

<b>REPORT REFERENCE NO.</b>	<b>RC/24/16</b>
<b>MEETING</b>	<b>RESOURCES COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>30 SEPTEMBER 2024</b>
<b>SUBJECT OF REPORT</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY UPDATE</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER – SERVICE DELIVERY SUPPORT</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<i>That the report be noted.</i>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>The report provides an update on key aspects of the Environmental Board action plan and the annual reporting of the Service carbon footprint compared to previous years.</p> <p><b>Action Plan</b></p> <p>A heating decarbonisation plan for 13 sites has been developed from the grant received from the Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) and has been included at Appendix A.</p> <p>The grant application to progress heat decarbonisation plans at Greenbank and Middlemoor has been successful and £325,090 has been awarded from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS). The design work has commenced and the procurement for the delivery is due to be tendered in October 2024, which are due to be completed by March 2026. A further application for PSDS is being considered for Autumn 2024.</p> <p>The pilot Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) and Electric Vehicles (EV) for the first four pilot sites have been completed. The Service is progressing towards phases 2 and 3, with phase 2 on track with one site installed during July-24 and due to complete the remaining sites by year end.</p> <p>An annual review of the environmental legislative register and materiality matrix has been updated to reflect changing environmental risks and inform future plans.</p> <p><b>Carbon Footprint</b></p> <p>The carbon footprint calculation relates to the reporting period 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024. The main changes in emissions since 2022 / 2023 reporting are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope 1 emissions have decreased overall by 229.3 tCO<sub>2</sub>e primarily from diesel reductions from new fleet.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope 2 emissions have decreased marginally by 2 tCO<sub>2</sub>e from reduced consumption of electricity.</li> <li>• Scope 3 emissions have increased significantly by 3116.9 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. The Service has broadened its scope 3 categories this year.</li> </ul> <p>The total emissions for the period 2023-2024 have increased by 2886 tCO<sub>2</sub>e when compared with the 2022-2023 report due to inclusion of purchased goods and services in scope 3.</p> <p>The carbon footprint summary is reported in the annual statement of accounts and the full GHG emissions report has been included at Appendix B.</p>
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	There is a dedicated environmental reserve to support new environmental initiatives. Infrastructure costs are planned and agreed within the fleet and estates capital or revenue budgets.
<b>EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS</b>	None for this reporting period
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<p>A. Heat Decarbonisation plan for 13 sites.</p> <p>B. Carbon Footprint Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Report 2023-2024.</p>
<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	Environmental Strategy

## 1. **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. In October 2020, the Authority resolved to declare a climate emergency and to endorse an Environmental Strategy whereby the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service (the Service) would, through adaptation and mitigation, seek to address climate change issues.
- 1.2. At its meeting on 29 September 2021 (Minute DSFRA/21/22 refers), the Authority approved the following additions to the Resources Committee's Terms of Reference regarding Environmental Strategy performance:

### ***Advisory only***

Acting as a Working Party, to consider with relevant officers the development of the Environmental Strategy and associated potential performance measures for forthcoming years for approval by the Authority;

### ***Matters with Delegated Powers to Act***

To scrutinise and monitor the effectiveness of the Service in meeting the Authority-approved Environmental Strategy objectives.

- 1.3. This report provides the Committee with an update against the Environmental Strategy.

## 2. **STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD AND ACTION PLAN – UPDATE**

- 2.1. The Service has a Strategic Environmental Board with dedicated working groups to develop, deliver and oversee progress of the Environmental Strategy and action plan aligned to the principles within the environmental management standard ISO14001 and to meet the Service environmental goals to be carbon neutral by 2030 and net positive by 2050.
- 2.2. The Strategic Environmental Board reviews progress of the plans and activities for the working groups. Board members are also engaged in the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and Emergency Services environmental and sustainability groups.
- 2.3. The working groups have been focused on delivery of;
  1. Implementation of electric vehicle charging points at the first four pilot sites; Headquarters, Middlemoor, Taunton and Torquay and introduction of the first electric pool vehicles.
  2. Development of the Services first heat decarbonisation plan using grant funding received from the Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF), attached at Appendix A.
  3. Prepared and submitted applications for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for two sites; Greenbank and Middlemoor fire stations.
  4. Introduced additional energy efficiency measures such as heating reductions and controls, PV panels, LED replacements and behaviour change awareness on energy usage.

5. Undertaken a review of the light support vehicles to reduce numbers and increase vehicle utilisation.
  6. Annual review of the environmental aspects and legislative registers and materiality matrix to review environmental risks.
  7. Identifying and including additional data for scope 3 emissions in accordance with the GHG emissions reporting protocols.
- 2.4. Further details of the work undertaken by these Groups is set out at sections 3 and 4 of this report.

