

Sustainable development

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Owner: **Assistant Director, Procurement and Commercial**
Responsible work team: **Sustainable Development**

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Summary

This policy sets out our commitments to continuously improve how we deliver our service in relation to environmental, social and economic outcomes; defining the key areas we intend to take action, our governance approach and how this policy relates to other existing policies.

1 Definition

- 1.1 We have adopted the United Nations definition of sustainable development: 'Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

London Fire Commissioner's sustainable development framework

- 1.2 Our sustainable development framework provides clarity on how the definition given in section 1.1 applies to the Brigade, its departments and individuals. It sets out the areas where we can, do, and will take action on sustainable development as detailed in Appendix 1 including:
- (a) Prevention, Protection and Response are at the centre of the framework in recognition that this is our primary remit and is a statutory requirement and is what underpins all our actions. It is also the area of greatest impact that we can have on improving the sustainability of life for those who live in, work in, or visit London. Our prevention activities reduce fires, and our incident response approach is to deal with them quickly and effectively, thus avoiding and reducing the environmental, social and economic impacts of fire, such as carbon emissions and other pollutants, clean-up costs, and the trauma of an emergency situation and the possible losses resulting from it. All goods and services that we procure in order to deliver on these three core principles present opportunities for increasing the sustainability of our activities. They are avenues through which we can deliver additional social, economic and environmental benefit to London and its diverse communities.
 - (b) In recognition of the importance of the Health, Safety and Wellbeing of staff, and its relevance given the primary role of the organisation, it is highlighted as central to the framework. Key issues related to sustainability are then defined under the three pillars of:
 - (i) **Environment and climate change:** By considering the way that we respond to emergencies and the support services we require, we can reduce our environmental impact including carbon emissions, waste production, air pollution, biodiversity and adapt to the climatic changes taking place.
 - (ii) **Economic value:** The way that we spend public funds can support the economic prosperity of Londoners through: fair wages, supporting skills and employment, ethical sourcing of goods, and our organisations financial stability by procuring on whole life costs and innovatively.
 - (iii) **Equality and inclusion:** Understanding the communities that we serve helps us to provide an excellent service to Londoners; ensuring that our current and future workforce has respect, opportunity and influence at work provides for a safer, more productive workforce; and opening up our contract opportunities to diverse businesses improves competition, innovation and flexibility whilst supporting the local economy.
 - (c) Issues that are positioned more centrally on the framework represent a greater degree of control that we have over the outcomes, and these overlap between the three pillars reflecting the interconnected nature of sustainable development. Those issues positioned towards the outside of the framework represent areas that we have the ability to influence,

through groups such as the London Anchors Institution Network (LAIN), the Sustainability Charter, the GLA and wider market engagement.

2 Sustainable development policy

- 2.1 Our ambition is to maintain a leadership position on sustainable development in the UK fire and rescue service.

Key impacts

- 2.2 We will take action to address the key impacts and opportunities related to our sustainable development framework, in particular we will:
- (a) Comply with relevant sustainability and environmental legislation.
 - (b) Promote and encourage equality, diversity and inclusion within our workplace, the community and our supply chain to ensure that our services delivered are accessible, inclusive and appropriate.
 - (c) Promote and encourage good health including physical, mental and social well-being.
 - (d) Reduce emissions of air pollutants from our vehicles to improve air quality.
 - (e) Reduce the environmental, social and business impacts associated with travel and support our staff to choose more sustainable travel.
 - (f) Reduce our carbon emissions, continually working towards zero carbon by using energy efficiently, maximising the use of low carbon energy and generating energy through on-site renewable energy systems.
 - (g) Increase our resilience to extreme weather and adaptation to longer term climate change by avoiding predictable risks wherever possible and seeking to minimise and manage those risks that are unavoidable.
 - (h) Protect the environment from harm in the way that we manage incidents, particularly focussing on areas designated as sites of special scientific interest, and support opportunities to enhance the biodiversity of our sites through gardens and green roofs.
 - (i) Aim to send zero waste to landfill, reducing total waste produced by minimising our consumption of resources, increasing reuse and recycling, and by using refurbished, recycled and recyclable equipment, products and materials. Encouraging all waste management facilities to improve their site management practices to reduce the risk of fire.
 - (j) Manage our use of hazardous materials where they cannot be avoided, aiming to reduce their use and harmfulness to the environment.
 - (k) Use water efficiently and manage it with sustainable drainage systems where possible on our sites; consider options to improve water efficiency in firefighting and training and reduce run-off of polluted fire water.
 - (l) Manage our finances to continually improve our efficient and effective use of public money by procuring on whole life costs and seeking out innovation in the delivery of our services.
 - (m) Responsibly procure the products and services we require by:
 - (i) Working with our suppliers to ensure that our supply chain is ethically sourced, providing safe and fair working conditions, and helping to assure the quality of the products and services our staff depend upon.

