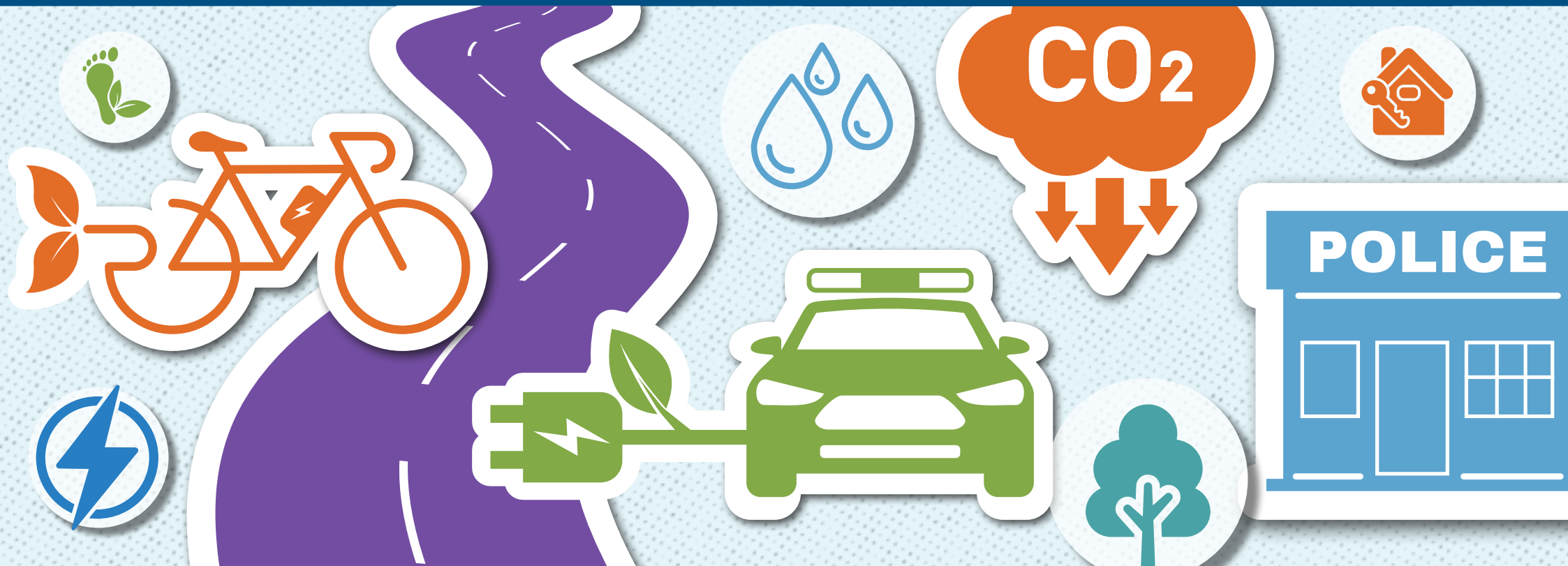


# Net Zero Carbon Strategy

## 2024-2027



# West Mercia Police force's carbon related figures



**280m**

Forecast spending in 2024/2025.



**90+**

Premises that we operate in as old as 16th century.



**38,872**

Tonnes CO2  
2023 carbon footprint.



**769**

Vehicles covering 8.8 million miles.



**2,868**

Square miles covered.



**4,500**

Total employees.

# The purpose of the strategy

This Net Zero Carbon Strategy 2024-27 defines West Mercia's Police 'net zero' carbon commitment and outlines its short-term deliverable carbon reduction actions to navigate and accelerate its journey to becoming a 'net zero' carbon police force before 2050.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report - 'Global Warming of 1.5°C' released in 2018, identified that if we do not act now to reduce our carbon emissions to 'net zero' by 2050, it will be too late to avoid the most significant impacts of climate change, resulting in consequences for the environment, health and wellbeing, society and the economy.

West Mercia Police recognises its impact on the environment and how its activities and services contribute to climate change. West Mercia Police's commitment to the environment is documented within the Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion's Safer West Mercia Plan.



**I will reduce the environmental impact of policing on our environment and ensure that the wider economic, social and environmental wellbeing of our communities is considered when services are commissioned or procured.**

John Campion - Police and Crime  
Commissioner of West Mercia Police

Not only does West Mercia Police recognise how its service contributes to climate change, but understands how the impacts of climate change are already affecting its activities and services, and how these services need to adapt and become resilient to manage these effects:

- Responding to our communities, e.g. response time planning.
- Responding to road traffic incidents - flooding, storm damage.
- Responding to wildfires.
- Responding to increased extreme climate-related protests.
- Understanding the effects of severe weather events on crime and crime prevention.
- Understanding the impacts of global climate migration.
- Understanding the effects of severe weather events on staff and community welfare.
- Understanding the effects of severe weather events on our infrastructure, e.g. transport networks, buildings and ICT.

West Mercia Police recognises the extraordinary size of this challenge and the need to 'act now', 'work faster' and 'go further'.



# Drivers for change

Since these strategies and policies were initiated, the UK Met Office issued the first ever 'red extreme weather warning' when temperatures hit 40.3°C on 19 July 2022.

More recently, 2023 was confirmed as the warmest global average temperature on record. These statistics reinforce that we are already seeing the unprecedented impacts of climate change, as detailed within the IPCC report.

## 2018

IPCC Report 'Global Warming of 1.5'.

## 2020

Energy Paper; '10 Point Plan to a Green Industrial Revolution'.

## 2022

The Emergency Service Environmental and Sustainability Charter - encourages Blue Light service members across the UK to commit to "work towards net zero carbon emissions".

## 2024

West Mercia Net Zero Carbon Strategy.

## 2019

The Climate Change Act Order 2019 - Target of Net Zero by 2050.

## 2021

Net Zero Strategy; Build Back Greener; Heat and Buildings Strategy; Environmental Act 2021; Safer West Mercia Plan; West Mercia Environmental Policy.

## 2023

The Energy Act 2023.

# Sustainable development goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by world leaders as guidance for building a better world by 2030. The SDGs are interconnected through social, economic, and environmental factors. By developing a Net Zero Carbon Strategy, West Mercia Police can support the following United Nation SDGs:



## **Affordable and clean energy**

Promote environmental, social and economic equality.



## **Industry innovation and infrastructure**

Use innovative measures with our infrastructure and within industry to ensure that sustainability is at the forefront of what we build.



## **Sustainable cities and communities**

Ensure that we are participating in the development of sustainable cities and communities.



## **Responsible consumption and production**

Embed sustainability considerations into the purchase, use and disposal of all the resources we use.



## **Climate action**

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



## **Life below water**

Protect the water reserves and species within these.



## **Life on land**

Enhance biodiversity and green spaces.

# Decarbonisation delivery plan

West Mercia Police understands the full scale of its obligations and the challenge to reduce its carbon emissions to play its part in ensuring global temperature does not exceed 1.5°C.

West Mercia Police recognises the importance of its corporate social responsibility. The strategy emphasises initiatives that prioritise the needs and concerns of local communities, aiming to build trust, strengthen relationships, and ensure that policing efforts align with the values and priorities of the people it serves.

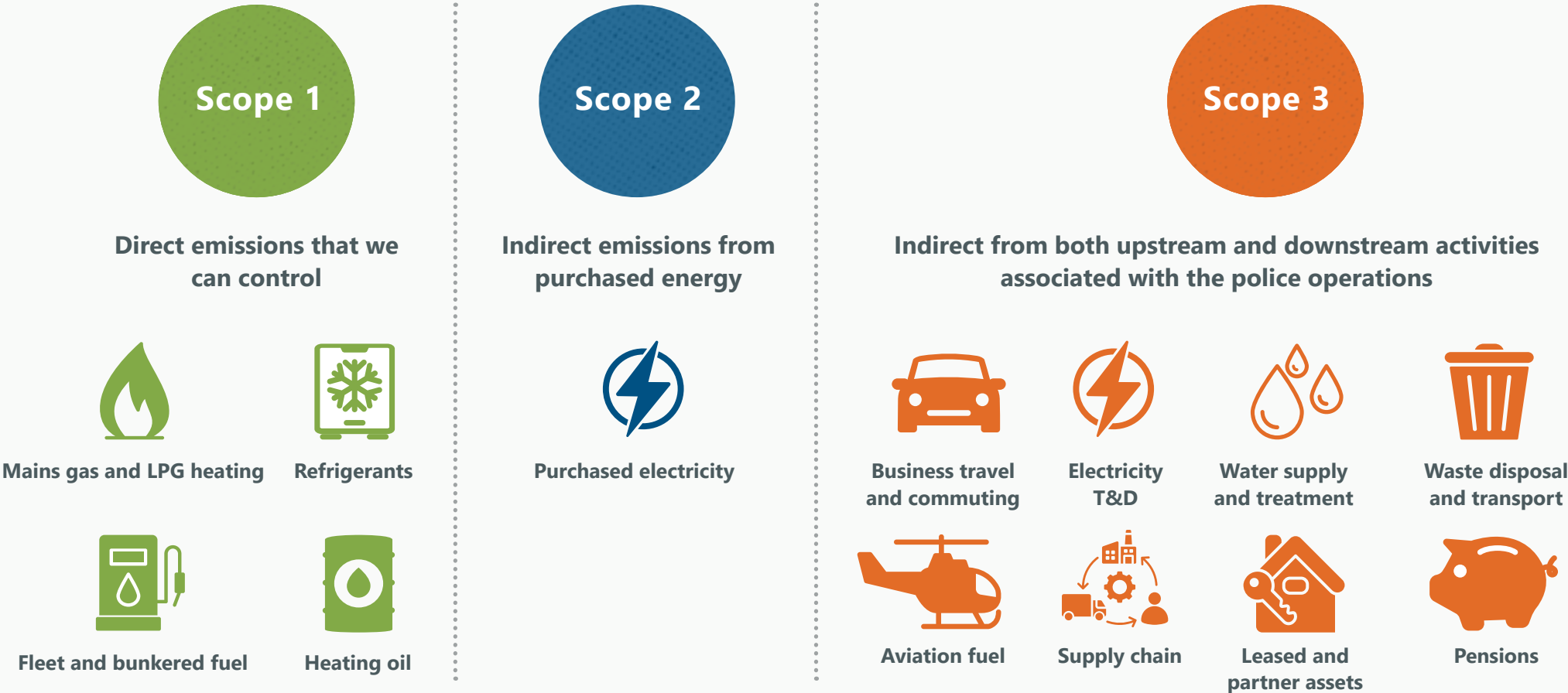
The infographic maps out the SDGs against the Safer West Mercia Plan. The full Sustainable Development Goals are listed in Appendix 1.



