

To: Finance and Resources Committee
From: Chief Constable
Date: 20th October 2009

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

1. Purpose and Background

- 1.1 This document is a brief review of progress in environmental management in the past year and plans for the coming year. The reader should take into account that the post of Environment Officer was vacant from October 2008 to February 2009. This paper will focus mainly on energy and the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC). The CRC is a mandatory government trading scheme with the potential to impose significant financial impacts on the Force. It should be noted that management of natural resources is one of the Key Lines of Enquiry included in the Police Use of Resources audit in March 2010.
- 1.2 Previously there have been no approved policies in place to underpin and support the work done on environmental issues. So, an Environment Strategy, Environmental Management Policy, Energy Management Policy and associated Procedures were created by the Environment Officer and approved by FEB in September (Appendix 1 & Policy Database). These policies outline the Constabulary's commitment to using natural resources efficiently and reducing its carbon emissions, together with a focus on financial savings.

2. Carbon Reduction Commitment

- 2.1 The previous Environmental Review in May 2008 gave a brief summary of what the CRC entailed. As the scheme will commence in April 2010, it is necessary to now provide further details of how it will affect us.

The Force will be required to annually monitor, report on and buy 'allowances' for the amount of CO₂ we predict we will emit in the coming year. This CO₂ relates to the electricity and gas we consume at our Half-Hourly (HH) metered sites. Our HH sites include Hinchingsbrooke, Thorpe Wood, Parkside, Copse Court and Hampton. As shown in Appendix 2, had the CRC been operational in financial year 08/09, we would have spent around £66,000 purchasing allowances at a price of £12 per tonne of CO₂. This cost excludes Copse Court.

Money from the purchasing of allowances is recycled back to participants within 6 months. Whether we get more or less money back than we paid in, depends on where we are positioned in the league table. Our position in the league table in turn depends on three metrics; absolute CO₂ reduction, early action and growth, as seen in Appendix 3.

If we do not curb our emissions over the next few years, we could end up paying a double penalty. Firstly, we would be paying out more than we need to on electricity and gas bills. Secondly, our CRC re-payments would have a percentage deducted for poor performance. This performance is measured using the league table mentioned above. The percentage of bonus/penalty is set to increase each year so that by year five of the scheme, 50% of the money we pay for our allowances could be removed from our re-payments as a penalty (Appendix 2).

It should be emphasised at this stage that all recommendations are to act now to start to reduce our emissions and ensure support from senior management.

2.2 Several measures have already been taken to prepare the Force for the CRC.

First, automated metering for electricity was installed at HQ, Thorpe Wood and Parkside between April and August last year. Further meters will be installed soon at Bridge Street, Copse Court and Hampton. We have been using Stark Monitoring and Targeting software with these meters since April 2008.

Secondly, five carbon footprints and energy reports were undertaken by the Carbon Trust, with recommended energy-saving actions. The report for HQ acknowledged that some improvements on energy-efficiency had been made since the first survey in 2007. Further recommendations for HQ were made with an estimated cost of £13,700, estimated ongoing savings of £56,000 p.a. and payback of less than a year. Funding is currently available to carry out some of these recommendations.

The four other surveys were carried out in September and the reports are not yet published at the time of writing.

3. Energy Efficiency Projects

3.1 The HQ Carbon Trust energy survey provided the impetus to create an Energy Management Action Plan for a structured approach to energy saving over several years. In order to implement this action plan in a sustained, effective way, an Energy Management Group is being assembled. This group will consist of business managers and other key individuals to oversee energy-efficiency projects. These projects aim to save money by reducing our energy consumption and put us in a better position for the CRC.

They will consist of technical projects such as efficient lighting and sensors, Building Management Systems and equipment timers as well as staff awareness projects. The Action Plan and full list of associated energy-efficiency projects can be found in Appendix 4.

- 3.2 New Display Energy Certificates (DEC's) were issued to our six largest sites, excluding Copse Court, in July. These certificates assess how efficiently the occupants of a building use gas and electricity. Each site is awarded a rating from A (outstanding) to G (poor) relating to the previous years' energy data. Hinchingsbrooke, Parkside, Bridge Street and Wisbech all remained on bands G, E, D and C respectively. Thorpe Wood improved enough to move up from a G to an F rating.