- (ii) Ensuring that direct employees and our contractors staff working on our premises are paid the London living wage and encourage other contractors to pay the London living wage to their staff.
- (iii) Continuing to provide apprenticeship opportunities in our workforce and work with our key suppliers to create employment and apprenticeship opportunities within their supply chains.
- (n) Reduce the propagation of noise and light pollution.
- (o) Providing nutritious, sustainably sourced food produced to the highest possible animal welfare standards through our catering service and encourage our staff to adopt these standards.

Strategy

- 2.3 We will set targets and objectives to continuously improve on sustainability through our Sustainable Development Strategy, reviewing it in line with the time frames of the LFC Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) wherever possible.
- 2.4 Where targets are met prior to the end of the term of the strategy, the potential to set new stretching targets will be considered. Any new targets proposed will be submitted for approval via the annual performance report.

Reporting

- 2.5 We will publicly report on our performance and progress on sustainable development annually, publishing the report on our website and registering our reports online with global sustainability reporting registers.
- 2.6 We will aim to report according to the global reporting initiatives guidelines on sustainability reporting and in line with any other national or regional requirements.

Governance

- 2.7 We will continue to have a director level champion for sustainable development.
- 2.8 We will consult staff on sustainability through our Sustainable Development Working Group and green champion network.
- 2.9 We will identify and assess the impacts of our actions and decisions through sustainable development impact assessments on our policies and corporate projects (policy number 830 – sustainable development impact assessments) and outlining the sustainability implications of proposals detailed in committee reports.
- 2.10 Performance will be scrutinised through submission of annual reports to the Commissioner's Board.

Environmental management system

- 2.11 We will maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS) certified to ISO 14,001 for departments and high risk sites (stations).
- 2.12 We will continually work to incorporate the management of other aspects of sustainable development into the EMS where possible.

Training and communications

- 2.13 We will support staff at all levels to improve their understanding of sustainable development and their role in delivering this policy through the provision of inductions, specialist training courses, information on our intranet, news stories and other events.
- 2.14 We will communicate this policy to staff, the London Fire Commissioner, stakeholders, suppliers and Londoners.

3 Related policies and plans

- 3.1 This policy sets out the overarching policy on sustainable development. Other policies set out in detail our approach to particular areas under the banner of sustainable development such as equalities and the environment, with further policies covering specific subjects such as energy and waste. They can be found on Hotwire and are summarised in Appendix 2.
- 3.2 Our corporate aims as defined in the London Safety Plan address the prevention, protection and response element of the sustainable development framework and define our approach to prevention of fire and other emergencies; protection of the built environment; and responding to emergencies.
- 3.3 Our approach and actions that will support implementation of other areas set out in the policy are set out in environmental plans as summarised in Appendix 2, the London Fire Commissioner's Sustainable Development Strategy and Inclusion Strategy.