# Developing the plan

## Carbon footprint

To develop the Net Zero Strategy, West Mercia Police has used the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard as a methodology to identify its carbon emission baseline data. Due to the variety of data required, accessibility, accuracy and the anomalies associated with 'normal' operational activity during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent years, it has been decided that West Mercia Police's baseline data will be from 2023.



# Where are we now?



**38,872**

Tonnes CO2  
2023 carbon footprint



Goods and services  
accounted for **59.7%** of  
total carbon.



Commuting equated for  
**12.5%** of the total carbon.



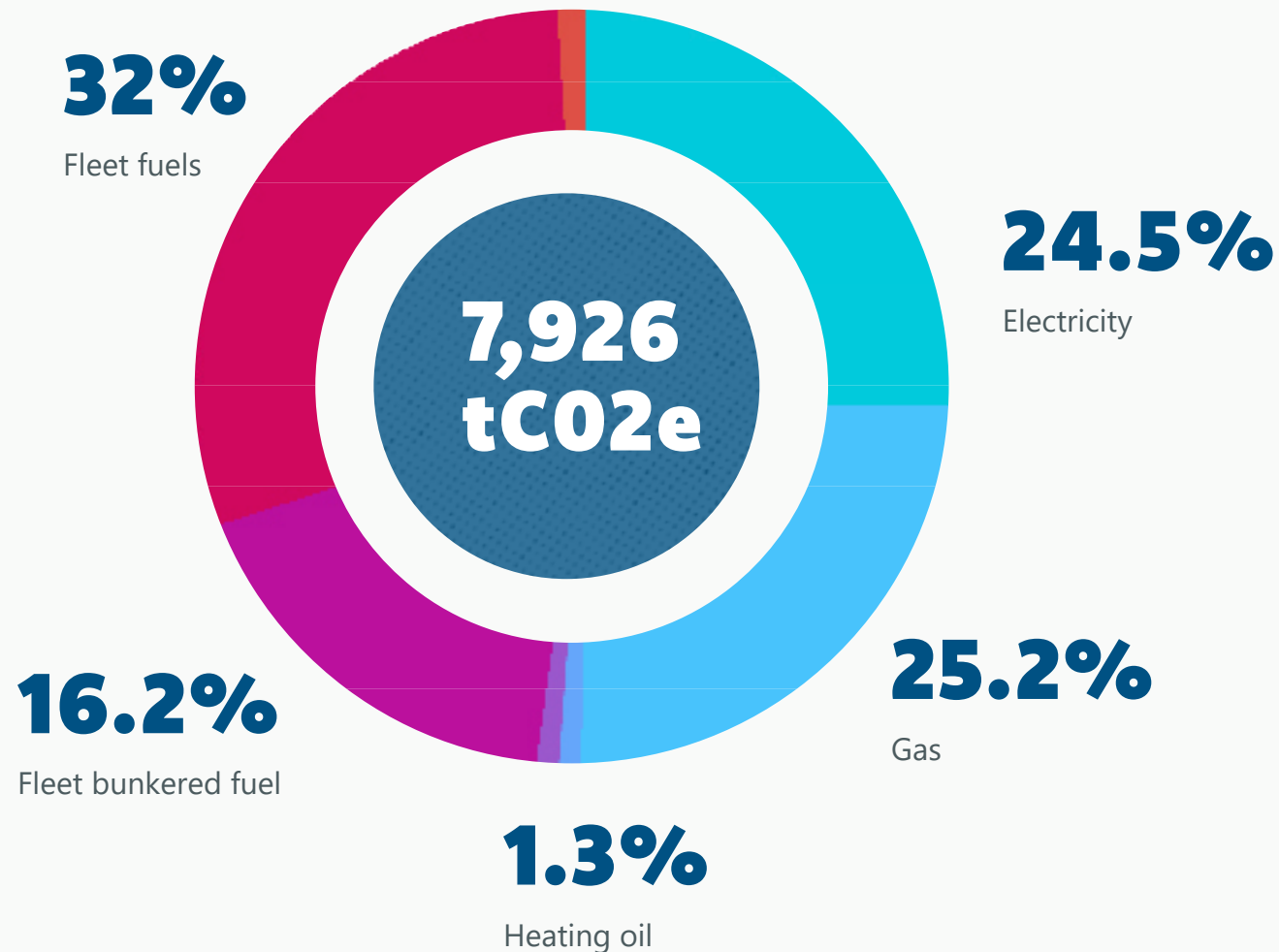
Our estates accounts  
for **15.5%** of the carbon  
footprint.



