



**West
Yorkshire
Policing
& Crime**

**Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire**



**Alison Lowe
Deputy Mayor for
Policing & Crime**

Report to: Police and Crime Panel

Date: 10 November 2023

Subject: Energy Management

Report of: Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire

Author: Julie Reid, Head of Policing and Crime Team

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Police and Crime Panel approved the Mayor's precept proposal for 2023-24 with the following commitment:

'To ensure that, along with increasing sustainability, the Energy Management Strategy exploits all opportunities for delivering energy efficiencies enabling savings to be reinvested within the overall budget.'

- 1.2 The Mayor committed to report to Panel, during the year, on the energy efficiency of the operations of West Yorkshire Police.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 In the last Inspection, HMICFRS graded West Yorkshire Police as 'Outstanding' for Strategic Planning, Organisational Management and Value for Money. The latest report of the External Auditor concluded there were effective arrangements in place for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.
- 2.2 The Institute for Fiscal Studies identifies that local authorities and police forces in grant dependent areas such as West Yorkshire have seen rapid reductions in funding since austerity. Between 2010 and 2020 West Yorkshire Police has seen an overall real term reduction in Government funding of around £140 million which is in the context of increasing demand both in terms of volume and complexity.

- 2.3 Since 2020 the Police Uplift Programme (PUP) has provided an increase in funding which is welcomed; however the additional resources are specifically focused on police officers and do not cover inflationary pressures.
- 2.4 Since March 2022 the UK economy has faced a number of shocks including rapidly increasing inflation, energy prices and the cost-of-living crisis. This has had an impact on the Force budget. Government Budgets have not identified policing as a protected department putting further pressures on policing to make financial savings to balance the budget.

3. ENERGY MANAGEMENT

- 3.3 The Police and Crime Panel was advised in December 2022 that inflation in energy costs was one of the factors driving an increase in the budget deficit for 2023/24.
- 3.4 Whilst energy prices remained high compared to the longstanding pricing pre the energy crisis that began in Summer 2022, they began to ease from December 2022. West Yorkshire Police proactively tracked the market and signed fixed 1-year deals in January, as opposed to joining pre purchased flex deals common in the public sector. The unit rates are approximately 37% cheaper for gas and 11% cheaper for electricity than if joining the flex deals from the framework provider, securing cost avoidance this financial year of approximately £2m. This of course helped to reduce the deficit that was forecast in December 2022 and enable a balanced budget to be set for 2023/24.
- 3.5 The in-year position against the energy budget line is currently forecasting an underspend which the Mayor will transfer into a new Sustainability Reserve to enable further work on decarbonisation.

4 SUSTAINABILITY

- 4.1 West Yorkshire Police is developing its broader sustainability work having appointed its first Sustainability Manager in January 2023 and has a corporate Sustainability Board established. Work is progressing on the first Sustainability Strategy which is expected to be finalised early next year. Engagement is established with the Climate and Environment Teams in the Combined Authority and discussions are ongoing about support that can be provided and to explore any areas for collaboration. A further report will be brought to Panel to outline the strategy and the work to date in 2024.
- 4.2 West Yorkshire Police are linked into the national work on sustainability that is led by Bluelight Commercial. While the national work is in its infancy, West Yorkshire Police are seeking to help contribute to and help drive that work in recognition of what a significant undertaking it is and how important it is.
- 4.3 The decarbonisation of the West Yorkshire Police estate remains a huge challenge whether timescales, practicalities or affordability, consideration is

factored into all our major projects. Planning consent has been achieved and works begun on site for our new Kirklees District Headquarters building in Huddersfield. The building will be all electric and include a large solar panel array to generate renewable energy. The refurbishment of the Bradford District Headquarters Building is ongoing and is designed to incorporate energy saving measures and the installation of a large solar panel array. Planning consent has been achieved for the refurbishment of Brighouse Police Station including the installation of solar panels.

- 4.4 At Bradford District Headquarters electric vehicle charging has also been installed for a fleet of 16 non-marked electric vehicles and a pilot of the use of these vehicles has recently commenced.
- 4.5 Grant funding options are being explored with both the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) administered by Salix and through the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. A PSDS Grant has been secured in principle for investment for Trafalgar House to connect to a District Heating Network, though issues around feasibility remain to be resolved. An application to install a decarbonised heat source at Eccleshill Police Station has been submitted for the current PSDS funding round.

5 EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION BENEFITS AND IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 All decisions, strategies and policies are subject to an equality impact assessment.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As detailed in the report.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 All contractual decisions are subject to legal assessment.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That members note the report.

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