Policies affected

- 3.4 Nil

4 Responsibilities

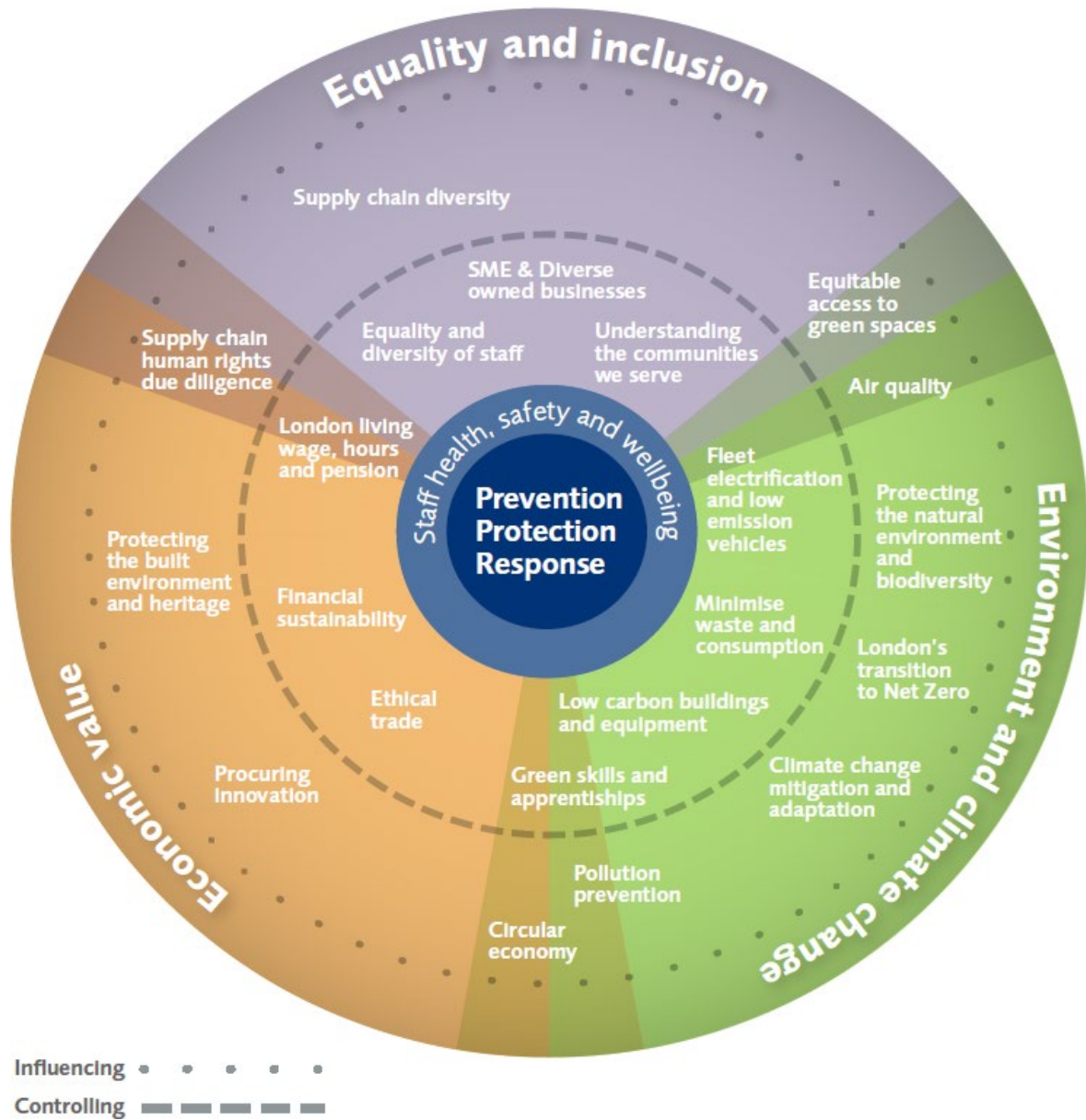
- 4.1 The Sustainable Development Team is responsible for the review of this policy.
- 4.2 The head of sustainable development is responsible for providing guidance and support to departments to implement this policy.
- 4.3 All heads of service are responsible for ensuring staff in their department are aware of this policy and implement the relevant policy statements.

