

Sustainability Report to the Police and Crime Panel

28th September 2022

Avon and Somerset Police Thematic Lead: Hannah Watts

Purpose

The Constabulary approved its 2021-2026 Sustainability Plan in December 2021. In addition, an Annual Sustainability Report for 2021/22 was presented to Constabulary Management Board (CMB) in June 2022 and subsequently to Governance and Scrutiny Board at the beginning of July. Joint Audit Committee also received a progress update the same month.

This report provides an opportunity to signpost the panel to those key products, share progress, summarise activity and highlight achievements in the first half of 2022/23.

Context

Annual Sustainability Report

A regular cadence of annual and interim Sustainability Reporting was established in the Constabulary's latest Sustainability Plan and, as an outcome of the 2021/22 internal audit on Sustainability. The annual report provides performance headlines, shares progress updates and highlights risks. The 2021/22 report can be viewed in full [here](#), but performance headlines include:

- The Constabulary's total carbon emissions fell by 5.1% to 11,308 tonnes with emissions from buildings falling the most.
- The reduction in emissions from buildings can be solely attributed to a 20% reduction in electricity use. Gas use saw a small increase over the same period.
- Emissions from fleet increased by 5.1% with a corresponding 27.1% increase in fuel consumption. The impact of this increase is mitigated through the continued transition to unleaded petrol and EV over time.
- Total waste volumes continue to fall based on a rolling 12-month average.

External Sustainability Plan

It is also our intention to publish an external-facing version of our Sustainability Plan on the Constabulary's website. We expect this to be available by end September 2022. The purpose is clear: to share our vision; to be transparent; to be authentic and legitimate; and to publicly declare our commitment. We know that engaging our people to help deliver our objectives is an area of growth - we want to better equip them to confidently speak to the public and our partners about what Sustainability means to our organisation. Publishing the plan on our website is the first step towards this ambition.

Data-driven decision making

We have invested significantly in data quality and analysis recently. Our Sustainability data benefitted from the skills of a Business Analyst in Q4 of 2021/22. Data sources, quality and completeness were assessed, culminating in the comprehensive re-organisation and review of data sets to allow for consistent and robust reporting moving forward, and improved accuracy. A three-year average, excluding the primary and therefore anomalous COVID year of 2020/21, will help legitimise performance comparison, while published carbon conversion factors have been adjusted over time in line with industry best practice.

Summary of Activity – Q1 and Q2

Four 'priority' UN Sustainable Development Goals have been identified as areas of focus for us and help to define our current Sustainability Plan: Climate Action, Responsible Consumption, Sustainable Communities and Partnerships for the Goals.

Theme 1 – Climate Action

- A second Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) grant was secured in July and will support the development of our first decarbonisation plan by April 2023.
- We are continuing to refine a Standard Design Guide for police buildings which will help us create greener police stations.
- While the refurbishment of Broadbury Road police station in Bristol will not see investment in an Air Source Heat Pump, a 'fabric-first' approach will improve the building's insulation, while extensive solar PV will provide a micro source of renewable energy.
- 20 electric vehicles joined our fleet in 2021/22, reducing carbon emissions by an estimated 88 tonnes a year. Further planned investment in 13 electric vehicles this year, will reduce emissions still further. The recent uptick in the deployment of electric vehicles has been supported by a £178k phase 1 investment in fast charging infrastructure across our estate.
- South West Police Procurement Services have been commissioned to procure a full, investment-grade feasibility study for rapid charging infrastructure across all five forces. From earlier desktop feasibility analysis, we estimate that rapid charging investment of circa £1.2million would be required in Avon and Somerset alone. The landlord/tenant relationship continues to frustrate the roll-out of electric charging points at some locations where grid capacity and/or access is an issue.
- We are developing a model to help us test our vehicle electrification ambition - we'll be able to show what bringing forward or pushing back our investment will mean in terms of capital and electricity costs, against carbon, fuel and maintenance savings.

Theme 2 – Responsible Consumption

- Ongoing collaborative work with Devon and Cornwall and Gloucestershire Constabularies to implement a new regional Sustainable Procurement Policy to coherently embed whole life costs in buying decisions.
- A Masters student on a work-based learning placement with the Force from Bristol UWE has been reviewing waste management practices and data. This will help inform the commissioning of future waste audits and improvement activity.
- Further regional work to develop a standard framework to capture scope 3 emissions with the University of Exeter.

Theme 3 – Sustainable Communities

- Work with the Neighbourhood and Partnerships Directorate (NHP) to show how Sustainability can be integrated into the activities of an operational Directorate. This recognises, the link between Sustainability and plans owned by the Directorate, including Road Safety, Rural Crime and Crime Prevention, in particular. We know that sustainable communities are more resilient to crime.
- A public-facing version of our Sustainability Plan will support local officers to engage with the public and partners on this topic.
- Scoping further training opportunities to raise awareness including Leadership Academy content, workshops and webinars.

Theme 4 – Partnerships for the Goals

- Excellent, collaborative relationships with academic institutions, particularly UWE continue. Our Head of Business Services is an honorary Sustainability Research Fellow and provides a regular practitioners input to the Sustainable Development in Practice Master course. Further opportunities around training and behaviour change are also being explored.
- Progressing a conversation with the College of Policing to understand the scope to integrate Sustainability content into the PCDA curriculum.
- Keeping a watching brief on Carbon Literacy's new Police Service toolkit and how we might work with other forces to use it as an engagement tool.
- Continued work with our suppliers to make improvements, including reducing the use of single use plastic in cleaning and catering.
- Engagement with Directorates including People and Organisational Development, IT and Operational Support to help them understand where their activities can contribute to our Sustainability objectives.
- A Sustainability tab has been added to our Delivery Plan management software, Verto, so links with existing continuous improvement activity and Sustainability are more visible.
- A refreshed Sustainability page on Pocketbook and the soft launch of a #sustainability email for people to ask questions, share information and ideas and build internal, collaborative thinking.