

EAST SUSSEX FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Meeting	Fire Authority
Date	2 September 2021
Title of Report	Fleet and Equipment Strategy
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Background Papers East Sussex Fire and Rescue and West Sussex County Council Collaborative Fleet Operations SLT report January 2021

Appendices Appendix 1 – Fleet and Equipment Management Strategy 2021 – 2025
Appendix 2 – Overview of current fleet assets
Appendix 3 – Sustainability Checklist for strategies
Appendix 4 – Equality Analysis Impact Record (EIA)

Implications

CORPORATE RISK	✓	LEGAL	✓
ENVIRONMENTAL	✓	POLICY	
FINANCIAL	✓	POLITICAL	
HEALTH & SAFETY	✓	OTHER (please specify)	
HUMAN RESOURCES		CORE BRIEF	

PURPOSE OF REPORT This report seeks approval from the Fire Authority for the draft Fleet and Equipment Management Strategy 2021-2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY The draft Fleet and Equipment Management Strategy 2021-2025 (Appendix 1) has been developed to support our Purpose and Commitments, Integrated Risk Management Plan and Fire Authority strategic planning process.

The draft strategy has been reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team, Assistant Directors and Fleet management team.

The deliverables within the draft strategy take into consideration findings from the East Sussex Fire and Rescue and West Sussex County Council Collaborative Fleet Operations report dated January 2020 and the Internal Audit Report into the Management of assets across the Service in which improvements were required.

The report further explores the four year action plan to secure improvements across the engineering function and highlights four key themes of focus.

RECOMMENDATION The Fire Authority is asked to approve the draft Fleet and Equipment Management strategy 2021-24.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The service's purpose and direction to make our communities safer cannot be effectively delivered without a resilient and robust Fleet and Equipment Management strategy, which is owned and delivered by the Engineering department on behalf of ESFRS.
- 1.2 This will be the first strategy of this nature that has been co- designed with strategic managers and staff within the Fleet and engineering department. The Fleet and Equipment Management Strategy provides a comprehensive and integrated approach to the management of the Authority's fleet and associated operational equipment assets. The Operational Support and Resilience Directorate Plan and more detailed Vehicle and Equipment Management thematic plan, which sit under this strategy will continue to evolve through time and reflect changes based on current and predicted working practices, legislation, environmental developments, technology and budgets.
- 1.3 In January 2021, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) approved the East Sussex Fire and Rescue and West Sussex County Council Collaborative Fleet Operations report and as a result of this approval, the Fleet and Engineering team has set about defining its action plan along with the long term strategic outcomes that will transform the department into a modern, well-structured and high performing team.
- 1.4 It was determined by SLT that as a result of the shared strategic fleet manager and the alignment and collaborative approach with West Sussex County and West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service that by November 2021 a full business case will be developed. The business case will address efficiency of working practises, whilst delivering a sustainable programme of vehicle design and specification, fleet and equipment procurement along with increasing collaboration opportunities and closer working with partners. It is expected that the redesign will then further support cultural changes within the department and service.
- 1.5 The draft Fleet and Equipment Management Strategy 2021-25 is written with one single overarching theme of Fleet and Equipment Management, yet divided into four key sub themes:
- 1) Staff and public safety – focusing on health, safety and wellbeing
 - 2) Efficiency and effectiveness – seeking Best Value and efficiencies across all departmental priorities
 - 3) Collaboration and Innovation – seeking to improve and explore new ways of working with our partners and stakeholders.

- 4) Reducing environmental impact – addressing the drivers and seeking every opportunity to reduce and remove carbon emissions

1.6 Continuous improvement is at the heart of this strategy, considering historical actions and practices and creating new facilities, smarter more efficient ways of working, encouraging innovation.

2. LEGAL AND CORPORATE RISK

2.1 This strategy and subsequent actions will be delivered within various legal frameworks and legislation. Any failure to meet these requirements could potentially constitute a corporate risk and therefore the plan is reviewed regularly and potential risks surfaced through exception reporting.

2.2 The operation of a fleet of vehicles and associated equipment is a heavily regulated area and the strategy seeks to identify the key areas that require compliance, along with offering a clear set of objectives that will provide assurance to East Sussex Fire Authority that we are compliant with road safety law, health and safety law and the many regulations and standards that are imposed in the use of vehicles and equipment.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL

3.1 This strategy also seeks to mobilise internally how we will start to address the central government and local authority drive to reduce our carbon footprint and environmental impact on society

4. HEALTH AND SAFETY

4.1 Health and safety as a key legislative driver is also comprehensively considered and threaded through the strategy and across the themes and action plans within this strategy.

5. FINANCIAL

5.1 This Strategy and the underpinning research has identified a range of opportunities to deliver efficiencies and ultimately cashable savings through the activities set out in the supporting Action Plan. A business case for a shared fleet and engineering service will be developed by the Strategic Fleet Manager during 2021/22 and this will identify and analyse the full scale of efficiencies and savings along with proposals for investment in facilities, contractual arrangements and potential shared resourcing. If approved the financial implications of the business case (pressures, bids for investment and savings) will be fed into the budget setting process for 2022/23 onwards. At this stage therefore there is no requirement for additional funding outside of that already approved in the Engineering revenue budget and the Fleet capital programme.