



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD
19 December 2023

PROCUREMENT UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the Board with an update on the delivery of the Joint Procurement Strategy between the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and West Midlands Police (WMP) for the period 2022 to 2025.

BACKGROUND

2. The Joint Procurement Strategy for the period 2022 – 2025 was approved by the Strategic Police & Crime Board (SPCB) in December 2021 (**Appendix A**). The PCC delegates commercial matters to the force by way of the Scheme of Delegation and Standing Orders.
3. The force (acting on behalf of the PCC) spends up to circa £70m per annum recurring on procuring goods, works and services.
4. Our overall procurement vision is to deliver a high quality and cost-effective service which assists in force performance. Whilst delivering value for the people of the West Midlands and assisting in the economic development in the region. Contracts & Procurement will work closely with WMP colleagues, our supply chain, regional procurement leads in other forces, other blue light organisations, BlueLight Commercial and the Social Value Portal to achieve this.
5. Our key aims are:

5a. To make sure all commercial activity creates value for money.

All procurement activities are assessed for value for money as part of the evaluation process. Bids are scored based on the price, quality, and social value. To ensure that the value for money obtained as part of the tendering and award process is delivered, all contract terms and conditions include service specific Key Performance Indicators (KPI's), which enable the supplier to be held accountable for the provisions they put forward as part of their bid. These are regularly monitored through our contract management process, to ensure that contracted commitments are delivered, and poor performance is challenged throughout the lifetime of the contract.

For example, this year our tender for General Patrol Body Armour was heavily weighted in favour of quality, (40% quality, 50% price, 10% social value). Specific quality questions including the supplier's ability to manage delivery lead times, wearer assessment trials, along with mandatory certification were assessed. A social value

commitment of £500,000 was committed as part of this award over a seven-year contract period with a total contract value of £4.5 million.

Further details on savings achieved and social value delivered are detailed in Section 6 of this report.

5b. To consider national priorities in local procurement activities around creating new businesses, new jobs, and new skills.

The force is committed to a performance and evidence-based approach to social value. The approach is based on the National TOMs (Themes, Outcomes and Measures). There are 5 Themes which relate to jobs, growth, social, environmental and innovation followed by 52 Measures.

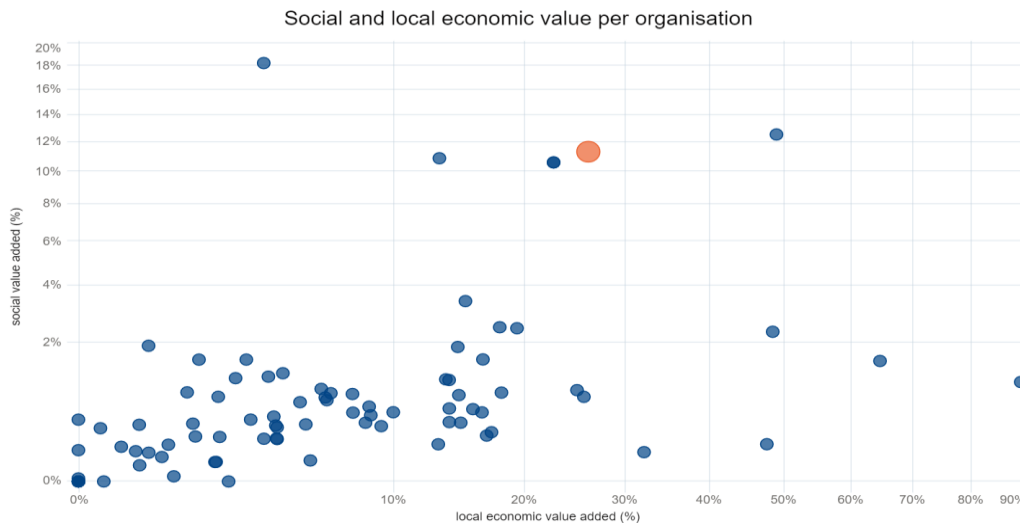
Bidders are required to propose credible targets against which performance (for the successful bidder) will be regularly monitored. The social value measurement framework used within our tender process was in part tailored to reflect the specific aspirations of the Force. Using the national TOMs, bidders can access this when tendering and select from a range of options which they can commit to.

This year the Contracts & Procurement Team has taken another opportunity to review our aims and objectives around social value. Working with the Social Value Portal and reviewing the TOMs available for selection. We have now created a 'lite' set of TOMs, 5 Themes and 28 Measures more specific to the force priorities. Not only does the lite set include a higher weighting mechanism to encourage suppliers to choose TOMs which are more focussed on force specific priorities, it is also a less complicated process to encourage smaller organisations to complete.

We have defined roles and responsibilities to ensure that social value is embedded as part of the procurement process. Training has been rolled out to the Contracts and Procurement team, oPCC and other WMP colleagues. This is to ensure that the teams are confident using both the TOMs framework for social value measurement and the Social Value Portal for monitoring.

The experience of the force and wider public sector organisations is that successful tenders are usually very diligent in their delivery of social value, where there are clear expectations. However, as a prudent measure as part of our review of our tender documentation, the force is still looking to include remedies for non-delivery of social value. Contracts & Procurement are working with colleagues in Legal Services and the Social Value Portal.

The social local economic value unlocked to date shows the widespread impact and benefit delivered to local communities, as well as wider society. WMP are in the top 25% for 'Local Economic Value Added' compared to all Social Value Portal public sector members in England and Wales.



In the above chart organisations towards the right are delivering the most local economic value, organisations at the top are delivering the most social value.

Furthermore, the Contracts & Procurement team are working with the force Environment & Sustainability Manager to ensure that force green agenda is reflected in our social value priorities. **See Section 7c.** Details of social value delivered to date are included in **Section 6.**

5c. Working in an ethical way with others to create environmental, ethical, and sustainable procurement.

