



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE**

## **Environmental Strategy 2024-28**



*PASSIONATE ABOUT*  
**CHANGING & SAVING LIVES**

## About this strategy:

To help make Dorset and Wiltshire a safer place to live, work or visit, we need to ensure that all our efforts and resources are focused on having the right people in the right place, at the right time, with the right skills and equipment to prevent, support and respond to emergencies when they happen.

To help guide our thinking, and to keep ahead of an everchanging world, we regularly review both our external operating environment, as well as carry out an internal analysis of where our Service needs to be. This is delivered through our Strategic Assessment of Risk (SAR). Our SAR supports the development and review of our strategic plan, which we call our Community Safety Plan, along with the delivery of our five organisational strategies, which includes this Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

The delivery of this Environmental Sustainability Strategy therefore sets out the areas of focus for the next four years, to support the reduction of the Service's carbon footprint and improve the impact on our communities and the environment.

This strategy is translated into an on-the-ground action at department, station and team level through our Service Delivery Plan, which is underpinned by a comprehensive performance framework. This helps us to remain an efficient and effective Service, plan for the future, meet our changing need and ensuring the delivery of our key priorities.

## Purpose:

The purpose of this strategy is to set out a long-term pathway to deliver against the ambition set out the Community Safety Plan and the policies agreed by the Authority. In developing this document, we have considered the:

- problems and critical issues we need to respond to
- policy objectives set out by the Authority
- Service priorities and our capacity to achieve them

This strategy is structured to provide a picture of where we are now, and the context for the journey we intend to go on. It outlines what we want to achieve and provides a picture of our intentions over the next four years.

All five Service strategies are interlinked across all of the Service's directorates; therefore, their delivery is overseen by the members of the Cross Directorate team. Each strategy is led by a key director and for this strategy the Assistant Chief Officer - Director of Service Support has responsibility. Delivery progress will be monitored through the Service's performance management arrangements, ultimately reported through to the Strategic Leadership Team and the Fire Authority.

These symbols highlight where we have a focus on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion



and Environmental Sustainability



## Strategic issues and challenges

### From looking at our Strategic Assessment of Risk we expect:

- there will be financial volatility and uncertainty for the foreseeable future
- a global and national focus for organisations to ensure environmental sustainability
- impacts across our communities and type of operational incidents from climate change and extreme weather

### The strategic focus for Environmental Sustainability, for the Service, over the next four years will be to:

- continue to support the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) through planned and sustainable reductions in revenue and capital spending
- 🌈 focus on the wellbeing of our staff and our organisational culture
- optimise the use of and, where possible, reduce the size of our estate
- 🌱 strengthen the estate to meet and sustain cultural and environmental requirements
- decrease the size of our fleet, whilst maximising its lifecycle
- 🌱 reduce and change our fleet and equipment to meet environmental legislation, and manufacturers' transition to alternative-fuel vehicles
- 🌈 focus on the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff to ensure an open and positive organisational culture
- 🌱 continue to strengthen Service wide championing of environmental responsibility
- 🌱 further improve efficiencies in waste management
- 🌱 secure additional opportunities to continue to reduce the Co2 emissions of the Service
- 🌱 deliver more sustainable opportunities of our energy management
- 🌱 ensure that environmental considerations continue to be at the forefront of organisational decision making and change
- improve the Service's position for future financial sustainability by reducing the Service's budget by £2.5m over the next 2 years
- further strengthen our productivity, and value for money including better aligning our resources to risk and demand
- deliver key strategic projects, including the training centre, command and control system and the productivity programme

## A greener estate

### Where are we now:

- 🌱 collaborating with our partners to reduce the carbon footprint by sharing properties
- ensuring our properties are well-maintained, meet safety standards, and operate efficiently
- 🌱 championing environmental sustainability by supporting green projects like LED lighting and photovoltaic solar panels
- developing new training facilities on existing sites, enabling us to streamline our overall estate
- 🌱 working with 'Green Champions' to identify areas of opportunity to improve services
- 🌱 engaging with partners, to identify best practices and efficiencies, through opportunities including the Emergency Services Environmental and Sustainability Group
- 🌱 reducing the use of paper through digital by default practises and enhanced technology
- 🌱 complying with all appropriate environmental legislation

- providing recycling facilities at all stations and undertaking audits to reduce waste management
- collating and analysing utility usage data across our estate
- sharing our estate with our partners

## Where will we be in four years:

- continuing to monitor our environmental responsibilities and meeting legislative requirements
- reducing harmful impacts to the environmental, where possible, through our practises.
- minimising our waste to landfill
- achieving and evidencing a reduction in Co2 emissions, across our utilities, compared to the average over the past five years
- seeing the benefits from the installation of solar panels at locations and installing across more of the estate
- continuing to share properties with our partners to reduce the carbon footprint
- having well-maintained, efficient and condensed greener estate, meeting safety standards and reducing carbon footprint
- providing operational training through two bespoke Service sites, with a reduced environmental impact
- more sites with photovoltaic solar panels installed
- green champions supporting each site to improve awareness and reduce environmental impact
- continuing to work with partners and specialists to strengthen the Service and identify opportunities for improvement
- using technology to log and report our environmental journey at all sites, through dashboards
- complying with all appropriate environmental legislation

