



To: Business Coordination Board

From: Chief Finance Officer and Director of Resources

Date: 26 May 2022

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY REPORT

1. Purpose

1.1 This Sustainability Strategy sets out Cambridgeshire Constabulary's (the "Constabulary") themes in pursuit of carbon reduction and achieving carbon net zero.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report.

3. Background

3.1 Environmental sustainability for the Constabulary has been given a renewed focus following the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) held in Glasgow. In 2011 the Carbon Trust conducted a carbon assessment for the Constabulary and an accompanying carbon reduction plan. The Constabulary has over time taken steps to reduce carbon output by installing: LED lighting operated by sensors and timers where possible; solar

photovoltaic panels and air source heating to numerous stations; voltage optimisation to Force HQ; replacement boilers and heating controls; building rationalisation; Building Management Systems; removal of unnecessary electrical appliances; and provision of agile working areas across the force to reduce travel. However, the renewed global and governmental commitments to carbon net zero have been revisited and refreshed by the Constabulary in this strategy.

- 3.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner's (the "Commissioner") Police and Crime Plan (the "Plan") includes an Ethical Policing priority to ensure the "police act with integrity and social responsibility" linking through to environmental sustainability.
- 3.3 The strategy links directly to the Constabulary's Corporate Plan underpinned by the Organisational Priority for Resources to develop an environmental strategy and developing our understanding of how policing activities impact the environment and take steps to embed environmental considerations into decision making. The strategy will also drive significant change in our Organisational priority for Transformation.
- 3.4 The Government has a Net Zero Strategy for how the UK will deliver its commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050. Net zero refers to a state in which the greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere are balanced by removal out of the atmosphere. The term net zero is important because, for CO2 at least, this is the state at which global warming stops. The Government's Net Zero Strategy is a national economy wide plan for businesses, consumers, and the public sector to transition to cleaner, greener energy, and technology. As part of the Government strategy a policy has been approved to remove internal combustion engines (ICE) entirely from 2035 and between 2030 to 2035 for ICEs to only be available in hybrid vehicles with specific range requirements. These are key factors underpinning the Constabulary's Sustainability Strategy.

4. Intended Outcome

- 4.1 The overarching strategic outcome of the Sustainability Strategy of the Constabulary is the ambition to pursue a Net Zero position by 2035. In terms of a nearer term horizon a year-on-year carbon reduction is targeted.

5. Approach to Sustainability

- 5.1 As part of this Strategy the Constabulary will adopt the Emergency Services Environment and Sustainability Group (EESG) Sustainability Charter, which can be found at Appendix 1 in full. The benefits of signing the charter:

- Demonstrate collaboration with other emergency services through the adoption of common sustainability goals and aspirations;
- Demonstrates our collective commitment to act responsibly and contribute positively to sustainability and share with the communities we serve; and
- Provide a sustainability working structure which can be adopted by all emergency services whatever point of their sustainability journey.

- 5.2 The Constabulary's approach to sustainability will be to undertake a refreshed carbon emissions baselining assessment. This will provide the underlying position against which carbon reduction will be measured. Reassessments will be undertaken as appropriate and at no more than 5-year intervals.

- 5.3 **Partnership and Collaboration** – sustainability will be delivered where possible and appropriate in partnership with other bodies. This may be locally within Cambridgeshire, regionally across the Eastern region and nationally through arrangements that Blue Light Commercial may put in place. This may include:

- Working collaboratively with partners, particularly other police forces in the region, emergency services and other public sector bodies in Cambridgeshire;
- Effectively commissioning services from third parties with sustainability being a key consideration; and
- Through the work of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in working with local partners and communities.

- 5.4 **Flexibility** – the Government’s net zero strategy will lead to increasing technological innovation by companies. It is difficult to predict when and what technological innovations will come forward. The Constabulary’s approach will therefore need to be flexible to respond to and maximise new opportunities that arise, ensuring they are appropriate for the operational requirements of the Constabulary.
- 5.5 The Constabulary has identified 5 key themes to underpin the Sustainability Strategy as set out in the following diagram:

Diagram 1 – The Key Themes of the Sustainability Strategy



- 5.6 **Property and Estate** – the Constabulary’s estate is ageing, and its energy efficiency is one of the main challenges in reducing carbon emissions. Much of the estate is required operationally and therefore approaches and investment to reduce the carbon emissions will be sought, including how technology can support more effective building management approaches. Surplus estate will be considered for disposal where it is not required operationally to help achieve carbon reduction.
- 5.7 **Fleet and Transport** – the Constabulary has a vehicle fleet of c450 vehicles ranging from admin cars, support vans, to patrol and high response vehicles. A separate Carbon Reduction Action Plan will be developed to reduce carbon

emissions from vehicles through ultra-low emission vehicles and the use of other technological developments as they come forward such as hydrogen engines. The fleet transition will be interdependent with all other themes within this Strategy. Considerations within the fleet transition will include the size of the fleet, types of vehicles, fuel usage and importantly how the Constabulary uses the fleet. Other organisational strategies will also support the transport element of this theme through increased and ongoing use of Teams and agile working to reduce business travel and emissions.