As part of our procurement and contracts process, the force seeks assurances from the successful bidder around their environmental policies, processes, and green credentials. To improve our commitment in this area the Contracts & Procurement team are now working with the force Environment and Sustainability Manager. **Details of the work underway is included in Section 7c of this report,**

5d. To put in place competitive contracts, where we can drive efficiency and innovation. 5e. We will drive efficiencies and improve performance through working with the supply chain through continuous improvement. This is aligned to with our force strategy.

The force has continued to embed our approach to contract management using the supplier relationship management (SRM) framework. All new contracts have supplier performance measures (SPM). These measures have been reviewed and refreshed this year. Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) are discussed and agreed at the outset. Client departments and procurement advisors are all trained on how to use the portal Lean Linking (LL). Amongst other things this portal allows the team to record, monitor and drive performance improvements of suppliers.

Each contract has an associated business relationship owner (BRO), Performance Surveys are actioned and reported based on the segmentation. Each contract is segmented based on impact and risk to the force which provides a suggested frequency for performance surveys /review meetings.

Through feedback from clients, regular reviews, and management information, we can now evidence efficiencies and performance improvements report top performing

suppliers and underperforming suppliers whereby relevant action is taken accordingly. LL has not only become our master database and central repository it has also become the platform to reach out to all our contracted suppliers. Over the last 12 months we have sent surveys requesting data to support the procurement strategy, a second supply chain impact assessment regarding the Russia and Ukraine conflict, and a one pager outlining our environmental strategy **Section 6(v) provides details of performance improvements.**

6. The delivery of the aims is captured and monitored through the following measures:

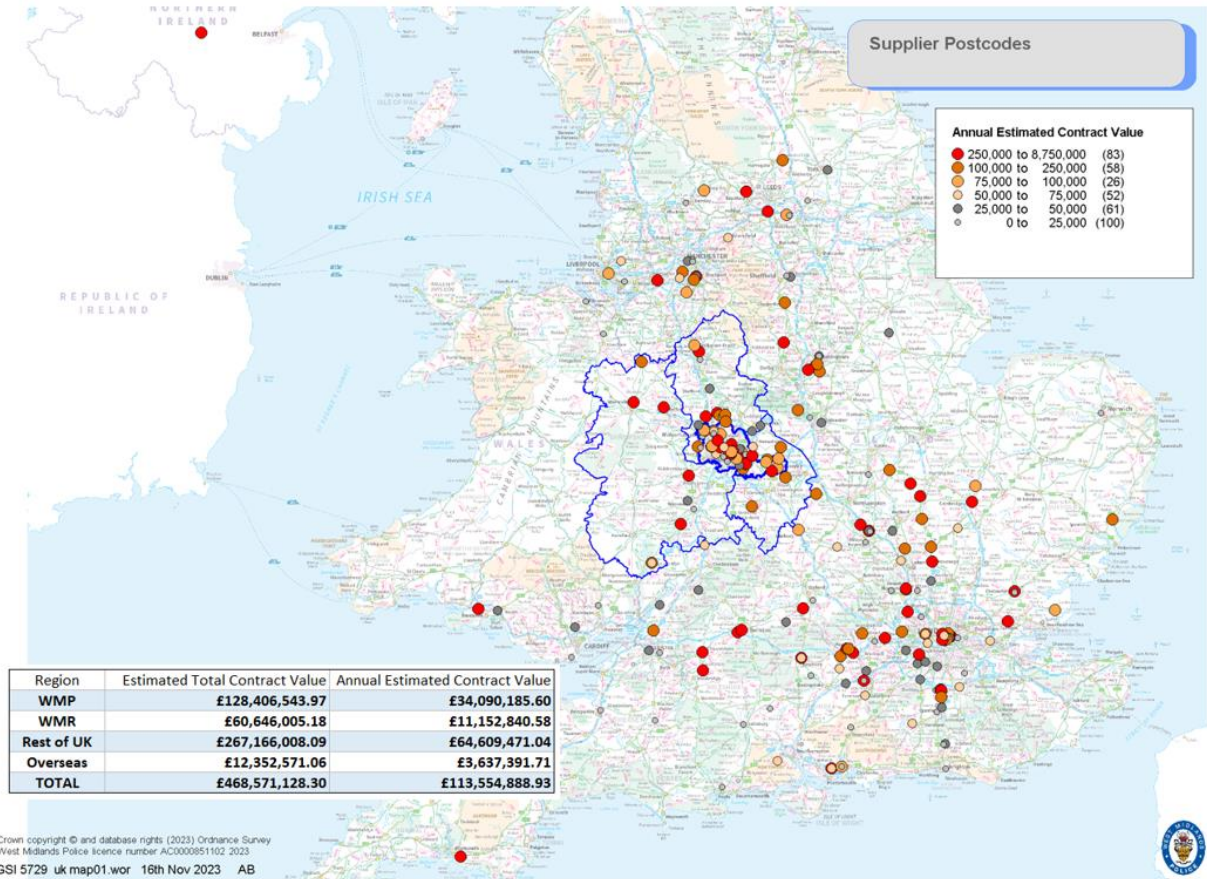
i) **The proportion of procurement spend and amount that is spent in the West Midlands.**

The force seeks to support businesses and the creation of jobs in the West Midlands region via our procurement, as far as possible. We must however work within the Public Contract Regulations (s18), which state contracting authorities shall treat economic operators equally and without discrimination and shall act in a transparent and proportionate manner. The design of the procurement shall not be made with the intention of excluding it from the scope of this part or of artificially narrowing competition. For that purpose, competition shall be artificially narrowed where the design of the procurement is made with the intention of unduly favouring or disadvantaging certain economic operators.

