latter councils are all listed as having made declarations of Climate Emergency <https://www.climateemergency.uk/blog/list-of-councils/>

Health and safety implications: No direct impact.

Environmental implications: The Climate Action Plan demonstrates the Authority’s commitment to addressing the issue of climate change. Detailed environmental implications are detailed within the Plan in Appendix 1.

Equality, diversity, and inclusion implications: No direct impact.

Consultation and communication: Communication and training considerations are detailed within the Plan in Appendix 1.

Background papers:

Local Government Association. 2020. Climate emergency: Fire and rescue services. https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/10.45%20Climate%20emergency%20and%20fire%20services_web_1.pdf

Thames Valley Police. 2018. Environmental Management Policy. <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/thames-valley-police/policies/policy---environmental-management.pdf>

South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust. 2021. Environmental Policy. <https://www.scas.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/Environmental-Policy.pdf>

Appendix	Title	Protective Marking
1	Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Climate Action Plan	None

¹ See the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 in force since 27 June 2019 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/1056/contents/made>