The 769 cars that make up  
our fleet account for **9.7%**  
of the carbon footprint.

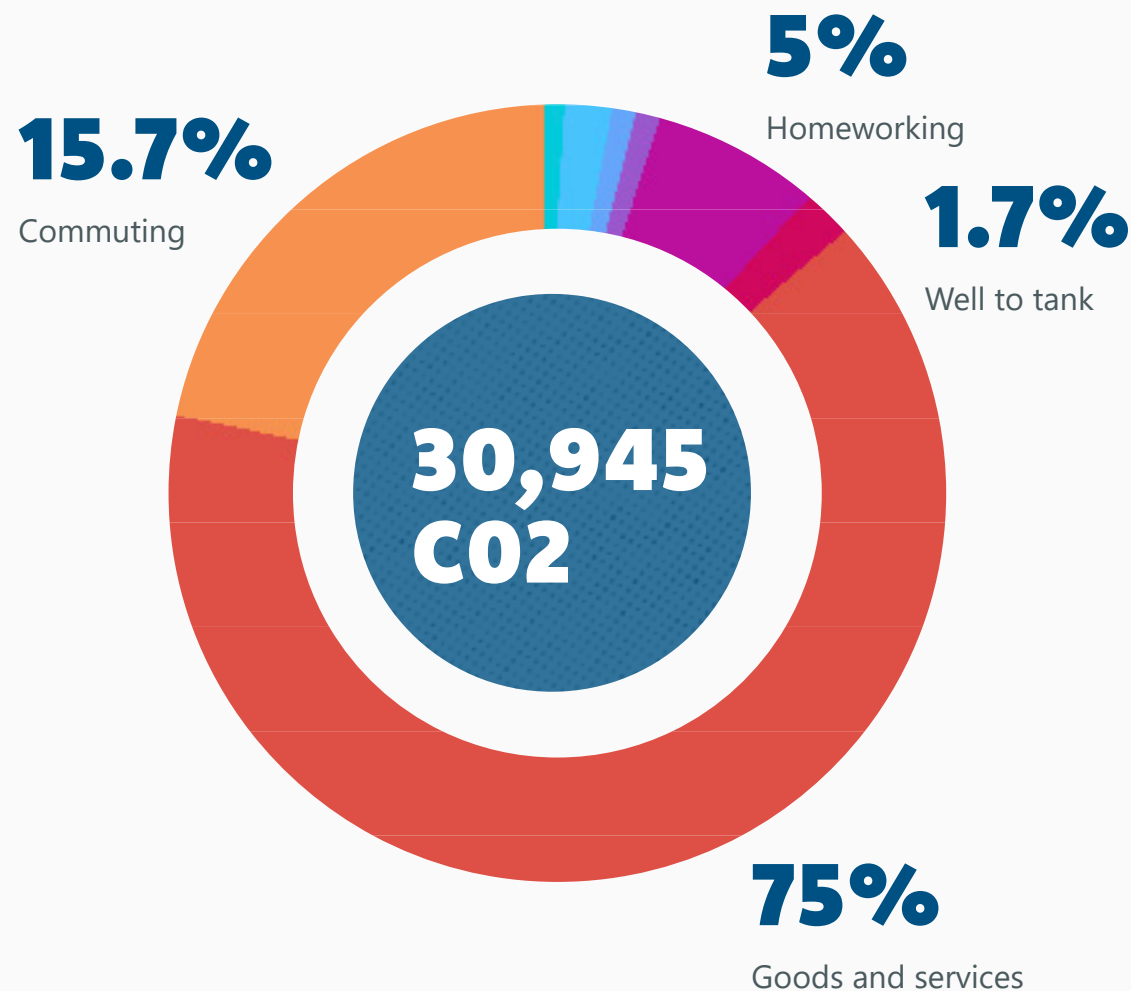
## Scope 1 and 2 emissions

West Mercia Police has developed a comprehensive dataset for its Scope 1 and 2 emissions. The total emissions associated with the Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions during 2023 (in which West Mercia Police can directly control), is estimated to be in the region of:



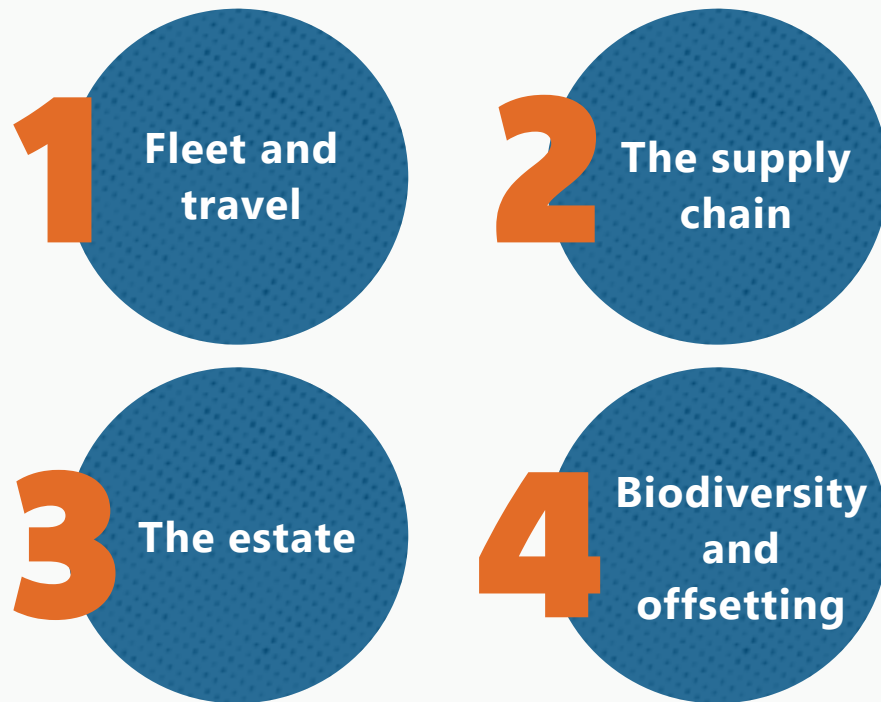
## Scope 3 carbon emissions

West Mercia Police are still in the process of defining and collating data on all Scope 3 carbon emissions and is currently using a spend-based approach method for supply chain related emissions. West Mercia Police's total emissions associated with the Scope 3 emissions are currently estimated to be:

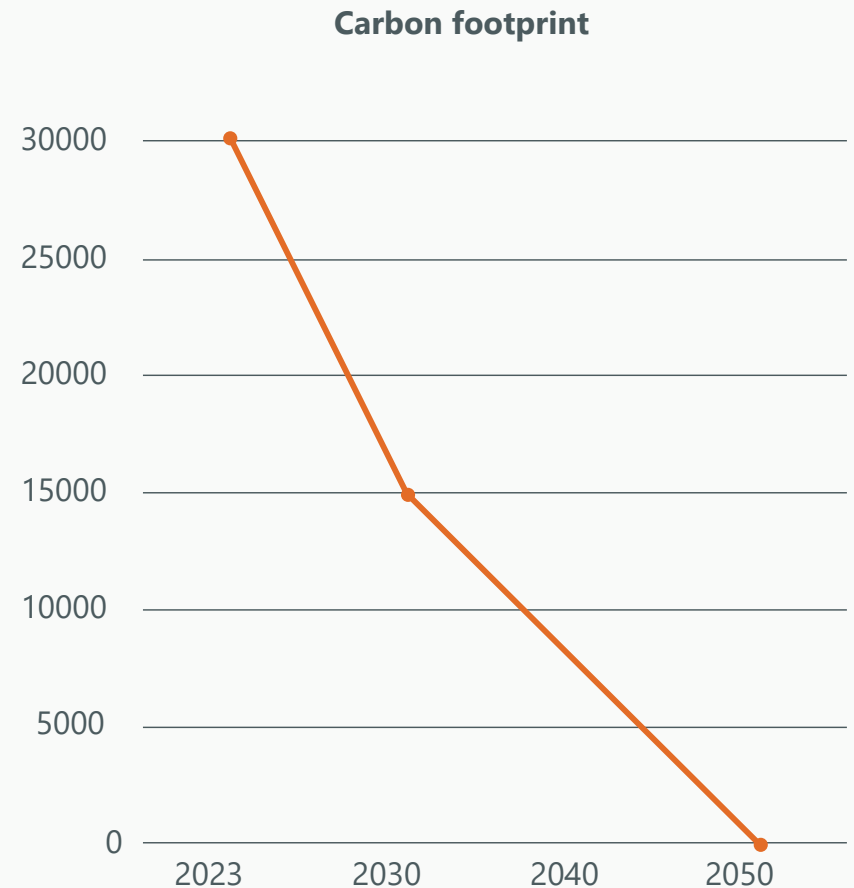


# Net zero strategy

West Mercia Police has defined four net zero carbon core areas of focus in its journey to reduce its Scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions and become a net zero carbon police force.



It is through these four net zero core areas that West Mercia Police can begin to set out on its journey to delivering on its net zero carbon strategy commitments.



# Fleet and travel



11,337

Tonnes CO2  
2023 carbon footprint

Emissions from vehicles make up 30% of the overall carbon footprint, the following activities were the major contributors of this:

| Type                               | Carbon emissions<br>(Tonnes of CO2e) |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Fleet                              | 3,773                                |
| Business travel                    | 505                                  |
| Employee commuting and homeworking | 6,914                                |
| Aviation                           | 145                                  |

West Mercia Police operates in an area that covers 2,868 square miles (7,430 km2) making it the fourth largest police area in England and Wales. This area includes densely populated cities and towns such as Worcester, Telford, Shrewsbury, Bromsgrove and Redditch.

The diverse nature of this area also means that there are significant proportions of rural and sparsely populated areas. As a result, the police force fleet clocks up over 8.8 million miles each year utilising approximately 769 fleet vehicles with 87 of these vehicles consisting of battery electric and hybrid powertrains. These factors will have its own unique challenge when transitioning to net zero carbon police force.

West Mercia Police is home to 4,500 operational and non-operational staff, each making journeys to West Mercia Police from their place of residence and also travelling as part of their role within the police force.

West Mercia Police also utilises air support via a nationally operated organisation.

# Key actions - fleet and travel

**To begin to reduce fleet and travel related carbon emissions the following actions will be required to generate, reduce and change fuel type.**



West Mercia Police is committed to implementing a 'Zero Emission Vehicle Purchasing Policy' for all new fleet vehicles before 2035. This commitment will build on the current policy to purchase a greater quantity of fleet based fuel-efficient vehicles, ultra-low emission, e.g. hybrid vehicles and zero emission vehicles, e.g. battery electric vehicles (subject to performance, availability and economic viability). In addition to:

- Utilise telematics to identify opportunities for greater fuel efficiency.
- Review opportunities to enhance the implementation of 'fuel efficiency' driving training to reduce non-response operational fuel consumption.
- Using the existing electric vehicle fleet to support the 'change management process' for phase 1 of the Fleet Decarbonisation Plan, e.g. training, familiarisation.
- Review opportunities and plan implementation of the priority 1 and priority 2 battery electric vehicles highlighted in the fleet report.
- Undertaking electric and sustainable fuel trials to support future planning of 'hard to electrify' police force vehicles highlighted in the fleet report.
- Continuing to use IT and agile working principles to reduce business and commutable travel. Reviewing cycling provisions and welfare facilities at operational premises and promote options for sustainable travel.
- Continuing to promote the zero emission vehicle options available via the 'Salary Sacrifice Car Scheme' to increase understanding and uptake of zero emission vehicle alternatives.
- Reviewing the Aviation Response Policy and plans to introduce sustainable aviation fuels.
- Reviewing technologies such as drones to reduce aviation fuels.