The following diagram shows the location of suppliers currently servicing the force. Where WMP Force = the area that we as West Midlands Police are responsible for. WM Region = the region of the West Midlands, this covers our neighbouring forces of Staffordshire, West Mercia, and Warwickshire to make up the Midlands.

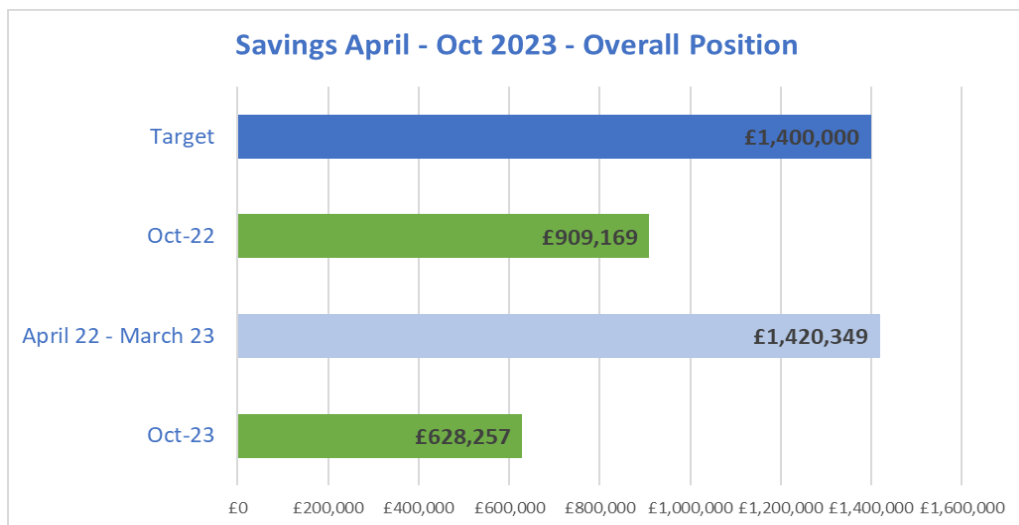
Total contract values are £469m (£394m for 21/22) covering multiple years, of which £190m (£180m: 21/22), circa 40% (46%: 21/22) is serviced by suppliers based in the West Midlands Region. Of the £190m, £128m (£126m: 21/22) relates to contractors based within the area that WMP serve. Annually this equates to £34m (£32m: 21/22).

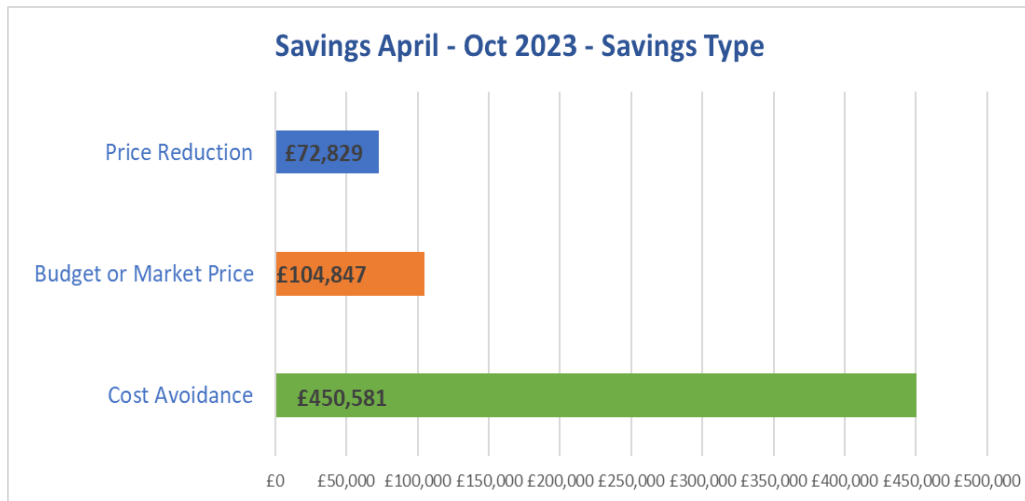
Contracted suppliers by location:



ii) The savings delivered through the Commercial and Procurement Department

For 2023/24 the force set a procurement savings target of at least £1.4m, this was based on 6.1% (aligned to our percentage share of the main grant) of the £24m target set by the Home Office for BlueLight Commercial. For the current financial year, we have already delivered £628k of savings up to the end of October 2023. We are currently renegotiating one of our key contracts and expect to negotiate a notable price reduction for the remaining life of the contract. This will be in addition to the numbers presented below.





The definitions used are as per the Home Office saving return:

Price Reduction = Arising from a margin or rate reduction through either a renegotiation of an existing contract or a new procurement activity for the same goods or services previously purchased.

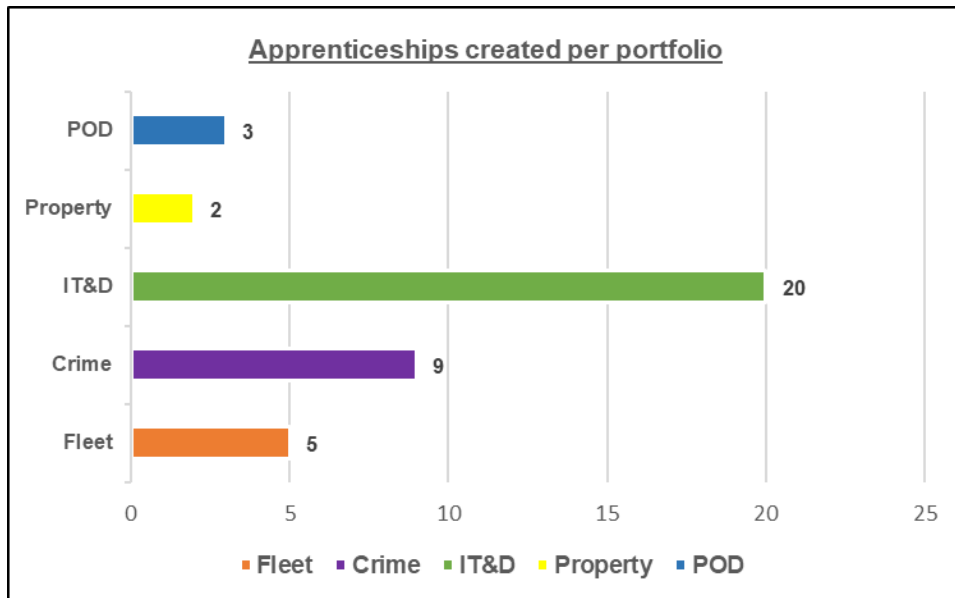
Budget or Market Price = For a new requirement where the procurement activity results in the total cost being lower than the market price or allocated budget. Pre-procurement activity via market engagement and benchmarking should determine the market price. If this is not undertaken, then the market price can be calculated as an average bid price from a tender exercise.

