



Strategic Policing and Crime Board

28th November 2023

Police and Crime Plan Priority: where appropriate

Title: Environmental Strategy Update

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Purpose of paper

1. This paper provides an update on progress against the Environmental Strategy 2022-2027 for the board's consideration. The strategy was jointly sponsored and developed by West Midlands Police (WMP) in consultation with West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner (WMPCC)

Background

2. WMP's three-year This Work Matters strategy (2020-23) outlined a continued commitment to modernise and ensure a sustainable police service and identified a requirement for an environmental strategy that supports WMP to reduce its carbon footprint.
3. The Police and Crime Plan (2021-25) sets out a commitment to make WMP a greener and more environmentally sustainable force. It highlights the need to capitalise on the opportunities presented by the enhancement of the police estate and the development of further initiatives to reduce energy consumption, incorporate low-carbon and renewable technologies, and transition the fleet to electric vehicles.
4. The long-term aim is for West Midlands Police to become the country's greenest police force as well as an Employer of Choice, attracting and developing local talent from across the West Midlands, including its schools, colleges and universities to create jobs for local people.
5. The Police and Crime Commissioner's (2022-2027) Environmental Strategy encompasses these ambitions by setting out priority areas and activities that will guide delivery plans over the next five years. The strategy overview involves WMP working towards a low-carbon and sustainable estate, being sustainable in its operations and being an environmentally responsible organisation.

Key points

6. This is WMP's first environmental strategy. In line with other UK police forces and the Government's Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021), the environmental strategy sets out the vision for WMP and identifies goals for a reduction in carbon emissions.
7. To support the vision of becoming an environmentally sustainable police service, the strategy sets a series of overarching aims, which are addressed by the priority themes and activity plans. These aims are to:
 - Reduce carbon emissions from the estate
 - Reduce carbon emissions from the fleet and travel
 - Reduce the overall amount of waste generated and manage resource use sustainably
 - Embed sustainability in the organisation
 - Adopt sustainable procurement practices and maximise social value

Progress measures for each area have been included in the strategy, and key performance indicators for carbon and waste have been included within the force's quarterly performance review.

8. WMP is to develop initiatives to reduce energy consumption through the guiding principles of Reduce, Re-use and Recycle in order to become a greener police force and meet the PCC's commitment to make WMP a greener and more environmentally sustainable force.

Development and Delivery

9. In order to reduce WMP's carbon footprint, the PCC has commissioned the Carbon Trust with producing a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions report, which will help WMP to be clear on a benchmark against which to demonstrate carbon reduction. This work is currently in progress and is due to be complete by the end of November 2023.
10. Following on from this, an assessment of carbon reduction opportunities will be carried out, and a WMP Net Zero Roadmap produced by the Carbon Trust for early January 2024.
11. WMP has also identified an initiative through the Investors in the Environment (IIE) scheme to promote sustainable practices. IIE are in the process of being commissioned and will begin work with WMP in late November 2023. Initial conversations suggest we will gain bronze accreditation within this financial year, with silver being our next target by achieving measurable targets to show that WMP is becoming more environmentally aware and responsible.
12. In order to promote the environmental strategy and raise awareness, WMP Corporate Communications department are developing a week-long campaign

for the start of January 2024. Within this campaign, WMP will ask all employees (both staff and officers) to make three pledges they can use both at home and in the workplace to increase awareness and change attitudes and behaviours around the environment and sustainability.

13. During September 2023, staff and officer engagement workshops took place with smaller teams during shift briefings. This has allowed for open and honest communication whereby any needs, challenges, or initiatives can be quickly identified.
14. A 'Sustainable Environmental Initiatives' fund is in development and will be launched in January 2024, to provide staff and officers with a way to submit applications for funding to support small initiatives or pilot schemes to improve environmental sustainability within the force. The governance process will be similar to the 'Business Case Lite' process that WMP Corporate Asset Management department (CAM) currently utilise and will also support the enabling of any environmental sustainability initiatives coming through via the Innovation Portal.
15. WMP is also looking into mandatory environmental and sustainability training for officers and staff to complete as part of their induction and to develop environmental champions within the force to promote a greener police force.
16. In alignment with the Estates Strategy, WMP will continue the programme of innovation that includes network building management systems, low-energy lighting, voltage optimisation equipment, the installation of solar panels on police buildings, and the installation of combined heat and power units. This will help reduce our carbon footprint and increase the amount of reusable energy being used.
17. In addition to the work above, WMP will build upon the 'environmental nudge' campaign from early 2023. Environmental nudges are small reminders of everyday actions that can greatly reduce emissions, such as closing windows, turning down or off heating systems, and switching off lights in empty rooms, which will help in saving costs as well as reducing emissions. The next phase will be distributing 'table talkers', which are strategically placed posters in refs and seating areas to illustrate different types of recyclable materials to promote recycling.
18. In order to reduce our fleet emissions, additional EVs will be procured; however, this will also involve increasing the number of charging points on our sites. Corporate Asset Management's (CAM) Estates team has scoped out building electrical capacity to ensure there are suitable reserves of electricity prior to Fleet allocating ULEV vehicles.
19. As vehicle manufacturers increase their models and ranges for EVs, it is anticipated that an additional 5% of the fleet will be either EV or hybrid within 12 months.

20. WMP will look to work alongside the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) to ensure alignment with their regional strategy to reduce the impact of global warming and to understand whether there is any funding via the Combined Authority which we can access.

Priorities

21. The priority themes identified for the environmental strategy are:
- **A low-carbon and sustainable estate** - an efficient, resilient, and future-proofed estate transitioning to low-carbon energy solutions
 - **Sustainable in our operations** - acting to ensure police operations are environmentally sustainable, minimising environmental impacts and reducing carbon
 - **A responsible organisation** - working in partnership to embed environmental best practices and deliver social value.

Financial Implications

22. Targeted improvements in environmental performance and carbon emissions go hand in hand with operational efficiency and cost savings. The environmental strategy is an opportunity to identify invest to save initiatives as well as understanding the costs and benefits of investment required to reach carbon reduction goals.
23. The UK government has committed to halve direct emissions from public sector buildings by 2032 (from 2017 levels) and further reduce emissions by 75 per cent by 2037. To help achieve this, £1.425 billion will be provided for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and up to £230 million has been made available in 2024 to 2025 for Phase 3c. Following on from successful bids for decarbonisation plans in previous years, WMP will continue to apply for applicable grants as they become available.

Legal Implications

24. The UK government has stated its expectation that all public sector bodies should be monitoring their energy use and have targets to reduce emissions. Where insufficient progress is made on reducing and reporting public sector emissions, the government will legislate to make this mandatory. The work that is currently in progress with the Carbon Trust via the PCC commission will ensure that WMP is in a good position to demonstrate compliance with this.

Equality Implications

25. Where appropriate, equality impact assessments will be built into the planning stages of individual projects and initiatives.

Next Steps

26. The board is asked to note the contents of this paper.

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