

Report to	Executive Panel	
Date	21 October 2019	
Lead Officer	Shân Morris, Assistant Chief Officer (Corporate Policy & Planning)	
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Subject	Development of the Authority's Improvement and Well-being Plan for 2020/21	

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update Members on progress being made towards developing the Authority's Improvement and Well-being Plan (the Plan) for 2020/21.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. This year, the Authority's public consultation is inviting stakeholders to submit comments on the development of a new Environmental Strategy for the Authority for 2020 onwards.
3. As part of developing the Authority's Plan for 2020/21, additional work will be required to address matters raised in feedback from the Well-being of Future Generations Commissioner regarding the extent of the Authority's contribution to Wales's well-being goals.

RECOMMENDATION

4. That Members note the progress being made towards developing the Authority's Improvement and Well-being Plan 2020/21 and the intention to review the Authority's compliance with the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

BACKGROUND

5. Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) in Wales are required to publish improvement objectives in accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, and well-being objectives in compliance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. For the purposes of the Authority's planning processes these are treated as one and the same in that shorter term improvement objectives can also serve as steps towards achieving longer term well-being objectives.

6. Part 2 of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (the Act) places a duty on the Authority to carry out sustainable development, which must include:
 - a) setting and publishing well-being objectives that are designed to maximise its contribution to achieving each of the well-being goals set for the whole of Wales; and
 - b) taking all reasonable steps (in exercising its functions) to meet those objectives.
7. The Authority has already set itself two long-term well-being objectives, but the Act makes provision for the Authority to review and revise its objectives as frequently as it considers appropriate.
8. Earlier this year a Planning Working Group comprising the members of the Executive Panel undertook detailed work associated with developing the Authority's Plan for next year. The Group's recommendation that the Authority should consider developing a new Environmental Strategy was approved, and a decision taken to consult on this during 2019 as part of the process of developing Improvement and Well-being objectives for the Authority for 2020/21 onwards.

INFORMATION

Public consultation

9. This year's public consultation has now commenced. Anyone with an interest in the Authority is invited to contribute ideas, suggestions and views on how climate change might affect the Service's operations in future, and what the Authority could do better in terms of its own environmentally responsible actions.
10. As in previous years, the Authority's public consultation comprises a range of engagement resources including on-line materials and face-to-face meetings.
11. Comments received will be taken into account when drafting the new Environmental Strategy, and when reviewing the Authority's well-being objectives for approval in March 2020.

Developing objectives

12. Recent feedback received from the Well-being of Future Generations Commissioner includes a number of observations and advice that will necessarily form part of the Authority's review of its objectives for next year.

13. This will be the subject of a separate report to Members before the end of this financial year as part of the process of developing the Authority's Plan for 2020/21.

IMPLICATIONS

Well-being Objectives	Direct implication for agreeing the steps towards the Authority's long-term well-being objectives.
Budget	There is a clear relationship between the Authority's plans for 2020/21 and the level of financial resources available.
Legal	Supports compliance with improvement planning and well-being legislation.
Staffing	No known impact on staffing levels at this time.
Equalities/Human Rights/Welsh Language	The impact of specific actions on these aspects will be assessed at the appropriate point in their development.
Risks	Reduces the risks of legal non-compliance and of failing to budget and plan appropriately.