Cost Avoidance = Arising from the cancellation of a contract, net of any liabilities inherent in such an action; the negotiation of contractual price increases that result in reduced or no price variations; or mitigating market indexation increases.

iii) The number of apprenticeships created through the organisation’s suppliers

The total social value commitment to date, since 2020 by 49 suppliers is £12.3m, this is across the range of TOM’s. At the end of October 2022 suppliers had delivered £3.6m as at the end of October 2023 suppliers have delivered £6.2m of social and local economic value. This value changes as new contracts are onboarded, and old contracts are closed off. Apprenticeships are captured via the ‘Jobs’ Theme and data is gathered through the Social Value Portal and supplier surveys via Lean linking.

In the current financial year, the following 39 apprenticeships have been created by our supply chain, due to work awarded by WMP contracts.



Compared to 38 created apprenticeships 2021/2022

Types of roles created:

Fleet - Workshop, Vehicle Technicians, HGV apprentice

Crime - Warehouse and Packing Staff, Call Coordinator - Emergency call handler
Line Manager - Level 3 and Master - Level 5

IT&D - Production, Accounts Clerk. Installation, HR, Engineers. Software development

Property - Air Conditioning & Electrical Apprentices

People & Organisational Development (POD) - Administration, Resourcing & 1st Line support

Suppliers have confirmed that 93% of apprenticeships created have resulted in a permanent position.

iv) Confirmation that all suppliers who fall under the Living Wage Foundation's criteria are paying their staff in accordance with the Living Wage.

As part of our ITT (Invitation to tender) documentation, where appropriate we seek confirmation on whether bidders are National Living Wage employers. For third party contractors the exact definition is those who work regularly, for 2 or more hours a week, for 8 or more consecutive weeks a year. The Living Wage does not apply to contractors that supply the force with products e.g. stationery suppliers. In addition to this we ask the relevant suppliers to complete an annual compliance check, which was completed in October 2023.

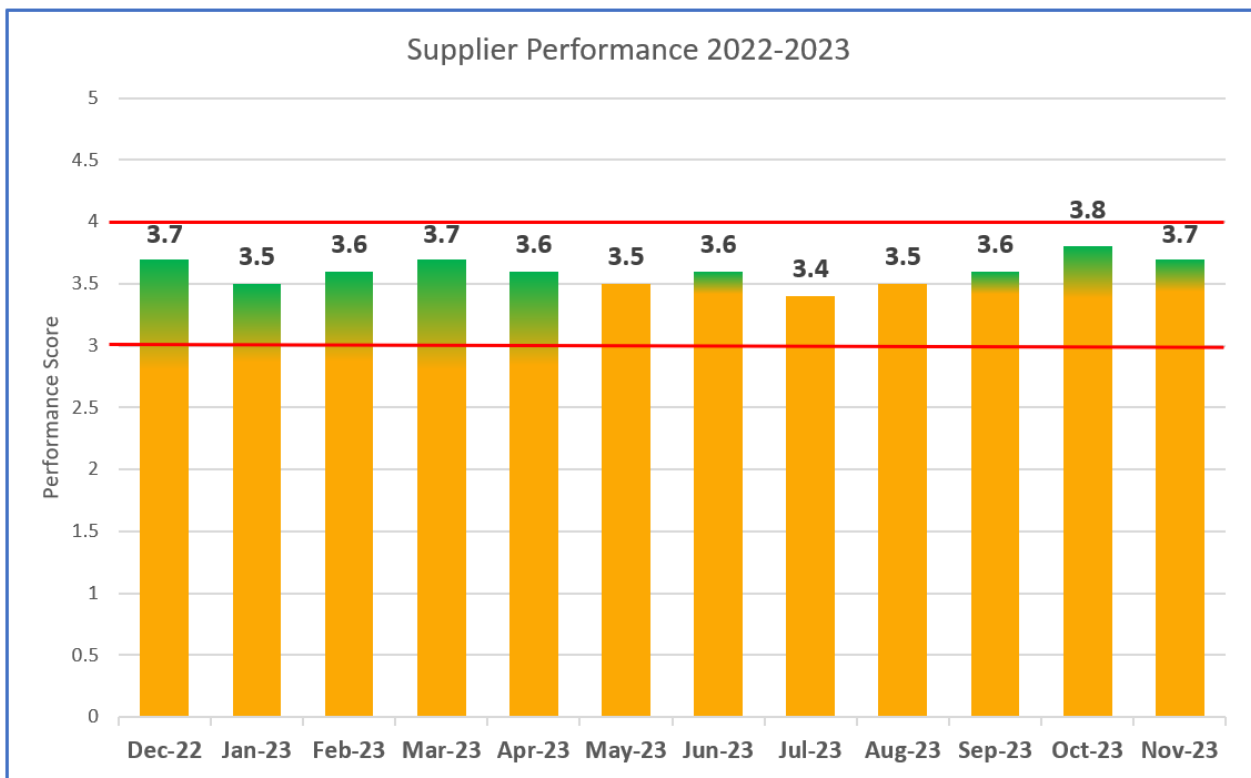
v) Assessing supplier and contract performance, post contract award

