

Sustainability Policy

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Department of Origin	Corporate Assets
Policy Holder	Associate Director of Corporate Assets
Policy Author	Sustainability Manager
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Policy

Statement

Merseyside Police is committed to becoming a sustainable police force. By this we mean acting in a manner that reduces our negative impact on the environment, building and promoting strong links with our local communities and encouraging economic growth within our region through the provision of a safe place to live and work. Sustainability is a balance of social, environment and economic factors, or as they are known within our organisation, people, planet and public purse, the 3 P's of sustainability. These are defined as:

People - Providing safe and healthy cities and neighbourhoods for the communities we serve and our staff, treating them fairly and equally.

Planet - Being efficient with our resources to minimise our negative impacts. Be open to exploring new technologies and ways of working.

Public Purse - Developing relationships with supply chains and partner organisations which promote fairness, equality and a circular economy approach.

Merseyside Police has the potential to significantly impact on all 3P's of sustainability through its activities. As a responsible organisation the Force is committed to reducing this impact potential by improving levels of efficiency to increase the sustainability of the organisation's operations. The Force will seek to look at the long-term impacts of the historical choices we have made and apply lessons learned to the future strategy.

The development of the Merseyside Police Sustainability Strategy has identified 8 priority United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs); Goals 3 Good Health and Wellbeing, 5 Gender Equality, 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, 12 Responsible Consumption and Production, 16 Peace Justice and Strong Institutions and 17 Partnerships for the Goals. These provide the template for sustainability focus and reporting.

Using a whole life costing approach will allow us to make informed decisions, which will have positive effects on both our current and long-term sustainable aspirations. This approach will bring greater financial efficiency and will save money for Merseyside Police in the long term.

By adopting this policy, we are outlining our commitment towards delivering an efficient service to our customers in a consistent, sustainable manner. We are also able to demonstrate our pledge towards adopting the principles of the National Emergency Services Sustainability Charter, which seeks to demonstrate a standardised yet meaningful approach towards incorporating sustainability considerations into everyday decision-making processes and procedures for all UK police forces, fire brigades and ambulance services.

Aims

The aim of this Policy is to improve the sustainable performance and efficiency of Merseyside Police by promoting and providing a clear understanding of our sustainability objectives and providing clear direction for the development, and inclusion of sustainability credentials within other force policies and strategic documentation.

Objectives

Merseyside Police will strive to:

- a) Develop, and work within, a robust sustainability governance structure, including the setting of meaningful objectives and targets and subsequently monitor and report against their progress.
- b) Directly link these targets with the Force Strategy and focus areas, the Sustainability Strategy and Net Zero Strategy.
- c) Understand our impacts on climate change and develop decarbonisation plans to manage them and outline our route to net zero.
- d) Become more efficient in our use of energy and water through awareness raising, efficient working practices and the procurement and employment of efficient technologies.
- e) 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 vehicles.
- f) Comply with all relevant environmental legislation and seek out best practice methods of working.
- g) Source materials from local, sustainable resources wherever practicable to do so.
- h) Incorporate a circular economy approach within our organisation to improve the efficient use of required goods and services and reduce the amount of waste produced.
- i) Increase the re-use and recycling opportunities within Force to reduce waste sent to energy from waste plants.
- j) Ensure the objectives of this Policy are included within the delivery of the Force's estate strategy and capital programme including whole life cost analysis.
- k) Ensure both force staff and community health, safety and wellbeing are prioritised within our operational duties.
- l) Develop partnerships with external organisations to advance force sustainability credentials and deliver suitable solutions.
- m) Work with our supply chain to encourage sustainability practices in their operations to aid our own sustainability improvements in areas including monitoring and reducing scope 3 emissions.
- n) Ensure this Policy is publicly available for all our stakeholders and other interested parties via our internet website.

Application and Scope

This Policy applies to all police officers, special constables, police staff, agency workers and volunteers. The policy also applies to any company or organisation under contract to Merseyside Police who must be aware of, and are required to comply with, all relevant policy and associated procedures.

