

**Subject: Police Efficiencies and Collaboration Programme (PECP)
National Energy Initiative**

Originator: Stephen Perrins, Head of Payments, Supplies and Commercial

Decision no. 37/2025

Reason for submission: For Decision

Submitted to: Police and Crime Commissioner

Summary:

This paper seeks approval from the Police and Crime Commissioner to:

1. Join the V30 energy basket under the Crown Commercial Services framework for energy purchase from 1 October 2028.
2. There will be a minimum commitment period of 42 months from the beginning of energy delivery with energy purchased 30 months in advance.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the PCC grants approval to join the V30 Energy Basket and enters into a Contract with the Crown Commercial Service as detailed in the Police Efficiencies and Collaboration Programme National Energy Strategy.

Outcome/approval by: PCC

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signature:



Date: 02/09/2025

Detail of the submission

1. Objective:

1.1 The objective of this paper is to seek the PCC's approval to join the V30 Basket for Energy delivery in 2028/29 financial year utilising the CCS Framework as part of the Police Efficiencies and Collaboration Programme National Energy Strategy.

2. Background:

2.1. The Police Efficiency and Collaboration Programme (PECP) was established in April 2025, with the aim of achieving substantial cost savings through business change and long-term sustainability and performance optimisation.

2.2 The programme has identified energy as one of five key areas of national commercial focus. These areas are being targeted and supported by BlueLight Commercial (BLC) as the commercial delivery partner. A critical component of the areas targeted is the ability to harness efficiencies using national contractual agreements.

3. Areas for consideration:

3.1 Our current utilities contract is with Laser Energy and runs to 1st October 2028. The CCS V30 Basket will allow Norfolk PCC to migrate onto it at the end of the current contract. The V30 basket offers;

- 30 month rolling basket.
- Allows trading over the longer term and purchases to be delayed when prices are high.
- Mitigates exposure to price volatility.
- CCS proactively monitors energy markets and trades based on indicators and pricing trends.

3.2 The strategy proposes what will be, for many, a new approach for energy procurement, through a partnership with Crown Commercial Services (CCS) to transition to a centralised energy V30 energy basket covering a 42-month period from April 2028.

4. Other options considered:

- 4.1 A benchmarking exercise has been undertaken by BLC utilising data from either current providers or individual forces and this has shown that for all forces the most cost-effective route to market would be through the CCS Framework and to enter the variable 42-month (V30) basket.
- 4.2 The evaluation has shown that during the previous 3-year period, the potential savings achievable had Forces participated in the V30 Basket would have totalled £55,590,730 for electricity and £15,337,325 for gas. The potential saving for Norfolk Constabulary was estimated to be £2,536,981.
- 4.3 Crown Commercial Service (CCS) have been chosen as the preferred contractual route to market as they are a trusted procurer of energy with experience of working with over 600 public sector entities across government and are one of the largest procurers of energy in the UK. CCS operates the largest aggregation of Public Sector energy demand in the UK at a combined 28TWh per annum and have delivered savings exceeding £1.2bn over the last ten years. During the energy crisis in 2021/22 they were able to achieve cost avoidance savings for their customers of £630m in one year.

5. Strategic aims/objective supported:

- 5.1 There is currently a fragmented approach to buying energy across policing. Forces act independently, utilising a range of differing procurement strategies that range from short, medium or long-term market agreements, with preferences for fixed in-year prices and variable prices. There are also wide differences between forces in knowledge and expertise around energy procurement. This lack of a coordinated national strategy left policing particularly vulnerable during the 2021-22 energy crisis.
- 5.2 This initiative aligns Policing as a whole and reduction of financial risk across energy market.

6. Financial and other resource implications:

6.1 The Norfolk Constabulary budget for energy purchase in 2025/2026 is electricity £1,780,660 and gas £545,720, totalling £2,326,380.

6.2 BLC have calculated the savings that could have been realised by the Constabulary over the last three years had it purchased its energy through the V30 basket. These are shown in the table below;

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Electricity	1,317	540	27	1,884
Gas	463	197	(7)	653
Total	1,780	737	20	2,537

6.3 V30 Basket will not commence until 2028, but requires a commitment by the PCC by the 6th September 2025

6.4 Market uncertainty remains a valid concern and can be a volatile market dependant on a number of external factors, moving onto the V30 basket provides some reassurance that those risks can be mitigated.