- 5.8 **People and Behaviour** – the Constabulary will develop a people culture focused on sustainability. This will include promoting and changing behaviours and attitudes towards sustainability in conducting our policing services. Operational and working arrangements will form part of this theme.
- 5.9 **Procurement and the Supply Chain** – a key activity that will help drive Sustainability is the Constabulary’s approach to procurement working with the 7 Force Commercial Services collaboration. Procurement will increasingly focus on social value and sustainability. The Constabulary will also use national procurement arrangements through Blue Light Commercial to support the delivery of this Sustainability Strategy.
- 5.10 **Offsetting** – it may not be possible to reduce or eliminate carbon emissions in every instance or business activity. In such circumstances the Constabulary will pursue offsetting arrangements where possible to reduce the carbon footprint in these areas. Offsetting is in simple terms compensating actions that permanently reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, for example creating and restoring natural habitats including tree planting.
- 5.11 This Sustainability Strategy will be underpinned by more detailed Carbon Reduction Actions Plans.

6. Sustainability Reporting

- 6.1 The Constabulary will report on its sustainability achievements by:
 - 6.1.1 Producing an **Annual Sustainability Report** providing a summary of the activity and developments in the year from activities, significant pieces of work and key decisions relating to sustainability.

- 6.1.2 At no longer than 5 yearly intervals refreshing the carbon emissions assessment using an independent specialist to understand the impact of decisions and initiatives taken and potential further opportunities.
- 6.1.3 One of the aims of Sustainability Reporting for the Constabulary will be to raise awareness internally and externally in regards the improvement journey and collective impact of changes made.
- 6.1.4 The quality of data is often a barrier to effective sustainability reporting, and this will be considered as the Constabulary’s approach to sustainability evolves.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Source Document | |
| Contact Officer | Jon Lee, Chief Finance Officer and Director of Resources |

Appendix 1 – ESESG Sustainability Charter

The Emergency Services Environment and Sustainability Group (ESESG) includes members from UK Police Forces, Fire & Rescue Services, Ambulance Services, and other Emergency Services who meet to share best practice and discuss emerging technologies, government policy and legislative requirements.

This Sustainability Charter has been developed for members to pledge their support to work towards a set of common goals and aspirations, embed sustainability within their own organisations, and achieve national and international sustainability objectives. It will also enable members to identify positive effects on sustainability within their communities and manage any negative effects and risks.

All members shall consider the Sustainability Charter aspirations in the development and delivery of their own policies and strategies. It is acknowledged that members are at different stages of their sustainability journey and will have different priorities depending on their core business activities and regional issues.

This Charter has adopted the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to provide a consistent framework with consideration to all areas of sustainability. Key goals are linked under the People, Planet and Public Purse headings to enable all members to identify relevant areas of sustainability and incorporate these back into their own organisations.

For ESESG sustainability means:

Reducing the negative impacts associated with our operations, whilst working towards positive and long-lasting outcomes for our planet, the people within our organisations, the communities we serve and the public purse.

Our organisation recognises that all emergency services have the potential to affect the local and global environment, society, and the wider economy. We also recognise that climate change and global trends will continue to have an impact on the demands placed upon our emergency services. We need to be proactive in recognising these impacts to continuously provide an efficient and effective service, and therefore aspire to:

People

- Take action in our local areas to contribute to the transition to more sustainable cities and communities.
- Proactively manage our resources as communities change and develop to continue to be receptive to their needs.
- Provide our staff with the tools and resources required for them to make informed sustainable decisions both in the workplace and at home.
- Provide a safe and healthy working environment and improve wellbeing for all staff.
- Continue to improve equality, diversity, and inclusion in our organisations and in the communities we serve.

Reduce the harmful emissions associated with our operations, to improve local air quality, reduce pollution and enhance the wellbeing of our communities.

Planet

- Work towards net zero carbon emissions through improving the energy efficiency of our estate and sustainable business and personal travel.
- Improve resource efficiency and adopt circular economy approaches to reduce waste and save money.
- Restore and enhance local biodiversity through considered management of our estates.
- Adapt to inevitable climate change through proactively managing our ability to respond to extreme weather events and changes to service demand.
- Take action to avoid or mitigate pollution of water courses.
- Minimise our reliance on fossil fuels by actively seeking to generate renewable energy at our sites, and through the adoption of greener technologies and fuels for our fleet.

Public Purse

- Use our spending power to promote and adopt sustainable procurement practices.
- Proactively manage the opportunities brought by new technologies to maximise financial budgets.
- Proactively prosecute wildlife crime.
- Support our staff and local supply chains to develop and maintain the skills needed to meet our organisational needs and sustainability goals.
- Maximise Social Value contributions through the contracts we procure.

By signing this Charter Cambridgeshire Constabulary is agreeing to embed sustainability considerations throughout our organisation. We will measure and monitor progress and will strive to continually improve.

Signed:

NAME:

TITLE:

DATE: