

# **Devon & Cornwall Police - Wildlife Crime Strategy**

Version Dated: 11<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Strategy adopted by Chief Officer Group on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2013

## **1.0 Strategy Statement / Intentions (FOIA Open)**

- 1.1 The Wildlife Crime Strategy will support the Devon and Cornwall Police Rural and Coastal Policing strategies, providing the strategic framework by which wildlife legislation and associated issues will be dealt with by the Devon and Cornwall Police. The strategy acknowledges the requirement for specialist knowledge of legislation, procedures and inter agency working required to deliver effective operational policing for wildlife crime.
- 1.2 The Wildlife Crime strategy will also support the objectives of the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) and the findings reported in the Environmental Audit Committee report House of Commons Wildlife Crime: Government response to the Committee's Third Report of Session 2012-2013, published 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

## **2.0 Introduction (FOIA Open)**

- 2.1 An official definition of Wildlife Crime has not been set by ACPO or the NWCU, however the Force recognises wildlife crime as:
- (i) Crime involving wildlife or habitats which are endangered or of conservation concern
  - (ii) Illegal trade in endangered species
  - (iii) Cruelty to and persecution of wildlife species
  - (iv) Crime targeted at wildlife or their habitats that poses a threat to humans, e.g. poisoning, illegal use of pesticides
  - (v) Illegal hunting
- 2.2 The criminality associated to wildlife crime extends beyond specific wildlife crime offences and affects some of the most isolated communities in our Force area. An effective Wildlife Crime Strategy offers the opportunity to reduce crime and increase public confidence and satisfaction.

## **3.0 Priorities and objectives (FOIA Open)**

- 3.1 Key themes and objectives are:-
- Establish a response to wildlife crime which supports the Force vision of being the best rural, urban and coastal police force.
  - Continuation of Force dedicated Wildlife Crime Officer pilot.
  - Performance assessment to be completed at end of Wildlife Crime officer pilot with consideration to establish permanent post.
  - Set clear priorities for dealing with wildlife crime

## Not Protectively Marked

- Define the intelligence requirements to support the Force Wildlife Crime Priorities; a clear mechanism will be set for the collection, dissemination and development of wildlife crime intelligence to deliver the intelligence requirements.
- Improve the awareness and understanding of wildlife crime issues and its impact through effective internal and external communication.
- Establish partnership working to deliver the most effective and efficient outcome for wildlife crime issues.

3.2 Priorities - The Force Wildlife Crime priorities will be set at Force TTCG with consideration of

- a) NWCU national priorities
- b) Force wide Wildlife crime priorities
- c) LPA specific issues.

## 4.0 Structure

(FOIA Open)

4.1 A formal structure will be established to support the delivery of Wildlife Crime strategy and Policy. The structure will be:-

- Force Strategic Lead for Wildlife Crime – Deputy Director of Intelligence
- Force Operational Lead – Inspector operations
- Geographic Area Wildlife Crime Champions – D/Inspector from each Geographic area
- Wildlife Crime Officer cadre – Sergeants/Constables - Officers based across force area to provide specialist advice and guidance..
- Wildlife Crime Group – to manage the implementation of tactical delivery

4.2 A Wildlife Crime Group will be established to manage the implementation of tactical delivery. Their tasks will include:-

- Force policy - Review and update D157 Policy and procedure Wildlife Crime and illegal hunting, to include DW75 Police response to wildlife crime and illegal hunting.
- Cadre - Establish cadre of trained Wildlife Crime Officers and formal CPD.
- Internal communication - Establish an internal communication strategy, to include a Sharepoint Wildlife Crime site, providing reference point for legislation, tactical advice and details of Geographic Wildlife champions and WLO Cadre.
- Partnership working - Establish inter agency liaison and agreed working practices. To include CPS, environment agency, MCA, local authority, UKBA,
- Media - Establish effective delivery of a media strategy

## **Not Protectively Marked**

- Force Priorities – Complete development work to inform LPA and Geographic commanders of the threat and risk to their areas, as well as informing Force TTCG of Force and national threats.
- Intelligence – establish intelligence development plan to support the force intelligence requirements. Clear links will be made to the Rural and Coastal policing plans.

### **5.0 Implementation and Governance.**

**(FOIA Open)**

5.1 An implementation plan will be used to co-ordinate delivery of the strategy. The plan will provide clear timescales for delivery and ownership of tasks. The TTCG process will be utilised for tasking activity where appropriate.

5.2 Governance:-

- Strategic leadership and accountability for delivery of objectives – ACC (C&J)
- Progress on performance will be reported monthly to the C&J SMT. Reports for COG and PCC will be submitted as directed by ACC (C&J)
- This strategy will be owned by ACC (C&J) and reviewed annually by the Commander Crime and Criminal Justice Department.