

Metropolitan Police Service

Background

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) is the UK's largest police service, serving a population of 7.2 million and covering an area of 620 square miles. It is a large, diverse organisation covering a wide variety of activities. The MPS's activities are undertaken and managed through approximately 51,000 staff, 760 Operational buildings and 6,000 vehicles.

Sustainable purchasing

MPS recognises the impact that its operations has on the environment and takes positive steps to reduce this impact. One of the ways it achieves this is through sustainable procurement.

Working with the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) it ensures that sustainable procurement is a key element of MPA/MPS's overall Procurement Strategy, in line with its commitment to the GLA Responsible Procurement Policy and Action Plan.

With a procurement budget of £850 million it is able to have a very positive impact. This influence is exerted across the range of its activities. When commissioning construction or refurbishment projects, products such as 100%

Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) timber and dual flush toilets are procured.

Implementation

MPS provides Fairtrade goods options, such as tea and coffee, and confectionery, in staff restaurants. There has been a 48% increase in Fairtrade sales in the last 12 months following a successful promotional campaign supported by the Fairtrade Foundation.

FSC and recycled content paper products have been procured for a number of years along with photocopiers that have double sided functionality. On the transport side, MPS has recently procured 135 hybrid vehicles and 4 electric SMART vehicles.

MPS places sustainable procurement at the heart of all its strategies; as such it encourages collaboration with other organisations. MPS is working with other GLA Group Functional bodies on a joint procurement exercise to reduce carbon emissions from buildings as part of the Building Energy Efficiency Programme - an initiative developed by the Clinton Climate Change C40 cities programme. Through this initiative it has identified the

potential to save 28% of the building carbon footprint, which amounts to 2600 tonnes of CO₂.

The MPS also works with the GLA Group on the Responsible Procurement Agenda to lead the way for other London organisations to implement responsible procurement practices.

MPS sets annual targets as part of its Environmental Management Programme to deliver a 5 year Environmental Strategy objective to "work with suppliers and contractors to improve environmental performance in the supply chain through a purchasing policy founded on stewardship and to maximise the purchase of sustainable materials". This is supported by a dedicated resource and backed by sound policies and procedures. All large scale procurements contain sustainable procurement as a marked element in initial assessment. Low value tenders require suppliers to meet relevant obligations.

Key senior members of staff are committed to the sustainable procurement initiative; the MPS Director of Resources is the MPS Environmental Champion, and Director of Procurement Services is the ACPO lead for

Sustainable Procurement. Key to senior engagement is their recognition that effective sustainable procurement delivers resource efficiency as well as reducing the organisation's impact on the environment.

Policy

MPS has a clear vision and strategy of sustainable and responsible procurement and uses this to guide it in all areas of procurement.

For example, it has established environmental sustainability criteria within its Facilities Management Services (FMS) contract. By doing this the suppliers responsible for delivering the contract will demonstrate best practice in environmentally sound Facilities Management.

By working down the supply chain MPS has ensured that its Environmental Strategy is effectively implemented. Some of the areas covered include:

- environmentally friendly building and cleaning products
- grounds maintained sensitively to promote biodiversity
- implementation of a co-mingled internal waste recycling scheme

Communicating with stakeholders

Procurement staff have received sustainable procurement training in relation to specific categories such as ICT, and induction on Standard Operating Procedures, which include proformas on diversity, environment and ownership.

The MPS is currently working with the other GLA functional bodies and CIPS to develop bespoke training on Responsible Procurement at both the strategic and operational level.

MPS ensures that its suppliers are engaged in a number of practical ways such as:

- Meet the buyer events
- Highlighting specific tenders to identified groups e.g. legal services tender to Black Solicitors Network

The MPS also reports its environmental performance and achievements within the annual MPA/S Environment Report. This is further supported by good practice case studies written into the Mayor of London's Responsible Procurement annual report

Business benefits

The provision and implementation of a sustainable procurement policy is a key element of the MPS's aim to provide a citizen focused service that responds to the needs of individuals and communities within London and inspires trust and confidence in the police.

In addition, work is underway to capture business benefits of implementation of the London Living Wage and output of the Building Energy Efficiency Programme. Intelligence gathered will inform future policy and business case development as appropriate.

Results

In 2006, MPS received a Highly Commended in the Extra Mile Award from London Remade. The following year it received a Highly Commended in the Sustainable Procurement

category of the Sustainable Cities Award.

In 2007/08 the MPS increased fairtrade sales by 48% following a successful promotional campaign during Fairtrade Fortnight as well as providing a range of product options via staff restaurants.

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