

**Date:** 14 September 2021

**Item:** TfL Sustainability Report and Corporate Environment Plan

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## **This paper will be considered in public**

### **1 Summary**

- 1.1 We will publish a Sustainability Report alongside, and supported by, a Corporate Environment Plan (CEP) for the first time in 2021, in order to outline our approach to sustainability and environment to our customers, staff and suppliers.
- 1.2 This paper provides an overview of the purpose and content of the two documents. The final drafts of each document will be shared with the Panel prior to their publication.
- 1.3 The Sustainability Report and CEP will be published in early autumn 2021.

### **2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 **The Panel is asked to note the paper.**

### **3 Background**

- 3.1 The TfL Sustainability Report is a wide-ranging report aiming to capture the social, economic and environmental benefit TfL delivers as an organisation and to track progress. It provides an account of work to date and includes key metrics to measure performance. It is aligned with the reporting approach of a number of other large organisations and with the overarching United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals through an approach that complements our London level strategic policy framework.
- 3.2 The CEP sets out TfL's future approach to improving its organisational performance. It is a forward-looking plan with a focus on the environment strand of sustainability, providing more detail on our ambition, targets and plans.
- 3.3 Both documents are designed to complement and align with the Mayor's Transport Strategy (MTS) and the London Environment Strategy (LES). As opposed to TfL's activities to support the wider realisation of the MTS and LES, the focus of the Sustainability Report and CEP is on the different activities, wide range of services, large workforce and vast supply chain we as a large organisation undertake.
- 3.4 The documents are intended to help improve our environmental and sustainability performance, engage our staff and stakeholders, attract and retain talent, support our efforts to secure investment and build and strengthen our partnerships. In the case of the CEP, it also forms an essential part of our TfL Management System

by setting clear guidance of what is required by our colleagues, business area plans and our suppliers.

- 3.5 The documents also support our wider efforts to embed a strong sustainability and environment culture across the organisation. This allows colleagues to recognise these issues as being relevant to their jobs, in the same way that they recognise that safety, health, diversity and inclusion and good customer service is a core consideration in everything they do. Wider activities include an internal information website and Sustainability Staff Network Group, internal communication campaigns, training and TfL Management System improvements.

## 4 Scope and content of reports

### Sustainability Report

- 4.1 The TfL Sustainability Report provides narrative on the benefits of the existing work we deliver from a social, economic and environmental perspective. This is primarily an external facing document with the aim of communicating our sustainability framework to our customers and suppliers.
- 4.2 The report will act as baseline with updated metrics to help us understand our progress against our strategy, commitments and priorities. We have used the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Reporting standards to guide the development of the report. The GRI standards help translate the UN Sustainable Development Goals down to an organisational level. Through future iterations we intent to strengthen this and ultimately work towards a GRI compliant report. It is structured around the three pillars of sustainability:
- (a) **Society** – Caring about our colleagues, customers and communities through safe, healthy and accessible transport services;
  - (b) **Environment** – Operating in a sustainable way, to protect and regenerate the natural world; and
  - (c) **Economy** – Being financially sustainable to provide a resilient and good quality of life for all.
- 4.3 We will report annually to the Panel on our progress and performance against metrics and plans on how we will improve described in the report. We will publish new versions of the report itself on a regular, but not necessarily annual, basis.

### Corporate Environment Plan

- 4.4 Our CEP sets out our environmental ambition and how we will achieve this through our operations, maintenance and construction activities. It forms the detailed environmental pillar of our sustainable development approach.
- 4.5 The CEP focuses on our own activities (excluding things such as MTS outcomes delivered by boroughs for example). We have developed our plan so that we can better:
- (a) transparently communicate our environmental ambition and priorities to our stakeholders, including our own people and our supply chain;

- (b) nurture an environmental culture across the business which places environmental sustainability at the heart of business decisions;
  - (c) develop the baseline against which to set targets for our environmental performance, and track and measure progress both effectively and accurately; and
  - (d) help demonstrate the environmental benefits of the work we do.
- 4.6 Progress on the delivery of the CEP objectives will be reported through quarterly reporting processes to the Panel and annually through the TfL SHE Annual report, and future Sustainability Reports.
- 4.7 We have developed our CEP along five key themes, each of which will help us support the transition to a zero-carbon London:
- (a) **Climate emergency:** Reduce carbon emissions from our activities and ensure we are ready for the impacts of climate change;
  - (b) **Air quality:** Reduce emissions of harmful air pollutants from our activities;
  - (c) **Sustainable resources:** Support a low-carbon circular economy;
  - (d) **Green infrastructure:** Protect, connect and enhance our green infrastructure, including the biodiversity, habitats and ecosystem services on our estate; and
  - (e) **Best environmental practices:** Deliver our activities responsibly and be a good neighbour.
- 4.8 The plan brings together all our existing environmental targets and commitments from the MTS and LES, as well as those that have emerged since the publication of these documents, into one place for the first time.

## 5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The environmental ambitions set out by the CEP are aligned to the Policy Consistent Scenario of TfL's Long-Term Capital Plan.

### List of appendices to this report:

None

### List of Background Papers:

None

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