## How will we get there:

- continue to rationalise and consolidate our estate, maximise the potential of our existing sites and explore the relocation of our Fire Control
- enhance facilities at Amesbury Fire Station
- strategically plan for greener technologies and vehicles
- develop a heat decarbonisation plan and implement improvements identified to reduce our carbon footprint
- strengthen the Green Champion Network and wider staff awareness in environmental sustainability
- continuing to work with and learn from our partners
- analysing data and challenging utility usage outliers across our estate using department and team dashboards
- deliver our training provision project with the delivery of two training centres using environmental technologies
- monitor and evaluate the success of the solar panel installations across the six sites and identify opportunities to widen the project across more of the estate
- procure our energy from green tariffs from 100% renewable sources, to further reduce our carbon footprint
- reviewing our waste management arrangements and providing appropriate requirements at each site
- plan infrastructure upgrades for new vehicle technology
- plan for cost of infrastructure improvements for new vehicle technology, including opportunities for joint infrastructure
- optimise our ability to access government funding and subsidies

## Greener fleet and equipment

### Where are we now:

- sustaining our International Organisation for Standardisation for Asset Management (ISO 55001) accreditation
- trialling electric and hybrid vehicles within our fleet, including for officers' response vehicles
- reducing vehicle numbers in our non-operational fleet
- collaborating with other fire and rescue services for best practices and efficiencies
- extending the life of specialised fire engines for enhanced utilisation and cost-efficiency
- utilising reuse opportunities when disposing of vehicles and equipment
- reviewing equipment requirements through the equipment review group and trialling new options for consideration

### Where will we be in four years:

- continuing to use technologies to reduce our carbon footprint and environmental impact
- running a reduced and greener fleet and reducing vehicle emissions
- using data to inform fleet decisions and requirements
- infrastructure installed at appropriate sites across the Service, aligned to fleet requirements
- specialist vehicles and equipment across the fleet, allocated at key locations to meet current and future risk and demand of the Service
- sustaining our accreditation to ISO55001 for Asset management
- collaborating with other fire and rescue services, partners and the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) for best practise, learning and efficiencies
- well embedded arrangements for greener disposal of vehicles and equipment
- continuing to provide appropriate equipment and trialling new opportunities

### How will we get there:

- use the Fire Cover Review and telematics data installed in our vehicles to inform future fleet decisions
- research alternative fuel systems for emergency response vehicles
- plan infrastructure upgrades for new vehicle technology
- ensure vehicle replacements align with our environmental strategy and legislation
- continuously promote fuel consumption reduction through best practices
- regularly review viability of low operational availability fire engines and those that have low community risk
- undertake a full review of specialist vehicles, including vehicle and equipment requirements and locations
- undertake a review of the disposal arrangements for equipment and look for more greener and sustainable options to be implemented

## Championing environmental sustainability

### Where are we now:

- embedding sustainability in our supply chain and all Service activities
- 🌱 installing photovoltaic solar panels to reduce our carbon emissions and energy costs
- 🌱 continuing to support smarter working and working from home, to reduce our building and travel carbon emissions
- 🌱 raising awareness of positive environmental schemes to support our Service, and in the wider communities
- 🌱 sharing positive practices, skills, and awareness with our partners to reduce costs and carbon emissions
- 🌱 trialling alternative and greener modes of fleet to reduce our carbon emissions and costs
- 🌱 undertaking environmental audits to prepare for the decarbonisation of our estate

### Where will we be in four years:

- 🌱 using environmental impact assessments, though business as usual practises, to support decision making
- strengthened sustainability across all our supply chains and through all Service activities
- 🌱 photovoltaic solar panels installed at all appropriate sites across the Service
- 🌱 seeing a significant reduction in building and travel carbon emissions, through smarter working and technology practises
- 🌱 staff seeing the benefits of positive environmental schemes across the Service and wider communities
- 🌱 continuing to work with partners to improve skills and awareness to reduce costs and carbon emissions
- 🌱 running a reduced and greener fleet, with reduced carbon emissions
- 🌱 delivering against our decarbonisation plan across the estate
- tighter practises for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), supplies and uniform allocation
- 🌱 well embedded arrangements for greener disposal of uniform, PPE and other supplies

### How will we get there:

- 🌱 drive awareness through behaviour change, and training within our watch manager Sustainability Champions Network
- 🌱 procure our energy from green tariffs from 100% renewable sources, to further reduce our carbon footprint
- 🌱 strengthening and widening environmental reporting
- 🌱 monitor and report on environmental projects, financial and carbon savings
- 🌱 ensure our waste and water targets are in-line with environmental legislation
- implementing tighter provisions for the allocation and ordering of personal protective equipment, supplies and uniform
- strengthening our Asset Management System and widening its use for PPE
- 🌱 delivering regular campaigns to highlight and inform staff on how they can make a difference through behavioural change
- 🌱 identify and secure external grants to implement sustainable projects to support the environmental journey and improvement
- 🌱 continue to implement sustainable alternatives on all single use items, including plastic products
- 🌱 undertake a review of disposal arrangements for uniform, PPE and other supplies to ensure they are as green and sustainable as possible