5 Key legislation

- 5.1 There is a raft of legislation related to sustainability and the environment in particular. environmental regulations applicable to the Brigade are detailed in the Environmental Legal Register, which forms part of the EMS. Below is a non-exhaustive list of other key legislation:
 - (a) Procurement Act 2023
 - (b) Equalities Act 2010
 - (c) Procurement Act 2023 PPNs
 - (d) Modern Slavery Act 2015
 - (e) Social Value Act 2012
 - (f) Human Rights Act 1998
 - (g) Gender Pay Gap Regulations 2017

- (h) Good Work Standard (where applicable)
- (i) London Living Wage Commitment
- (j) UK Fair Payment Code

Appendix 1 - Sustainable development framework



Appendix 2 - Related policies and strategies

Policy number 549 - Energy conservation (and sustainability) in LFB premises

The policy sets out best practice for energy management across the Brigade and is based on the energy hierarchy and principles of the mayor's energy policy. It applies to the design, maintenance and operation of all buildings to minimise energy wastage and maximise the use of renewable technologies.

Policy number 643 - Hazardous waste disposal procedure

This policy sets out the procedure to deal with the removal of hazardous waste from all Brigade premises.

Policy number 677 – LFB environment

Our core business of responding to emergencies and providing fire safety support to the community in London, supports our responsibility to the environment. 'Environment and resources' and 'climate change' are key themes of our sustainable development framework.

Policy number 696 – The GLA group responsible procurement and social value policy

The GLA group policy focuses on creating a better quality of life for London's communities now and in the future and is underpinned by three key principles:

- (a) economic development and wealth creation;
- (b) social development; and
- (c) improvement of the environment.

Policy number 747 - Polluting material storage and spillage procedure

The policy summarises the action to be taken to reduce the risk of environmentally polluting spillages and the actions required to manage a spillage should one occur at all Brigade premises.

Policy number 830 - Sustainable development impact assessments

All Brigade policies and projects are required to undertake impact assessments against their likely sustainability impact to support compliance with environmental regulations; Brigade and mayoral policies and strategies; support for best practice, and avoidance or minimisation of any negative impacts.

Policy number 836 - Gardens policy

The policy sets out the basis for the management of biodiversity and habitats across the Brigade's estate, including gardens cultivated by employees and soft landscaping areas maintained by Technical and Service Support (TSS).

Policy number 862 - Waste management

The policy provides guidance on the disposal of day-to-day waste, construction and demolition waste, furniture, bulky items and other waste items. It sets out the zero waste landfill commitment and disposal in accordance with the waste hierarchy.

Policy number 886 - Whole life costing

The policy sets out the procedure for whole life cost (WLC) assessment of goods and services to be purchased by or on behalf of the London Fire Commissioner at the planning and procurement stages.

Policy number 1006- Ethical sourcing policy

Ethical sourcing aims to align purchasing decisions with respect for basic working conditions along the supply chain. This policy sets out the minimum standards which the Commissioner expects its suppliers to observe and the procedures to assess and mitigate risks. This builds upon existing requirements used in contracts for workwear and IT/electronics, by setting procedures to cover high-risk sectors. It also implements the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 as well as the requirements laid out in the Procurement Act 2023, enacted by the 2024 Procurement Regulations. Policy number 448 - Flexible working/work-life balance, including home working

This policy sets out the support of and provisions for flexible working for staff, including compressed hours, reduced hours, job-sharing, term time and home working.

Strategy**Sustainable development strategy**

The strategy sets out a more detailed definition of sustainable development for the Brigade in the form of the sustainable development framework, identified key indicators and targets to measure performance, and the key issues at the time for the Brigade and London and the actions planned to address those issues.

Document history

Assessments

An equality, sustainability or health, safety and welfare impact assessment and/or a risk assessment was last completed on:

EIA	14/11/16	SDIA	H - 12/04/2018	HSWIA	21/09/16	RA	N/A
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Audit trail

Listed below is a brief audit trail, detailing amendments made to this policy/procedure.

Page/para nos.	Brief description of change	Date
Page 7	Removed references to cancelled PN240 and PN346 and replaced with reference to PN973 – Togetherness policy.	28/01/2022
Throughout	Reviewed as current with no changes.	16/08/2022
Throughout	Reference to cancelled PN973 – togetherness policy removed.	10/04/2024
Throughout	Reviewed as current with no changes.	08/01/2026
Throughout	Reviewed as current with changes made.	05/06/2026

Subject list

You can find this policy under the following subjects.

Freedom of Information Act exemptions

This policy/procedure has been securely marked due to:

Considered by: (responsible work team)	FOIA exemption	Security marking classification