The Chief Officer lead for this policy is the Director of Resources. The Associate Director of the Corporate Assets Department is responsible for monitoring and promoting its delivery throughout the Force. The department will provide awareness training on sustainability issues to key staff roles including building managers and any staff involved in specific initiatives. Communication of the policy to all Force staff, ensuring awareness and understanding of its objectives shall be undertaken by the Corporate Assets department, who shall also work closely with the Wellbeing and Inclusion teams to ensure joint sustainability communications are presented wherever practicable.

All Merseyside Police Officers and Staff have a responsibility to ensure that this Policy is implemented and incorporated into day to day working practices. However specific departments and staff will be identified to take ownership of specific issues. These will be identified via the Force Sustainability Strategy.

Outcome Evaluation

Outcomes should reflect specific objectives and aims, as set out in the Force Sustainability Strategy. Progress will be measured on a routine basis by the Sustainability Team using a range of data (e.g. utility consumption) and information sources and reported to the CIG quarterly and to SMB on a yearly basis via the Annual Force Sustainability Report.

In the event of any disagreement with the above Policy Statement, the Director of Resources will act as the official arbitrator.

Delivery

Merseyside Police will deliver this Policy by:

- a) Developing a Sustainability Strategy which will align itself to the National Emergency Services Sustainability Charter and the Force priority United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG's). The Strategy will outline specific objectives and targets, and the schemes and processes, which will help to achieve them.
- b) Ensuring close working links with other Force strategic documentation including the Force Strategy, Estate Strategy and Fleet Strategy, along with wellbeing commitments including the Culture and Inclusion Plan.

- c) Developing and implementing a decarbonisation program for its estate and fleet to achieve its 2040 net zero target.
- d) Utilising innovative solutions to generate renewable energy from Force wide activities, including the identification of the most appropriate technologies at the most appropriate sites.
- e) Setting realistic, but stretching, sustainable actions and objectives to allow for monitoring of schemes and initiatives to improve efficiency and performance.
- f) Accurately monitor energy and water consumption through Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) systems to identify good practice, track performance, and target opportunities for improved resource efficiency and cost savings.
- g) Managing a force wide waste matrix to ensure legally compliant, efficient and environmental practices are consistently employed.
- h) Developing an on-going internal sustainability awareness raising and behaviour change campaigns to promote and encourage sustainable initiatives.
- i) Providing sustainable information to all police officers and staff through iForce, Viva Engage and other appropriate, and approved, social media platforms.
- j) Providing a comprehensive training programme for identified members of staff to ensure the Policy objectives are considered at appropriate decision-making forums.
- k) Developing collaborative relationships with external organisation and other police forces to incorporate lessons learnt into our future decision making and sustainability documentation.
- l) Reporting progress to Chief Officers via CIG and to all staff, and external stakeholders, annually via the Force Annual Sustainability Report.
- m) Seeking to incorporate a balance of the 3P's of sustainability across the Force.
- n) Regularly reviewing the priority United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to ensure they align with the Force strategy.

Version History

Version Number	Date	Detailed rational behind amending/updating policy or procedure.	Policy Owner Details	Policy Author Details
2.0	19/12/12	Substantial re-write of Energy Policy to reflect wider corporate responsibility around Sustainability agenda.		
2.1	08/09/15	Document formally reviewed and only minor amendments considered necessary (reference to National Charter in policy statement).		
3.0	10/05/19	Document formally reviewed and only minor amendments considered necessary		
4.0	22/06/23	Document formally reviewed and only minor amendments considered necessary to bring policy in line with National Emergency Services Sustainability Charter and UNSDG'		
4.1	29/03/26	Updated to current Force structure; formatting updates (no change to review date)	Head of Corporate Assets	Sustainability Manager
4.2	17/07/26	Document formally reviewed with only minor amendments considered necessary to align with Force Strategy.	Head of Corporate Assets	Sustainability Manager