March Station received a default G-rating because the electricity provider did not produce all the data for this site. Significant improvements to these ratings could be made with sustained energy-saving initiatives. Such projects will focus on the divisional headquarters as they received the lowest scores and have the highest energy bills.

4. Waste Contract

- 4.1 The Constabulary uses 7 residual waste contractors, costing £51,982 in 2008/09. These contractors provide different levels of service and have varying prices. This is unwieldy to manage, inefficient and not cost effective. The Force therefore needs to bring all these contracts in to one. Research on local contractor pricing found potential savings of over £15,000 per year when using a single company, even when including additional recycling facilities. Unfortunately due to complications with tendering and contracts, it is proving difficult to move all contracts over to a new company at the same time. Depending on the company chosen we will have paper, cardboard, plastic and can recycling at all sites where there is sufficient demand.

5. Workplace Travel Plan

- 5.1 A Workplace Travel Plan was completed last year by Linda Cox and the Travel Forum. This is an umbrella plan with a broad perspective of Force travel. It is currently being re-drafted by the new Environment Officer, along with separate, more specific divisional Travel Plans. The current plan outlines the trends of staff travel, current facilities and the results of previous staff surveys. The Environment Officer will re-launch the new Travel Plans with a staff awareness campaign in the new year. As part of this, fresh promotion of car-sharing and the Camshare website will be undertaken, with dedicated car-share parking spaces at certain sites.
- 5.2 The annual 'Travel for Work' online staff survey will be conducted in January 2010. Previous surveys provide a baseline on which to improve our sustainable travel statistics. This year's survey will be bespoke to try to get a better understanding of our travel issues.

- 5.3 There is a successful 'Cycle to Work' scheme in operation across the Force which has a total of 103 employees engaged in the scheme.

6. Communication

- 6.1 Communication with staff over the past 18 months has been inconsistent due to the Environment Officer role being vacant for a period. As a result, the 'Switch it Off' campaign run by Linda Cox lost momentum. The new Environment Officer has reinvigorated and adapted this energy-saving campaign with a suite of staff awareness projects, called '*Watts Off?*'. These measures include publicising the children's poster competition; launching the new policies; staff competitions; conducting surveys and finding new ways to communicate energy data with staff.

7. Conclusion and Recommendations

- 7.1 Steady progress has been made in several areas since May 2008. With the installation of a new Environment Officer, projects promoting cost-savings, energy-efficiency and sustainable travel are being created and progressed.

There are many areas of potential energy- and cost-savings across Force operations. These can be achieved using relatively small initial outlays with a pay-back period of often less than three years. However, as much of this work is Force-wide and involves changing staff behaviours, campaigns will only be successful if senior management provide their full support.

Therefore, it is recommended that;

- a) Commitment from management and sufficient staffing is provided for the Energy Management Group to conduct the energy-efficiency projects.
- b) Preparations are made within the next year, in collaboration with the Environment Officer, for the CRC. This includes budgeting and the formation of a CRC Strategic Group.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document (s)	Contact Officer	Location
DECC Carbon Reduction Commitment User Guide, Draft March 2009.	Caroline Bradley, Environment Officer Contact tel no: (01480) 422478 E: caroline.bradley@cambs.pnn.police.uk	Estates Department Cambridgeshire Constabulary Hinchingsbrooke Park, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 6NP.
<p>Originating Officer, Caroline Bradley.</p> <p>Is it considered that this report contains 'exempt information' and should be considered in private? No</p> <p>If the answer is "YES", please state the nature of the exempt information and the relevant clause (s) by virtue of Part 1 of Revised Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.</p> <p>The attached report has been cleared with the undermentioned Officer/s who have assessed the exemption status above. Chief Executive/Treasurer/Chief Constable/Deputy Chief Constable/Assistant Chief Constable Others</p> <p>Submitted on12th October 2009.....</p> <p>A report will not be sent to the Authority unless this box has been satisfactorily completed and all necessary consultation carried out - the responsibility for which rests with the originator (except for consultation with the Chairman and this will be undertaken by the Chief Executive).</p>		