

Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee
14 October 2013

Report by the Director of Finance
and Assets/S.151 Officer

ISO14001 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STANDARD RE-ACCREDITATION

REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides Members with an update on the recent successful re-accreditation inspection undertaken by the external assessors of the ISO14001 Environmental Management Standard.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Members note that the Authority has successfully achieved formal re-accreditation to the Environmental Management Standard ISO14001.

REPORT DETAIL

2. The Authority has long recognised the importance of the environmental agenda and as reported to members of the Fire Authority in April 2010, the Strategic Plan 2010-13 saw the incorporation of the commitment to implement an environmental management system (EMS) as the means by which the Service would reduce its carbon footprint and manage its resources most effectively.
3. The Service subsequently commissioned a specialist external advisor to undertake a gap analysis assessment against the ISO14001 standard and advise upon implementation of appropriate management systems.
4. Based on this the Authority developed and implemented an EMS with the aim of ensuring the Service fulfilled relevant statutory obligations alongside reducing the organisation's carbon footprint, through focussing on energy consumption, recycling facilities and improved management procedures to prevent contamination of the environment.
5. Following the introduction and embedding of the Environmental Management System, the Service was formally audited by BSI Management Systems, as certified external assessors in two phases. The Service successfully achieved accreditation to the ISO14001 Standard in October 2010.
6. Since that date a significant amount of work has been undertaken to ensure environmental awareness is embedded right across the organisation, with the Service's Infrastructure Board assuming responsibility for overseeing the environmental agenda. Regular internal audits have also been undertaken and reported back to the Board.
7. On 28th and 29th August 2013, the Service welcomed back BSI to undertake their formal three-year re-accreditation inspection.
8. The audit went extremely well, with no non-conformities being identified and as a result BSI have awarded the Service re-accreditation to the ISO14001 Standard for a further three-year period. The full assessment report is attached as Appendix 1 of this report.
9. Environmental issues remain a key priority for the organisation and the Service's Infrastructure Board will continue to oversee the EMS to ensure the current momentum is maintained and that the necessary requirements of the Standard are adhered to going forward.

STRATEGIC PLAN COMPATIBILITY

10. The proposals outlined in this report comply with the Service Strategic Plan 2011-14 and in particular contribute to the identified strategic objective of 'Making the best use of the resources we have'.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCES/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

11. Any financial implications arising from the on-going environmental agenda will be incorporated into the Service's Medium-Term Financial Plan.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12. One of the primary objectives of the implementation of an EMS is to ensure that the Authority satisfies its statutory duties in respect of environmental issues.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/HR IMPLICATIONS

13. None arising directly.

CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

14. One of the primary objectives of the implementation of an EMS is to ensure that the Authority satisfies its statutory duties in respect of environmental issues.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

15. None arising directly.

COMMUNICATION ACTIONS ARISING

16. The successful attainment of re-accreditation to the Standard ISO14001 has been communicated to staff across the organisation, via SIREN, thanking all those involved for their part in the process. Internal communication channels will continue to be used to ensure staff awareness of the environmental agenda continues.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

17. None applicable.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AVAILABLE FOR ACCESS

18. Infrastructure Board Minutes and Agendas showing EMS ISO14001 discussions.

RECOMMENDATIONS RESTATED

19. That Members note that the Authority has successfully achieved formal re-accreditation to the Environmental Management Standard ISO14001.

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23 September 2013

