

**Strategic Policing and Crime Board**

**26<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**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 and the work completed by the Carbon Trust to provide West Midlands Police with a Decarbonisation Action Plan.
2. The report will detail the net zero plan to deliver the PCC/WMP environmental strategy. This item has already been discussed at a group meeting earlier in November 2023 where it was agreed that West Midlands Police would return to the SPCB to report the findings of the report.

Background

3. West Midlands Police is the second largest police force in England, serving a population of almost 2.8 million. The force has an ambition to lead the way in environmental sustainability for police forces across the UK. In its Environmental Strategy 2022-27, WMP has set a goal to achieve net zero Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2035.
4. The West Midlands Police and Crime Plan 2021 – 2025 set an ambition for the West Midlands Police to lead the way in environmental sustainability, including a commitment to produce and implement an 'environmental sustainability plan'.
5. The WMP Environmental Strategy 2022 – 2027 was released in July 2022, it sets out a framework of ambition and actions to deliver improved environmental sustainability, including:
  - A goal to reach Net Zero by 2035.
  - Actions across key areas including area-specific goals, steps for improvements, and guidelines for monitoring progress.

- Identification of the need to establish baselines and targets for carbon emissions.
  - An alignment with the current government ambitions for decarbonisation of sectors such as power and buildings.
6. As a result of this, the PCC 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.
  7. Subsequently the Carbon Trust produced a Decarbonisation Action Plan, which set out the baseline carbon footprint for the reporting period (FY 2022/23) against which future emissions reporting and progress towards the net zero target can be monitored.

#### Key points

8. Findings from the Decarbonisation Action Plan reveal that WMP emitted 14,512 tCO<sub>2</sub>e during the baseline year (2022/23), with Scope 1 accounting for 72% and Scope 2 for 28%. Notable contributors to emissions include natural gas in the built estate and fuel combustion in the vehicle fleet.
9. The report also highlighted that West Midlands Police should oversee regular monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions, create channels of effective communication of results to staff and external stakeholders, and the oversee the completion of a comprehensive Scope 3 screening exercise.
10. Key recommendations are outlined in the following areas:

#### Governance:

- Senior leadership, starting from the Police and Crime Commissioner, should endorse and actively communicate the Decarbonisation Action Plan, providing support and empowerment to all WMP employees.
- Establish a defined job role within the Environment & Sustainability team to holistically manage decarbonisation activities across the organisation.

#### Resource Allocation:

- Allocate appropriate funding and human resources to support WMP in reaching its 2035 net-zero target.
- Prioritise decarbonisation as a high priority during ongoing resource allocation, despite tight budgets.

#### Energy Management:

- Adopt a "fabric first" approach before investing in low carbon technology, focusing on energy efficiency measures to reduce consumption and peak demand.
- Dedicate resources to energy management, potentially adopting a formalised framework like ISO 50001 for effective energy management.

#### Energy Controls:

- Assign dedicated resources to Building Management Systems (BMS) to proactively reduce energy consumption and enhance energy management capabilities.
- Expand the use of automatic meter reading (AMR) systems for centralised energy data, improved energy analysis, and efficiency gains.

#### Estate Carbon Reduction Opportunities:

- Implement recommended carbon reduction measures, including building fabric improvements, LED lighting upgrades, and electrification of heating through the conversion of gas boilers to heat pumps.

#### Fleet Carbon Reduction Opportunities:

- Develop a fleet decarbonisation strategy by the end of 2025, exploring the use of telematics data, assessing the feasibility and costs of increasing electric vehicles (EVs) in the fleet, and ensuring adequate charging infrastructure.

#### Behaviour Change:

- Embed climate change and decarbonisation considerations into all decision-making processes through education and training for all staff, promoting positive behaviour change.

#### Monitoring and Reporting:

- Undertake regular monitoring and reporting activities, at least annually between the baseline and target years to track progress against decarbonisation targets.
- Actively monitor the implementation of carbon reduction opportunities, including energy reduction, cost savings, and the implementation year.

#### Ongoing Process Review:

- Plan strategic reviews of the action plan at key milestones throughout the target period, considering progress, updated emission scenarios, capital costs, and the integration of new projects.

#### Development and Delivery

11. In addition to the findings of the report, WMP have begun low carbon and sustainable estates and sustainable operations and responsible business working groups. These working groups have helped in better collaboration and communication with key stakeholders and gave an overview of the work done in the previous year and a look-ahead for future projects and aspirations.
12. WMP are also working with Investors in the Environment (IIE) to gain their Bronze accreditations. WMP are currently the only police force in UK obtaining this qualification and we are on target to achieve this qualification by the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2024.
13. To achieve Bronze Accreditation, WMP need to have an Environmental Policy in place alongside a Waste Management Plan and have Environmental and/or Social Projects in place. WMP also need to have working groups in place and measure resource use.
14. WMP have planned their IIE audit for review - Week Commencing 25th of March 2024 and upon successful completion of the audit, WMP will be the first police force to be Bronze Accredited. In order to reach our commitment to reach Net Zero by 2035, we will continue to pursue Silver and Green accreditations aligning with our environmental strategy and goal to reach Net Zero by 2035.
15. We are also excited to announce the launch of our Environment and Sustainability Fund. This initiative aims to support local projects and initiatives that promote eco-friendly practices and contribute to the well-being of our workforce and community.

16. This is available for all employees and teams and included initiatives such as installing planting boxes, bike racks, and composters and all applications will be fully supported by the Environmental and Sustainability Manager.
17. In addition to this, work is being carried out with the Facilities and Enabling Manager to improve waste and recycling provisions across the Police Estate, this work is currently underway and in early stages of assessing feasibility.
18. Additional work will be done within Corporate Asset Management in the form of Lunch and Learns. Within these sessions project officers and key stakeholders will have the opportunity to discuss arrangements for future build estates, ensuring that environment and sustainability are at the forefront and incorporated in the feasibility and specification of all projects
19. WMP have also worked very closely with National Express to offer all police officers and staff free 4-week trial travel passes. It is hoped that this will help in changing behaviours and encourage more people to use public transport.

#### Priorities

20. The priority themes identified for the environmental strategy are:
  - **A low-carbon and sustainable estate** - an efficient, resilient, and futureproofed 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

21. 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.
22. 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.

#### Legal Implications

23. 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.
24. The UK parliament passed a motion without division on the 1st of May 2019 to declare an environment and climate emergency. The work carried out with the Carbon Trust via the PCC commission, highlights the dedication and steadfastness of WMP to tackle this issue.

## Equality Implications

25. Where appropriate, equality impact assessments will be built into the planning stages of individual projects and initiatives. This will be carried out in the form of Lunch and Learn sessions as stated in this report.

## Next Steps

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

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