



## Decision Note – Purchase & Supply of Electricity

### REQUEST FOR DECISION BY THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

|                           | Policing: | Crime: | Fire & Rescue: |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------|----------------|
| This decision relates to: | X         |        |                |

### APPROVAL (for completion by Staffordshire Commissioner only)

#### Rationale for approval

This decision supports our approach as set out in my Police and Crime Plan:

**Value for money:** *Every penny in policing should be directed at keeping people safe by preventing and reducing crime. We can use our resources efficiently and continuously improve by listening to the people doing the job, learning from best practice elsewhere and listening to those who receive our services.*

#### STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

Signature

Date 29/09/2025

Date decision required by: 29/09/25

If an urgent approval is required, please state reasons: Sign up to the CCS V30 basket is 30/09/25




**For completion by Staffordshire Commissioner's Office only:-**

Decision Number: SCP/D/202526/007

Date Received: 29 September 2025

|   | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| Has the required decision been considered under the guidance of the Staffordshire Commissioner's Decision-Making Policy?              | X   |    |
| Has the required decision been deemed to be a Key Decision as defined within the Staffordshire Commissioner's Decision-Making Policy? | X   |    |
| Who is empowered to make the required decision?<br><br><b>Staffordshire Commissioner</b>  |     |    |

|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Title   | Purchase & Supply of Electricity |
| <b>Summary:</b><br><br>Procurement strategy to be agreed for the Force's electricity provision from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2028 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2029 in line with recommendations from BlueLight Commercial for UK policing. This forms part of the Governments 'Police Collaboration and Efficiency Programme' (PCEP) work plan. |                                  |
| <b>Recommendation:</b>  |                                  |
| <b>Chief Executive</b><br><br>I hereby approve the recommendation for consideration.  |                                  |
|   |                                  |
| Signature   | Date 29/09/2025                  |
|    |                                  |



## REPORT AND ADVICE TO THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

### 1. Introduction and background

Staffordshire Police are currently utilising the County Council's contract with energy provider – Npower, via the YPO framework, in a 'piggy-back' arrangement. This contract runs until 31st March 2027 and the procurement strategy is to be decided.

Typically, we have been in fixed (purchase 12 months in advance) electricity baskets.

Historic spend and consumption is detailed below;

| Cost of Electricity |            |            |
|---------------------|------------|------------|
| 2022/23             | 2023/24    | 2024/25    |
| £1,944,044          | £2,484,456 | £1,488,306 |

The cost of electricity has come down significantly in the last financial years following the rapid increases seen on the back of the invasion of Ukraine. They remain elevated above the period prior to this.

### 2. Issues for consideration

Flexible energy procurement is a strategic method of purchasing the commodity elements of energy through multiple transactions in the wholesale market. These purchases are made in tranches—blocks of energy bought ahead of time and, in some cases, during the delivery year. This approach is typically adopted by large organisations or groups that aggregate their energy requirements to mitigate the risks associated with market price volatility.

In the public sector, flexible procurement is commonly facilitated by Central Purchasing Bodies (CPBs). These entities establish and manage legally compliant frameworks that enable multiple participants to benefit from flexible procurement strategies without needing to engage directly with the energy markets.

An options analysis has been conducted of the five known Central Purchasing Bodies and the results are detailed in a separate appendix.

To ensure value for money for the organisation, it is recommended that a sufficient buying in advance period is planned for ahead for the applicable year of provision.



### 3. What other options have been considered?

Following the options appraisal, it is felt that the two options recommended are either;

#### **Option 1 - Stay with YPO (Npower)**

- ✓ Removes Supplier switch risks (Npower have been reliable).
- ✓ Lowest framework fees currently
- ✓ Fixed pricing (12 or 24m Purchase in Advance)
- ✓ Entrust have a seat on the YPO governance board
- x Don't benefit from BLC contract management escalation
- x Not in line with PCEP recommendations

**Sign up Deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

#### **Option 2 - Move to CCS V30 (EDF Energy)**

- ✓ National PCEP recommendation and benefit from BLC contract management
- ✓ Largest national basket – economies of scale
- ✓ Longest purchase in advance period available (30 months)
- ✓ Assurance of a national review and recommendation
- X Higher framework fee
- X Variable rate (Purchase in Period) can provide some risk or opportunity, though 90% bought before supply period.
- X Provider switch which can cause admin issues if not done correctly.

**Sign up Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Either recommendation also requires;

- A move away from the County Council's basket and directly award ourselves for governance control and transparency.
- Continued support from Entrust's Energy Bureau service which is currently contracted until 2027.

Please note that there is still a gap in provision between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2027 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2028, however due to the short notice to sign up to the national V30 basket, this has taken priority. A further paper will be brought back for approval, for the 27/28 provision, once a recommendation has been prepared.

### 4. Consultation and Engagement undertaken

Amy Vukovic – Commercial Business Partner (Author)

Helen Holden – Service Director Commercial



Richard Chadwick – Service Director Estates

David Bate (Entrust Energy Bureau)

Jon Rawling (BLC)

### Report Implications

#### 5. Monitoring Officer comments:

This decision is in line with national expectations, performance will be monitored and inform future decision points.

Signature

Date 29/09/2025

#### 6. Section 151 Officer comments:

The Police Collaboration and Efficiency Programme sets out the direction from the government to drive savings from Policing at a national level. The recommendation to sign up to the V30 basket comes from this programme – noting the Force has done this for Gas already this aligns both fuel purchases to the national recommendations. It is expected that Forces align to national recommendations unless there is good reason not to with an exemption process being put in place at a national level for Forces opting out of national recommendations

Based on the current forward look of energy rates presented to us by BlueLight Commercial, there is not sufficient reason at this point in time to step outside of national alignment for the provision of electricity. However, despite an expectation that we align to national recommendations, we still have to undertake to seek best value. This currently shows the two baskets compared to offer similar forward costs with the V30 being the longest term fix where there is a benefit of fixing for the longer term around budgetary certainty which should not be overlooked.

However, this does present a challenge in terms of forward predicting energy markets for a number of years regardless of solution chosen – the recommendation fixes 90% of energy purchases in advance giving price certainty. Only with the benefit of hindsight will we be able to ascertain if the chosen recommendation was the most financially beneficial.

Signature

Date

29.9.25



|  | Yes        | No        |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Has legal advice (outside of that provided by the Monitoring Officer) been sought on the content of this report?   |            | x         |
| <b>7. Legal Comments:</b> Deemed not necessary   |            |           |
| <b>8. Risks - please give the details of any operational or strategic risks that are affected by this decision (add risk reference number and title below)</b><br><br>_____    |            |           |
| <b>9. Equality Comments – please attach the completed EIA</b>  |            |           |
| <b>10. Background/supporting paper</b>   |            |           |
| <b>Please answer the following questions</b>   | <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> |
| <b>11. Public access to information?</b>   | x          |           |
| <b>12. Does this decision involve the processing of personal data? (If yes please attach a completed Data Impact Assessment)</b>   |            | x         |
| <b>13. Is the publication of this form to be deferred? (If yes approx. how long?)</b>  |            | x         |
| <b>14. Does this form contain commercial or operationally sensitive information which is to be redacted? (If yes, please provide details with the submission of this note)</b> |            | x         |

**15. ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:**

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| <b>Author</b> | Amy Vukovic      |
| <b>Signed</b> | <i>A Vukovic</i> |
| <b>Date</b>   | 29/09/25         |