### **3. ALTERNATIVE FUELS WORKING GROUP**

- 3.1. The Service has introduced telematics on most light support vehicles and as a result, reduced the number of vehicles by 27 and is monitoring vehicle utilisation on a regular basis. 6 electric vehicles are in use with 13 more due for delivery in 2024-25. Some of these vehicles will benefit from the government Plug-in Vehicle Grant (PIVG). The Service will look for further opportunities to source vehicles using the grant funding opportunities.
- 3.2. The Service has completed phase 1 of the introduction of Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) for four sites, namely Service Headquarters, Middlemoor, Taunton and Torquay which are operational. Installation of Phase 2 will commence in 2024-25 at a further 3 locations, the Academy (Exeter), Barnstaple and Yeovil to support training and Academy hubs. Office for Zero Emissions Vehicles (OZEV) grant funding has been received to support the introduction of EVCI which is available for both service vehicles and staff charging.
- 3.3. A salary sacrifice scheme to transition staff to EVs has been introduced with 21 vehicles delivered with additional orders.
- 3.4. The terms of reference for this group have been achieved and the working group has closed and transferred ongoing implementation to relevant functions for delivery.
- 3.5. The next priorities for fleet carbon reduction will be to review the introduction of telematics in operational appliances and vehicles and the future use of renewable biofuels.

### **4. ESTATES WORKING GROUP**

- 4.1. The energy and decarbonisation study identified that the estate building fabrication and that decarbonisation plans at a site-specific level would be required to make effective decarbonisation of the Service's buildings. Due to the condition and age of some of the Service's estate, all projects would need significant 'fabric first' energy generation solutions to help mitigate increased electricity consumption from low-carbon heat solutions. There remains a considerable number of ageing buildings with fossil fuel heating systems due for replacement.

- 4.2. The Service applied for Low Carbon Skills funding (LCSF) of £0.095m for external consultancy support for the development of a heat decarbonisation plan for 13 sites. The 13 sites account for approximately 50% of the electricity and 60% gas utilisation across the estate. The consultancy works also included detailed drawings and technical heating decarbonisation plans for three sites; Greenbank, Middlemoor and Yeovil.
- 4.3. The Service has since applied for and been successful at securing £0.326m of Public Sector Decarbonisation Schemes (PSDS) grant funding for two sites - Greenbank and Middlemoor.
- 4.4. The Service prepared and submitted an LCSF application in 2024 which was not successful due to volume of applications received but will be considering a PSDS application in Autumn 2024.
- 4.5. A copy of the heat decarbonisation plan has been included as an appendix A for information purposes.

## 5. **CARBON FOOTPRINT 2023-2024**

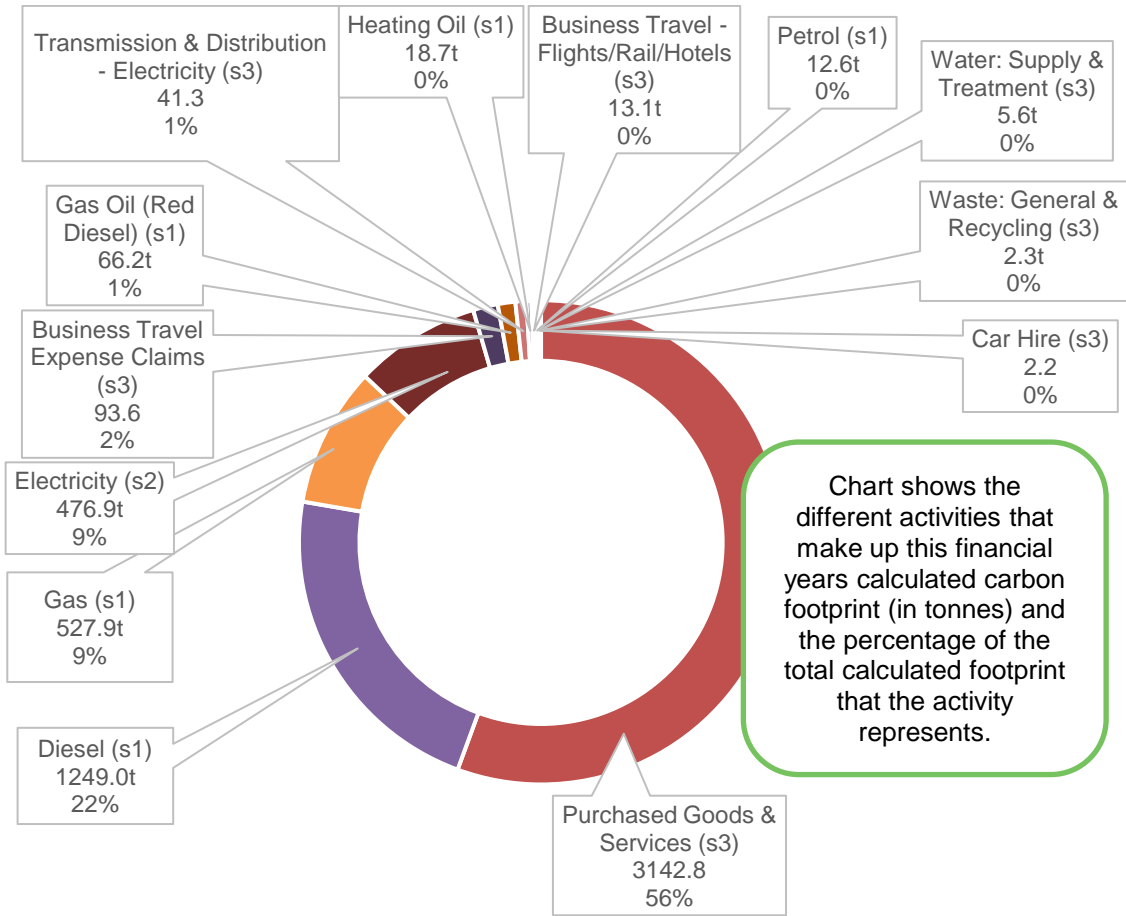
- 5.1. The Service has followed the UK Government environmental reporting guidance to report its scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. The Service has broadened its scope 3 categories this year, building on previous years data which has resulted in an overall increase but more accurate carbon footprint total. The Service continues to review areas for inclusion within scope 3 and improvement of data quality.

