

For information

HEFCW Environmental Annual Report 2015-16

Agenda: 24
HEFCW/16/69

Disclosable

14/07/2016

1 Issue

- 1.1 This paper provides a review of the environmental performance and associated actions achieved by HEFCW during the financial year 2015-2016.

2 Rationale for paper

- 2.1 As a Welsh Government Sponsored Body (WGSB) HEFCW is required to meet the requirements of the WGSB Framework Agreement ¹ which includes obligations in relation to environmental performance and a wider duty to support sustainable development.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Council is invited to note the contents of this report

4 Timing for decisions

- 4.1 This report is for information only.

5 Council members' interests

- 5.1 No conflicts of interests have been declared in advance of the meeting.

6 Further information

- 6.1 Chris Cowburn (029 2068 2247; chris.cowburn@hefcw.ac.uk)

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[www.hefcw.ac.uk/documents/council_and_committees/council_and_committees/WGSB%20Framework%20Document%20-%20FINAL%20\(Sept%202014\).pdf](http://www.hefcw.ac.uk/documents/council_and_committees/council_and_committees/WGSB%20Framework%20Document%20-%20FINAL%20(Sept%202014).pdf)

7 Introduction

- 7.1 HEFCW has been recording its environmental performance since 2007-08. This has been supported by the use of an environmental management system, which has driven improvements in our environmental management processes. HEFCW has also sought to achieve improvements through procurement as is evidenced by the actions set out within the annual Sustainable Procurement and Environmental Improvement Plan (Annex A) and the use of framework contracts which include a higher level of environmental performance than we could realistically achieved when negotiating directly with these contractors. The development and ongoing actions required under the environmental management system are coordinated through the HEFCW Health and Safety / Sustainability Group.
- 7.2 In April 2016 the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act came into force. This places further duties upon HEFCW to ensure that sustainability is fully embedded within our decision making, and management processes both in relation to internal actions and our engagement with the higher education sector. The implications of this legislation will be the subject of a separate paper to be presented to Council in September 2016.
- 7.3 The remainder of this paper relates to a comparison of the performance of the main areas of environmental performance that we seek to manage together with an explanation of this and provision of historical data where this is available.

8 Electricity Consumption

- 8.1 In 2013-14 we were successful in persuading the landlord of our existing office to introduce separate sub metering for each floor of the building which provides detailed and accurate electricity consumption for each part of the building as well as accurate billing. In 2014-15 the landlord also installed voltage optimisation equipment which undoubtedly accounts for some of the energy savings achieved in electricity consumption in that year. (9.5%) In 2015-16 a further mild winter has assisted in achieving a further additional reduction of 3.24% in both consumption and CO² emissions (see Annex B).

9 Business Travel

- 9.1 Carbon emissions associated with business travel declined by over 60% during the period 2008-09 to 2012-13 largely due to reduced quantum of business travel, and a switch towards increased use of rail travel (Annex C). Since then business travel has been erratic with an increase of over 40% in mileage in the subsequent two years from the low point achieved in 2012-13. In 2015-16 a reduction of 10.63% in business mileage has been achieved although carbon reductions were less significant due to a relative switch towards increased use of cars over rail transport. Use of video conferencing as an alternative to travel has also increased in 2015-16 with recorded savings of over 10,000 miles compared with 7,225 in the previous year. It is also worth noting that use of video recording saved nearly 240 hours of staff time. Anecdotal evidence suggests that staff are also making increased use of tele-conferencing although it is not possible to record this electronically so this opinion cannot be substantiated.
- 9.2 Controlling carbon emissions from business travel is complicated by the varying demand for staff travel and by changes in transport mode primarily switches from rail to road which again is largely dependent upon the distances being travelled and

the availability of appropriate public transport. This is clearly evident in the second graph at Annex C.

10 Waste Minimisation

- 10.1 Redundant ICT constitutes a significant potential source of hazardous waste for HEFCW. However much of the surplus ICT equipment generated by HEFCW is capable of providing further service and our preference has been to ensure that this takes place wherever possible. During 2015-16 there was no disposal of redundant ICT equipment. However the previous framework agreement has now expired and will need to be renewed to cope with anticipated ICT disposals in 2016-17.
- 10.2 HEFCW continues to provide segregated waste collection allowing recycling of paper plastics and metals. Provision for disposal of other hazardous waste including batteries, fluorescent light bulbs is provided via existing maintenance contractors. All batteries purchased are where possible rechargeable. Paper consumption as evidenced by the volume purchased and this has continued to reduce as electronic communication continues to become more widespread.

11 Financial Implications

- 11.1 There are no financial implications arising from this paper.

12 Communications Implications

- 12.1 The information contained within the annual report will be disseminated to staff and will be used to inform environmental disclosures within the HEFCW accounts.

13 Diversity and Equal Opportunities Implications (including Future Generations Act)

- 13.1 This paper has no implications for age, disability, gender, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or the Welsh language. The performance achieved and the actions supporting this form part of HEFCW's commitment to the Future Generations Act. The approach to environmental management will be reviewed in the light of the intended relocation of the office and the anticipated reduction in scope to influence direct environmental performance

14 Risk Assessment

Risk	Action to address risk
Failure to adequately control and reduce negative environmental emissions could lead HEFCW to be exposed to additional costs and potentially to reputational damage	The environmental system provides HEFCW with a structured approach to environmental management detailed recording of performance, and possible action to address these which is reviewed by senior management.