As at the end of October 2023 the force had 294 active contracts. 140 of the 294 contracts are being managed via our supplier performance management framework. The formal performance management approach is not applicable to 132 of the 294 contracts, this relates to the provision of either one off services/ goods, or where the process would not add value. This leaves 22 contracts to still be onboarded by April 2024

The performance portal Lean Linking is used to measure and monitor supplier performance via surveys/reviews undertaken by the business at an agreed frequency based on a standard set of KPI's plus specific KPI's if built into the contract. The performance score supports the procurement award/extension decisions.

A score range of 1-5 (1 being poor to 5 excellent) was used to measure supplier performance, with the average target score of 3 (good) being set across all contracts in 2021/2022. A score of 3 was the minimum performance score that should be achieved by the supplier. In April 2023 we changed the review criteria which allowed us to increase the target score to 4 (always meets expectations) This enabled us to report and acknowledge suppliers exceeding their agreed contractual obligations, coupled with supporting suppliers who were starting to underperform. Supplier performance is reported quarterly to the Director of Commercial Services and the Strategic Contracts Review and Assurance Board.

Force Supplier Performance



The chart above details the average monthly performance score with a target set of 3 and the stretched target of 4 against revised and specific review criteria from May 2023 to date.

From December 2022 to date the average force supplier performance score based on 1497 reviews is 3.6 compared to the previous year of 3.8 based on 1810 reviews. The reduction in reviews is based on the revised criteria and a greater focus on specific KPI's.

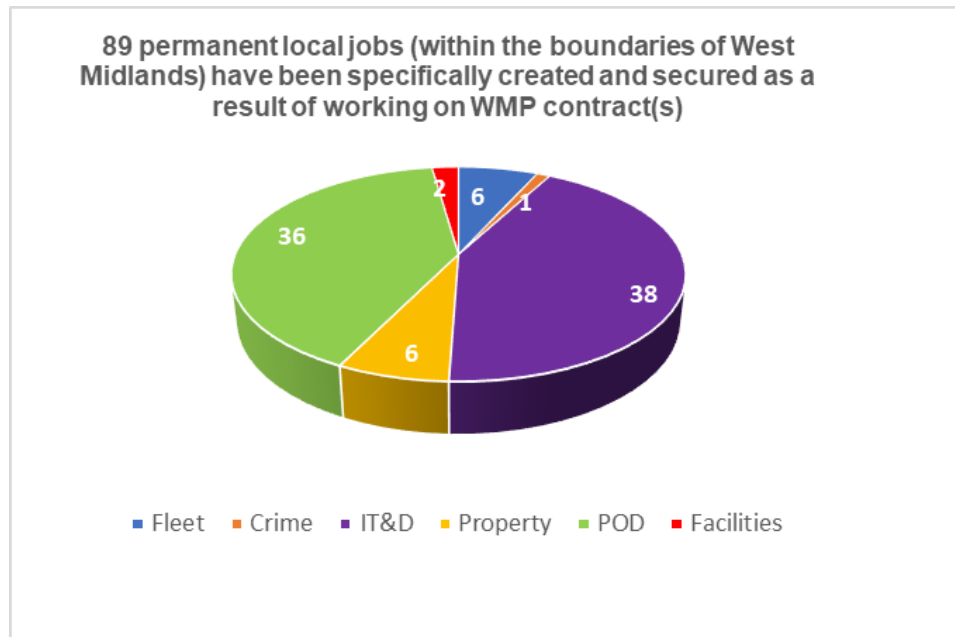
Several improvements have been made in service delivery across multiple contracts off the back of performance surveys and review meetings. We are working closely

with client departments, where supplier performance is not on target by the implementation of rectification plans and SRM involvement.

vi) Local employment created and secured through procurement

Local employment created within the West Midlands because of working on a West Midlands Police awarded contract is captured via the 'Jobs' Theme, and data is gathered through the Social Value Portal and supplier surveys.

In the current financial year, the following 89 jobs have been created by our supply chain, because of work awarded by WMP contracts. Compared to 2021/22 where 60 local jobs were created.



Types of roles created

Fleet - Workshop Controlled, Vehicle Estimator, Glass Technician, Panel Beater, trainee Painter, Trainee MET Technician.

IT&D - Maintenance administration, on site engineers, maintenance manager Apprentices engineer, electronic assembler, software developer IT Technician.