**TABLE 1 – BREAKDOWN OF CARBON FOOTPRINT SCOPE 1, 2 & 3**

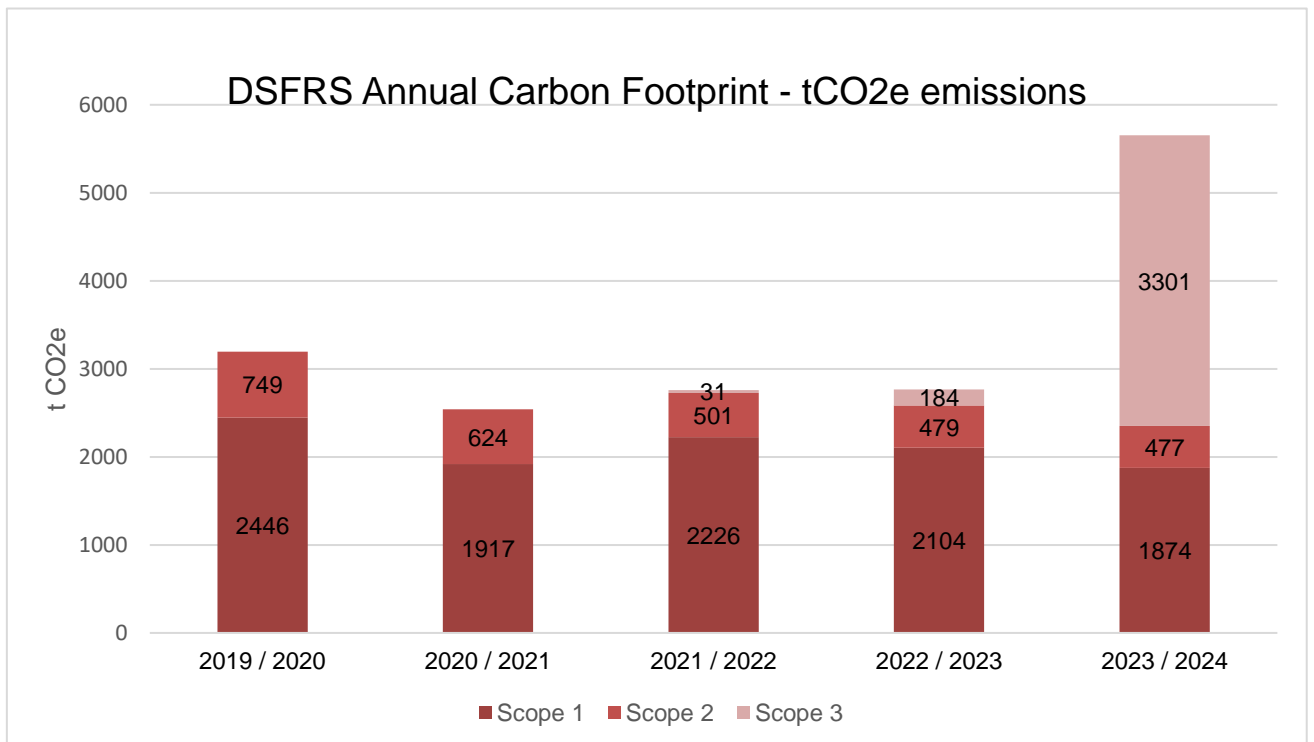
FY 2023 - 2024		Emissions kg CO2e	Emissions t CO2e	% of total emissions
Scope 1	'direct emissions' from the activities under our control and includes fuel use in areas such as onsite fleet vehicles, gas boilers and leaks from air conditioning units.	1,874,418.8	1,874.4	33%
Scope 2	'indirect emissions' from electricity used at our sites.	476,944.6	476.9	8%
Scope 3	covers all 'other indirect emissions' from our activities. They include (but are not limited to) the carbon embodied in everything that we purchase, our business travel, waste disposal and water consumption.	3,300,947.7	3,300.9	58%

**Total 5,652,311.1    5,652.3**

**CHART 1 - BREAKDOWN OF CARBON FOOTPRINT 2023-2024**



**CHART 2 - CARBON FOOTPRINT COMPARISON 2019-2024**



**6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1. Good progress continues to be made towards achieving the aims set out within the approved Environmental Strategy.

**NICOLA BOTTOMLEY**  
**Director of Service Delivery - Support**