# The estate



6,029

Tonnes CO2  
2023 carbon footprint

**The estate emissions related to power, heating and cooling account for up to 15.5% of the total carbon footprint, therefore reducing the emissions relating to the below will have a significant impact in reaching net zero target.**

| Estate                                             | Carbon emissions<br>% of total estate<br>footprint |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Headquarters<br>(Hindlip Hall)                     | 35%                                                |
| District headquarters                              | 33%                                                |
| Local police stations and<br>specialist properties | 32%                                                |

The West Mercia Police estate encompasses a unique portfolio of operational facilities and array of buildings dating back to the 16th century to new build developments such as the Redditch Fire and Police Station due to open in 2024/25.

There are over 90 buildings within the West Mercia Police portfolio which include headquarters, police stations, special operational facilities, an armoury, dog unit, response training facilities and non-operational offices. Some of these buildings have listed planning status.



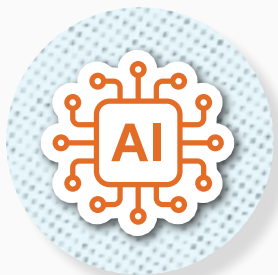
# Key actions - the estate

The following actions will be required to generate, reduce and change fuel type to reduce the carbon footprint.



West Mercia Police is committed to beginning the process of 'phasing out' fossil fuel-based heating before 2037 and transitioning to low carbon heating and use of renewables before 2050. By phasing out the use of fossil fuels, West Mercia Police will be able to support the UK Government target to reduce 75% of its direct carbon emission from public sector buildings by 2037. This will happen alongside:

- Delivering a BREEAM 'good' new build facility for the Redditch Fire and Police Station.
- Delivering an EPC 'A' rated new firearms facility at Hindlip Hall.
- Monitoring the impact of agile works arrangements and new-ways-of-working on the utilisation of the estate portfolio.
- Continuing to review opportunities to use shared facilities with other emergency services. Continuing the implementation of the LED lighting upgrade programme, maximising efficiencies and reduced human reliance.
- Reviewing opportunities to improve the building energy management system to monitor and efficiently control the estate's facilities.
- Continuing to utilise energy monitoring data and energy audits to identify opportunities to improve energy efficiency.
- Develop a Heat Decarbonisation Plan for the estate to understand the full cost of decarbonising the estate.
- Using the Heat Decarbonisation Plan to develop a short-long term capital investment strategy that adopts a 'whole building' approach and incorporates the 'fabric first' principles to retrofit; incorporates low carbon heat systems; maximises energy and utility efficiency; maximises local renewable sources of power generation and energy storage; and invests in SMART/AI operational controls.



# Supply chain

Emissions from the following supply chain operations make up 59.7% of the total carbon footprint. Supply chain emissions are broken-down by the following Proclass:

| Activity                                    | Carbon emissions<br>% of total supply<br>chain footprint |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Information communication<br>and technology | 42%                                                      |
| Vehicle management                          | 9%                                                       |
| Courier services                            | 8%                                                       |
| Emergency services custody                  | 7%                                                       |
| Financial services                          | 5%                                                       |
| Facilities management services              | 5%                                                       |
| Emergency services evidential               | 4%                                                       |
| Cleaning and janitorial                     | 3%                                                       |



## 23,219

Tonnes CO2  
2023 carbon footprint

West Mercia Police has a diverse supply chain to deliver the operational services associated with its activities and services. As a public sector organisation West Mercia Police must abide by the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (Procurement Act 2023) and the Social Value Act 2013. Therefore, social value criteria, including environmental risk and carbon management, is already embedded within the supply chain procurement process.

West Mercia Police has undertaken significant works to measure the carbon emissions associated with its supply chain using the 'spend based model' - as detailed within the 'Greenhouse Gas Protocol Technical Guidance for Calculating Scope 3 Emission'. Based on this model, West Mercia Police estimates that its supply chain emissions are in excess of the above figure.

West Mercia Police understands the limitations of using a 'spend based model' and further works are required to develop a supplier-specific or hybrid method, while also differentiating between 'standard' and 'project' based suppliers.

# Key actions - supply chain

The following actions will be required to generate, reduce and change fuel type to reduce the carbon footprint associated with our supply chain.