7. Carbon Emissions and Other Environmental Implications:

Carbon Emissions

7.1 The estimated impact on our carbon emissions that must be reported under current statute from this proposal is:

Emission Categories:	Increase in tCO ₂	Saving in tCO ₂
Scope 1 – Fuel – Building Heating	0	0
Scope 1 – Fuel – Transport	0	0
Scope 2 – Electricity	0	0

Environmental Implications

7.2 No material implications

8. Other implications and risks:

- 8.1 There is currently a fragmented approach to buying energy across policing. Forces act independently, utilising a range of differing procurement strategies that range from short, medium or long-term market agreements, with preferences for fixed in-year prices and variable prices. This lack of a coordinated national strategy left policing particularly vulnerable during the 2021-22 energy crisis.
- 8.2 The energy market has suffered significant instability in recent years and is now in a period of transformation following those events. Energy spend (which comprises the cost of the energy 'commodity' and the costs associated with transporting the energy to the Force 'non-commodity') has more than doubled, reflecting the increase in wholesale energy prices and often the lack of buying power when it comes to negotiating individual Force energy agreements.
- 8.3 A benchmarking exercise has been undertaken by BLC utilising data from either current providers or individual forces and this has shown that for all forces the most cost-effective route to market would be through the CCS Framework and to enter the variable 42-month (V30) basket. This basket will not only deliver cost efficiency but also budget certainty for policing and will ensure that forces are protected from any future spikes or volatility in the market, which is particularly pertinent in the current geopolitical climate.
- 8.4 Crown Commercial Service (CCS) have been chosen as the preferred contractual route to market as they are a trusted procurer of energy with experience of working with over 600 public sector entities across government and are one of the largest procurers of energy in the UK. CCS operates the largest aggregation of Public Sector energy demand in the UK at a combined 28TWh per annum and have delivered savings exceeding £1.2bn over the last ten years. During the energy crisis in 2021/22 they were able to achieve cost avoidance savings for their customers of £630m in one year. The aggregation of policing energy requirements will be large enough to benefit from the CCS preferential contract terms, market experience in volume management and economies of scale, as well as reflecting Police energy specific requirements and purchasing patterns.
- 8.5 Due to the length of purchasing period required with the V30 basket, the Norfolk PCC will not be able to join the basket until April 2028. In order to join in 2028, the PCC will need to confirm their commitment to join to BLC by the 6th September and to then sign-up to the CCS framework and confirm their energy commitments by 15th September 2025.

Originator checklist (must be completed)	Please state 'yes' or 'no'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	no
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	yes
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes – no implications
Have human resource implications been considered?	Yes – no implications
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Yes
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	No – not necessary
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	No – not necessary
Have sustainability and environmental factors been considered? (e.g. biodiversity, employee commuting, business travel, waste and recycling, water, air quality, food and catering and estates construction)	No – not necessary
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	yes

Is this report a Confidential Decision?

No

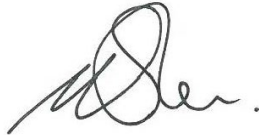
If Yes, please state reasons below having referred to the [PCC Decision Making Policy](#)

Approval to submit to the decision-maker (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

Chief Executive

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report, that the recommendations have been reviewed and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.

Signature:



Date: 02/09/2025

Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

I certify that:

- a) there are no financial consequences as a result of this decision,
Or
- b) the costs identified in this report can be met from existing revenue or capital budgets,
Or
- c) the costs identified in this report can be financed from reserves
And
- d) the decision can be taken on the basis of my assurance that Financial Regulations have been complied with.

Signature:



Date: 04/09/2025

Public access to information: *Information contained within this submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and wherever possible will be made available on the OPCC website. Submissions should be labelled as 'Not Protectively Marked' unless any of the material is 'restricted' or 'confidential'. Where information contained within the submission is 'restricted' or 'confidential' it should be highlighted, along with the reason why.*