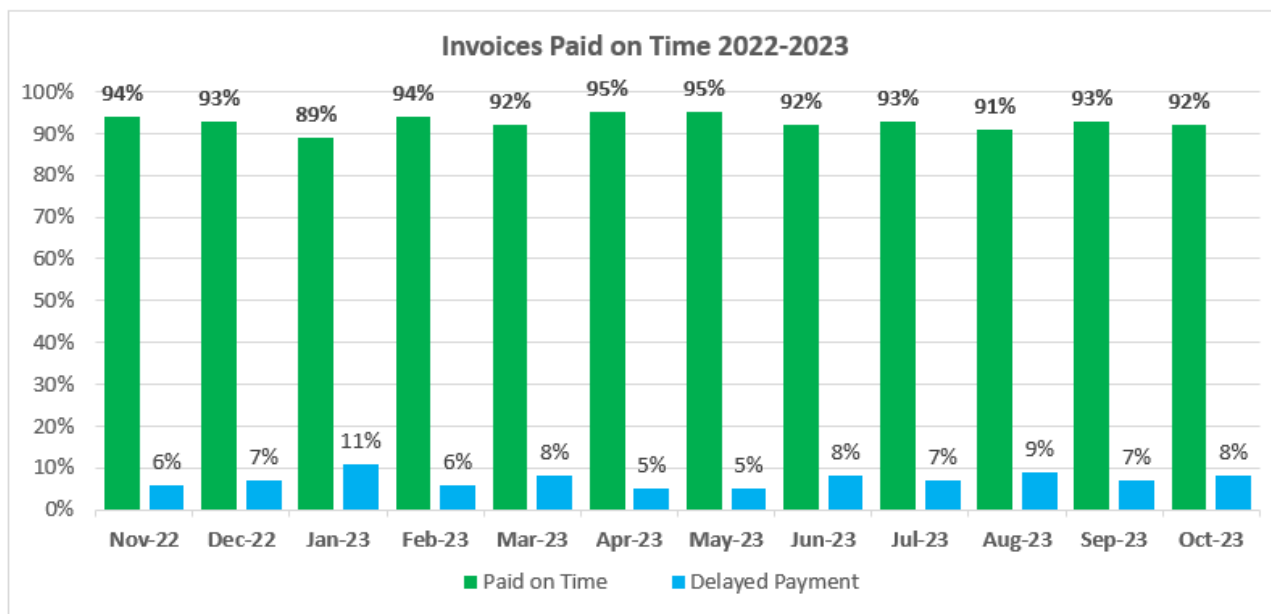
Property - Fire alarm technician, Air con Technician.

People & Organisational Development (POD) - Drivers, Counsellors, Admin, Fleet, Mechanic, Operator, Manager roles.

Facilities - Chef, Chef Manager.

vii) Prompt payment of supplier invoices within the time limits set out in central government's prompt payment policy.

Supplier invoices are paid by the Purchase to Pay team within the Shared Services function. In line with the governments 'Prompt Payment Policy', the force seeks to pay 100% of all undisputed and valid invoices within 30 days. The force pays between 2500 – 3000 invoices per month and in this period has, on average, paid 93% of invoices within 30 days.



7. To provide detail and comment on the following areas: -

7a. An update on the national regulations around public procurement.

i. The Procurement Bill

On 26 October 2023, following agreement from both the House of Lords and the House of Parliament, the Procurement Bill received Royal Assent and became the Procurement Act 2023 (The Act). Secondary legislation is now due to be passed in early 2024 with full implementation due in October 2024. Until such time the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 remain in force.

The Cabinet Office’s Procurement Bill Factsheet highlights the aims of the procurement reforms are to:

- Creating a simpler and more flexible, commercial system that better meets our country’s needs while remaining compliant with our international obligations.
- Opening-up public procurement to new entrants such as small businesses and social enterprises so that they can compete for and win more public contracts.
- Embedding transparency throughout the commercial lifecycle so that the spending of taxpayers’ money can be properly scrutinised.
- Value for money will still be a high priority although the change in focus from obtaining the “most economically advantageous tender” (“MEAT”) to the “most advantageous tender” (“MAT”) is aimed to ensure that contracting authorities are able to consider other factors as well as price including social and environmental issues.

The Government has issued a planning and preparation checklist. The Contracts & Procurement team will build this into our departmental delivery plan. We are already working with colleagues in Legal Services and BlueLight Commercial to understand and prepare for any changes.

The additional improvements made in the last 12 months has put the force in a good place in preparation for the expected changes. These improvements include:

- Recruitment to vacant posts, to increase the capacity and capability in the team;
- Upskilling of the team on contract management and social value;
- Renewal of ethical training via CIPs, which includes modern slavery legislation;
- Specific performance reporting on our platinum and gold category suppliers;
- Refresher training on core procurement systems, including the Social Value Portal and our contract management database Lean Linking;
- The launch of a contracts and procurement intranet page, to provide clarity around processes and governance arrangements; and
- Attendance at portfolio boards to discuss, changes in legislation, pipeline activity and supplier performance.

ii. Cabinet Office Procurement Policy Notes (PPN) - The following Notes were published by the Cabinet Office in 2023.

PPN 01/23: Requirements to publish on Contracts Finder

This PPN and associated guidance replaced PPN 09/21. The PPN provided consolidated guidance that reminds public bodies of the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015) to publish information about opportunities and awards, over certain value thresholds, on Contracts Finder (CFS). The value for sub-central authorities (which includes police authorities) was amended from £25,000 to £30,000 and are now inclusive of VAT (Value Added Tax).

The Forces e-Tendering System (EU Supply) automatically places advertisement and award notices on Contracts Finder

PPN 02/23: Tackling Modern Slavery in Government Supply Chains

This PPN applied to all Central Government Departments, their Executive Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies, and NHS bodies. Other public sector contracting authorities may wish to apply the approach set out in this PPN.

In-Scope organisations must use the guidance 'Tackling Modern Slavery in Government Supply Chains' to identify and manage risks in both new procurement activity and existing contracts.

To tackle modern slavery and support the force to publish an annual statement we ensure that all involved in buying/procurement receive training on modern slavery and ethical employment practices.

The force has included appropriate questions on ethical employment in tenders and assess the responses provided. The force excludes companies

which are non-compliant with section 54 of the MSA 2015 from bidding for public contracts.

Modern Slavery forms part of our social value deliverables, we ask all suppliers annually to confirm they still comply with the MSA 2015 and to confirm whether all staff/ key staff receive Modern Slavery training.

The Contracts and Procurement Team use an assessment tool to identify and monitor high risk suppliers. Going forward will use this assessment to decide whether any further due diligence needs to be undertaken.

PPN 03/23: Standard Selection Questionnaire (SQ)

This PPN applied to all contracting authorities in England and contracting authorities in Wales and Northern Ireland that exercise wholly or mainly reserved functions. The PPN updated the Selection Questionnaire (SQ) and accompanying statutory guidance. The amendments are based on feedback from buyers and suppliers to improve the supplier selection process and reflect changes to policy. This PPN replaces PPN 08/16.

The force reviewed its standard questionnaire to ensure it incorporates the required changes/updates, although the required changes were minimal.

PPN 04/23: Procuring Steel in Government Contracts

This PPN applied to all Central Government Departments, Executive Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies when conducting procurements covered by Part 2 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016, the Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations 2011, and the Concessions Contracts Regulations 2016, where steel is being procured directly or indirectly ('relevant steel procurement').

Other public sector contracting authorities are encouraged to consider applying the approach set out in this PPN, where it is relevant and proportionate to do so. We have considered this guidance and consider it not relevant to the force procurement activities.

PPN 05/23: Implementing new Free Trade Agreements

This PPN set out the changes to public procurement obligations arising out of the UK's new Free Trade Agreements with Australia & New Zealand. This PPN is relevant to all contracting authorities which come within the scope of UK public procurement regulations, including Central Government Departments, their Executive Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies, the wider public sector, local authority and NHS bodies and utilities. The changes will affect the treatment of contracts whose value cannot be estimated, the use of Prior Information Notices and Periodic Indicative Notices, and the circumstances in which termination of contracts is permissible.

On unknown contract values - current procurement regulations provide various methods for estimating the value of contracts to determine whether the relevant thresholds apply. Going forward contracts whose value cannot

be estimated must be treated as being equal to the relevant threshold by contracting authorities, and thus subject to the full regime.

With regards to Prior Information Notice or Periodic Indicative Notice in certain circumstances. Currently, procurement regulations permit sub-central contracting authorities and utilities to use a Prior Information Notice or Periodic Indicative Notice as a call for competition instead of a standard contract notice where certain requirements are met. Going forward sub-central contracting authorities and utilities will no longer be permitted to do this. Prior Information Notices and Periodic Indicative Notices may otherwise continue to be used for any other purpose as permitted under the relevant regulations.

The force always uses an estimated value based on the budget set for the spend being procured.

PPN 06/23: The Commercial Playbooks

This PPN applies to all Central Government Departments, their Executive Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

The Playbooks and their associated guidance are considered good practice and other public sector organisations are encouraged to consider taking the suite of Playbooks into account as part of their commercial activities. There are currently 4 Playbooks: Sourcing, Consultancy, Construction, and Digital, Data and Technology (DDaT). The Force will consider this good practice guidance and build into our processes where relevant.

PPN 07/23: Security Classifications Policy

This PPN provides details of the Government Security Classifications Policy (GSCP) which was updated on 30th June 2023 and to be implemented by June 2024. Contracting authorities and their contractors which handle, process, move and store HMG information (inclusive of material assets), need to be aware of the updates to the Government Security Classifications Policy (GSCP). All force tenders go out with official sensitive classifications, and we include information sharing conditions within our terms and conditions.

PPN 08/23: Using Standard Contracts

This PPN provides details regarding the standardisation of terms and conditions to assist all public sector buyers to obtain the best value for their citizens. The force is currently reviewing all its terms and conditions to ensure the new standard terms are suitable for the force's requirements.

PPN 09/23: Updates to the Cyber Essentials Scheme

This PPN replaces PPN 09/14, and it aims to ensure that effective and cyber security controls are applied to contracts to mitigate risks. This PPN is currently being reviewed with the view to incorporating Cyber essentials or Cyber Essentials Plus certification into all technical requirements from January 2024, which is in line with the timescales incorporated into this PPN.

The contents of this PPN apply to all Central Government Departments, their Executive Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies, and NHS bodies and other public sector organisations may wish to apply this approach.

The force (via Information Assurance requirements) asks for suppliers to be “Cyber Essentials” certified as part of our requirements pack. An additional layer of protection is applied by the IT&D design process. The force operates “secure by design” at WMP, therefore we ensure any solution coming into force meets those type of security requirements depending on the solution. This is largely driven by the classification of data being processed (Often GSC rated at OFFICIAL or OFFICIAL-Sensitive) and the technical controls in-place are therefore to enforce those types of standards (i.e. encryption etc). Furthermore, the design process in IT&D has independent representation from Information Assurance/Security colleagues to check and challenge proposed designs.

7b. How the work of BlueLight Commercial (BLC) is impacting on the procurement of West Midlands Police.

- I. When determining our route to market options, the force consider the pipeline activity of BLC, along with all other options available. In 2023/24, we utilised BLC’s Body Armour, Shirts and Headwear contracts as this enabled a complex exercise to achieve economies of scale and assisted with the drive to provide a standardised uniform offering to police forces.
- II. There are several working groups which we have now become members of to assist with developing commercial strategies for various areas moving forward, for example, BLC Fleet Forum and National Uniform Sub-Working Groups.
- III. BLC has undertaken a procurement exercise to replace the National BlueLight database and e-tendering solution. The new BLPD2 (database) system went live on 14 November 2022. All previous contract details were migrated, and the team are now working to ensure all new and current contracts are visible on the new system.
- IV. The new e-Tendering system element was due to go live on 1st April 2023 but was delayed due to some system issues which BLC have now worked to resolve. We are about to recommence training within this area and commence utilisation imminently. Until the training has been completed, we continue to utilise our current contract with EU Supply.

7c. The Green Agenda and procurement

Our environmental, ethical, and sustainable procurement objectives are detailed in both the Procurement Strategy and now the Forces’ Environmental Strategy. Work undertaken so far includes the following:

- I. A summary document on our Environmental Objectives was circulated to all current contractors and a range of questions regarding involvement in environmental activities have been incorporated into the tender documents to identify an organisation’s starting point, enabling, where relevant, to track achievement through the life of the contract via management information and contract management.

- II. Work has now been completed and implemented in the form of a set of Local Themes Outcomes and Measures (TOMS Lite) via the Social Value Portal to identify and add additional quality weightings relating to specific environmental themes and outcomes which meet the objectives of both the Procurement and Environmental Strategies. These are detailed on the Social Value Portal and are completed as part of any relevant tendering opportunities:

TOM Type	Reference	Measure	Category
TOM Lite	NT31	Savings in CO2e emissions on contract achieved through de-carbonisation (i.e. a reduction of the carbon intensity of processes and operations, specify how these are to be achieved) against a specific benchmark.	Carbon Reduction (tCO2e)
TOM Lite	NT32	Car miles saved on the project because of a green transport programme or equivalent (e.g. cycle to work programmes, public transport, or car-pooling programmes, etc.)	Car Miles Saved (miles)
TOM Lite	NT33	Car miles driven using low or no emission staff vehicles included on project because of a green transport programme	Car Miles Saved (miles)
TOM Lite	NT44	Commitment to carbon emissions savings to achieve NZC before 2050	Carbon Reduction (tCO2e)
TOM Lite	NT44a	Commitment to carbon emissions savings to achieve NZC before 2030	Carbon Reduction (tCO2e)
TOM Lite	NT70	Single-use plastic packaging eliminated through reusable packaging solutions or schemes (e.g. Loop or equivalent) on the contract	
TOM Lite	NT72	Hard to recycle waste diverted from landfill or incineration through specific recycling partnerships (e.g. Terracycle or equivalent)	Waste Reduction (tonnes)
TOM Lite	NT88	Reduce waste through reuse of products and materials	Waste Reduction (tonnes)
Main TOM	NT65	Reduce waste through reuse of products and materials	
Main TOM	NT66	Percentage of fleet or construction vehicles on the contract that is at least EUOR 6 or LEV	
Main TOM	NT85	Fleet emissions monitoring programme on the contract, including data collection (miles, type of vehicle, engine type, emission standard)	
Main TOM	NT86	Resources (on the contract) dedicated to creating green spaces, improving biodiversity, or helping ecosystems	

- III. Key contracts where the greatest environmental benefits can be achieved have been identified to ensure the inclusion of the Environment and Sustainability Manager as a stakeholder during the specification drafting, tendering and evaluation.

- IV. An environmental heat map for consideration in future tender options appraisals with stakeholders has been drafted with the intention of roll-out over the next 12 months. The heat map considers the impact on sustainability of each key spend category. A series of questions are then considered as part of project initiation process before the force go out to tender.
- V. Options to buy alternative environmentally friendly products enabling carbon reduction, taking into consideration the associated costs and benefits are now considered under a range of Force contracts. Examples of two contracts are detailed below:

First Aid Consumables Contractor – Aero Healthcare Ltd

- Moved production of alcohol-free cleansing wipes from China to the UK resulting in an estimated carbon reduction of 2.627 tonnes per annum.
- Looking to produce alcohol free biodegradable wipes themselves this year. Biodegradable wipes compost in as little as 2 months compared to wipes that contain plastic that take up to 450 years. The pricing will be higher than standard wipes, but the Force has the option of switching.
- Aiming to have all products moved out of China by 2025 estimating a carbon reduction in the region of 570 tonnes per annum.
- Ongoing program to replace all bubble wrap or polystyrene chips with paper.
- Only promoting Defibs made in the USA and Belfast. Products manufactured in these countries have a lower carbon footprint versus products manufactured in developing countries that do not have the same restrictions on emissions etc. There is also the significant reduction in Carbon emissions during transport.

IT&D Solutions - Supply & Delivery of Information Communication Technology Solutions - SCC (Specialist Computer Centres) PLC

The force is currently trialling a packaging recycling service with SCC for the imminent delivery of 200 new laptops. This is a service whereby the supplier removes all packaging for processing at source. We are awaiting the details of the estimated carbon reduction figures because of this service trial.

- Regarding the overall Force/ PCC strategy of minimising our environmental impacts, the Force Environment and Sustainability Manager has reported the work undertaken in this area to the board in November.

8. oPCC Procurement Update

8a. Commissioning Powers

The Commissioner has powers under Section 9 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011) to award grants for crime and disorder reduction.

The Commissioner also has powers under Section 143 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to commission services that in the opinion of the local policing body will secure, or contribute to securing, crime and disorder reduction in the body's area or services that are intended by the local policing body to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour.

The nature of the procurement activity within the oPCC is therefore qualitatively different than that undertaken by the force.

8b. Oversight

The oPCC engages in ongoing oversight of all its grants made and services commissioned through individual Boards and collaborative working arrangements, Data is gathered on the quality of services being provided and fed back to those who are responsible for working on future commissioning.

The oPCC operates its commissioning lifecycle on the basis of Analyse, Plan, Do, Review and has delivered training at awayday events for all staff on ensuring that commissioning and gaining value for the public through good commissioning is at the heart of all our processes.

8c. Decision making

The oPCC has a Commissioning Governance Board that approves routes to market and awards in a similar manner to that of the CRAB in force. This ensures transparent decision making and takes every opportunity to test services with the market where market engagement suggests that there is a benefit to doing so in either quality or price.

8d. Procurement Planning

The oPCC has a formal medium-term plan for procurement for VRP services and oPCC services which it has developed during 2023. This aligns resource availability with market development and will see us focus more closely on setting up framework contracts for providers in order to deliver agile grant funded solutions in the coming years.

9. Financial Implications

None

10. Legal Implications

The Force/ OPCC will be reviewing its Contract Standing Orders, before the end of the financial year.

11. Equality implications

None

Joint Procurement Strategy - West Midlands Police and West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner 2022 - 2025