West Mercia Police is committed to becoming a net zero carbon police force before 2050. This will happen alongside:

- Continuing to evolve the supply chain baseline carbon emission data by adopting supplier-specific or hybrid methodologies.
- Develop a Sustainable Procurement Management System that aligns to ISO20400 and identifies high risk carbon emitting suppliers.
- Working with our high-risk carbon emitting suppliers to reduce 'shared' Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.
- Encouraging the supply chain to develop dedicated net zero/carbon reduction targets. Encouraging the supply chain to develop specific Decarbonisation Delivery Plans to meet their targets. Seeking to procure suppliers with a track record of implementing innovative projects to reduce 'shared' Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

# Biodiversity enhancement and offsetting

West Mercia Police operates in a largely rural area, that provides unique opportunities to provide potential 'bridging' opportunities to build ecological corridors for the UK's biodiversity (flora and fauna) to move freely throughout the West Mercia region.

Recent legislation such as the Environment (Local Nature Recovery Strategies) Regulations 2023 and The Environment Act 2021 (Town and Country Planning), now incorporates requirements for public authorities to consider strengthening biodiversity within their estates and major developments to implement biodiversity net gain practices on these sites.

As a police force, West Mercia Police enforces wildlife related legislations. Therefore, West Mercia Police has a direct and indirect responsibility and a unique opportunity to positively contribute to West Mercia regional biodiversity while also supporting its own activities and those of our communities to offset carbon related emissions.



## **To begin to improve local biodiversity and review carbon offsetting opportunities, West Mercia Police is committed to:**

- Continuing to develop biodiversity related partnerships with regional wildlife trusts and natural networks to undertake ecological surveying to identify opportunities to strengthen site biodiversity and build ecological corridors across the West Mercia region to support Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
- Continuing to build local community partnerships that support staff and community wellbeing, support victims of crime and develop rehabilitation opportunities through biodiversity and conservation projects.
- Baselining and developing a plan to increase West Mercia Police's 'natural capital', e.g. trees, hedgerows, for carbon sequestration/sinking.
- Adopting a 'reduce first, offsetting last' approach to carbon offsetting (net zero principle).
- Annually review the cost benefit of purchasing 100% renewable energy for the estate.
- Reviewing alternative methods to offsetting remaining absolute carbon emissions via local, regional, national or international projects.

# Making it happen

## Vision

The force is committed to embedding sustainability into everything it does. This will come from a top down approach with our key leaders driving the agenda and ensuring that our targets are met.

Behaviour and culture changes will need to be embedded within the force operations. The target of net zero cannot be achieved in silos, and needs a collaborative approach to deliver on these commitments.

All persons that work for or on behalf of West Mercia Police (including contractors and visitors) have a responsibility to implement the West Mercia Police Net Zero Strategy 2024-27.

## Finance

Financial implications of green infrastructure will not set our ambitions back and all investment will be made to ensure a well thought out approach is taken to decarbonise our assets, and change in behaviours.

## Communication

Community engagement and partnerships are a key strategy to ensure that our targets are met, this will include feeding into Local Area Energy Planning and the One Public Estate Board, ensuring the community is engaged with our plans and are able to feedback using our surveys.

## To manage the requirements of the Net Zero Carbon Strategy the following will be implemented:

- Allocated resources for the implementation of carbon reduction projects, where supported by a sufficient business case.
- A carbon inventory to capture all carbon emission data, that will be continually reviewed to improve accuracy and support the development of key performance indicators (KPI).
- A carbon emission reporting suite to measure progress against the net zero carbon commitments and KPIs.
- A central Decarbonisation Delivery Plan that includes all projects designed to deliver the Net Zero Carbon Strategy. Documented roles and responsibilities to clearly define staff requirements with regards to reducing carbon emission.
- A training needs matrix to identify staff training requirements to support the management of environmental/carbon risks and implementation of mitigation measures.
- Net Zero Carbon Strategy commitments embedded into West Mercia Police's wider strategies and plans.
- A stakeholder consultation forum to harness ideas and address concerns.

# Governance and accountability

Governance of the West Mercia Police Net Zero Carbon Strategy 2024-2027 will be managed via the West Mercia Governance Board (WMGB).

The Director of Commercial Services will be responsible for implementation of the Net Zero Strategy reporting progress WMGB. The WMGB will be responsible for ensuring that adequate resources are made available for the implementation of the strategy and periodically review the strategy to ensure that it is still 'fit for purpose' and is achieving its net zero carbon commitments.

The Director of Commercial Services will be directly supported by the Environmental (Carbon) Manager. Strategy delivery plans and associated actions will be developed with and assigned to relevant departmental heads of service via the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Board.

The CSR board meet quarterly to monitor CSR related progress and will be chaired by the Director of Commercial Services.



# Appendix 1 - Sustainable development goal

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

