

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Resources Committee

13th September 2007

Open for the purpose of FOI

Report of Director of Finance & Resources

**Force Environmental Workgroup –
Update Report**

Recommendation:

- (i) That early progress of the Force Environmental Workgroup be noted and supported.**

Introduction

1. Following the inaugural meeting of this group on the 9th May 2007, two subsequent meetings have been held and a further meeting is scheduled for the 4th September. The meetings involve representation from across the Force, regular attendance by a representative from the Carbon Trust (Carbon Trust is funded through DEFRA) and the Police Authority.
2. The purpose of the group is to provide a governance structure to manage all aspects of environmental stewardship and ensure the application of environmental best practice linked to continual improvement. The environmental policy will recognise the importance of contributions from all parts of the Force but in particular from Estates, Transport and Procurement, where major opportunities exist to influence the Force impact on the environment. Marketing, HR and Training Departments also have a significant responsibility for communicating corporate and individual compliance requirements.

Development of an Environmental Strategy and Policy

3. The attached governance structure diagram (Appendix A) suggests the recommended split of responsibilities between the Police Authority and Force. The Police Authority to establish and own the strategy, the Force underpins the strategy with a policy, action plans, further supporting policies and a “continuous improvement” tactical application of initiatives.

ISO14001 Environmental Management System

4. The Police Authority are actively considering applying for accreditation under this Standard and recognise the commitment such accreditation would require.

Environmental Initiatives – In-progress and under development

5. The following initiatives are an example of the work in progress or actions that are under serious consideration or development to progress the Police Authority strategy and the Force policy in respect of environmental management best practice. The ‘green agenda’ is extensive and touches on every aspect of Force

business. The Workgroup aim to develop a continuous improvement action plan incorporating detailed implementation proposals and responsibilities for all initiatives identified. The Resources Committee should be aware that work is at an early stage and the real benefit of the work will not be transparent until 2008 at the earliest.

Further work will be undertaken to benchmark current performance against many of these initiatives and to subsequently set targets for reduction, financial savings and/or energy efficiency improvement. It is intended that annual targets and results will be openly published and audited once these have been development.

Work to be progressed includes:

- Force Policies and business cases to be subjected to Environmental Appraisal;
- Marketing initiatives to include – “green suggestion scheme”, “green branding”, increased public awareness through press releases and regular web site updates;
- Use of Police Authority “invest to save” initiatives;
- Compliance monitoring;
- Initiatives being assessed on full environmental benefits – not just financial returns but cost / benefit analysis will be applied to ensure full environmental / cost implications are understood;
- Waste management – ongoing initiatives to reduce waste, recycle waste – including – double sided printing, computer equipment recycling, paper recycling scheme etc
- Environmentally friendly supplier policy has been introduced;
- Environmentally friendly product specification has been introduced – eg improved “environmental” specification for computers that are now being purchased, use of recycled paper for photo-copying;
- The Force vehicle fleet carbon footprint is being calculated, monitored and reduced;
- Reduction of business travel through management awareness, prompting messages on meeting requests and joining instructions for training events, support by the provision of audio / video conferencing facilities and careful consideration of meeting and training venues;
- Improved “environmental” specification of Force fleet vehicle including the optimisation of diesel fuel;
- Reduction in Force vehicle fleet through Finance and Resources Group and management controls to reduce mileage including video conferencing;
- Continue to monitor and trial alternative fuel vehicles including electric bikes and push bikes;
- Actively encourage staff to walk, cycle, journey share or use public transport. Look to expand schemes like Bicycle User Group (joint initiative with Devon County Council), SMART Moves (journey share) and Sowton Transport Forum to other areas of the Force
- Work with local public transport providers to promote use of their services for work and leisure. Currently working with Stagecoach to promote – annual ticket discounts and instalment purchase scheme, free “taster”

journeys, marketing material, travel voucher scheme and route planning to take in large Force sites

- Expand delivery of remote and distance learning, including e-learning, to reduce both printing and travel requirements;
- Reduction in office heating to meet operational requirements;
- Continue to develop and implement flexible working patterns in order that staff may reduce time spent in the workplace, reduce the number of journeys to and from work, stagger starting and finishing times, share travel and make best use of technology for work, including working from home;
- Commitment to appoint a Force Energy Manager on a self-financing basis and to consider further resourcing needs across both Force and Police Authority in order to implement, manage and audit Environmental Management. A commitment to conform to ISO14001, and to set and report publicly environmental targets and results, will require the Police Authority and Force to underwrite a level of resource consistent with the volume of work that will need to be undertaken
- The Estates Department have many opportunities to make positive contributions to environmental initiatives. A separate action plan has been drafted to embrace much of the specialised activity that can be managed through the Estates function. Much of the opportunity identified will be included in the planning that is being put together for the proposed new Bodmin development. This Bodmin project will provide a template against which future new builds will be measured for environmental and energy efficiency. Although the project is still only in its design stage, the following items have been included, either as actual or possible deliverables:
 - ❖ The current BREEAM rating of “very good” is to be reviewed by the Contractor to establish the cost/feasibility of improving to an “excellent” rating. (The fact that new Bodmin will be situated on a greenfield site will increase the difficulty of achieving an “excellent” rating)
 - ❖ Green travel plans are being included in the planning application
 - ❖ Biomass Boilers will be further reviewed despite, as yet, being unproven and linked to major maintenance issues
 - ❖ Daylight dimming lights
 - ❖ Rainwater harvesting
 - ❖ Solid concrete construction for night time cooling
 - ❖ Building materials / specification – green emphasis placed on contractor
 - ❖ Contractors “Green Strategy” commitment required
 - ❖ Wind survey has been commissioned to look at feasibility of including 2 wind turbines
 - ❖ Include 2 wind turbines in planning application (This could be a positive or negative issue as public are not too keen on local proximity of wind turbines – also reportedly very ineffective on payback).
 - ❖ Solar issues are being considered either to heat water or to generate and store power (but suitable only for low voltage supply).
 - ❖ Ground Pump – being investigated
 - ❖ Proximity light switches

- ❖ Natural ventilation to reduce power usage
- ❖ The Vehicle Workshop is being assessed for a “Commercial BREEAM” rating
- ❖ Site “cut & fill” work will aim to minimise vehicle movements needed to remove top soil from site

Conclusion

6. Whilst still in its formative phase, the Environmental Workgroup has made significant progress in identifying opportunities to make positive contributions to environmental good practice. With work well advanced on establishing a strategy, policy and governance structure plus tangible energy management initiatives work to progress the environmental agenda will continue to gather greater momentum.

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Devon & Cornwall Police Authority and Devon & Cornwall Constabulary
Environmental Governance Structure – First thoughts

