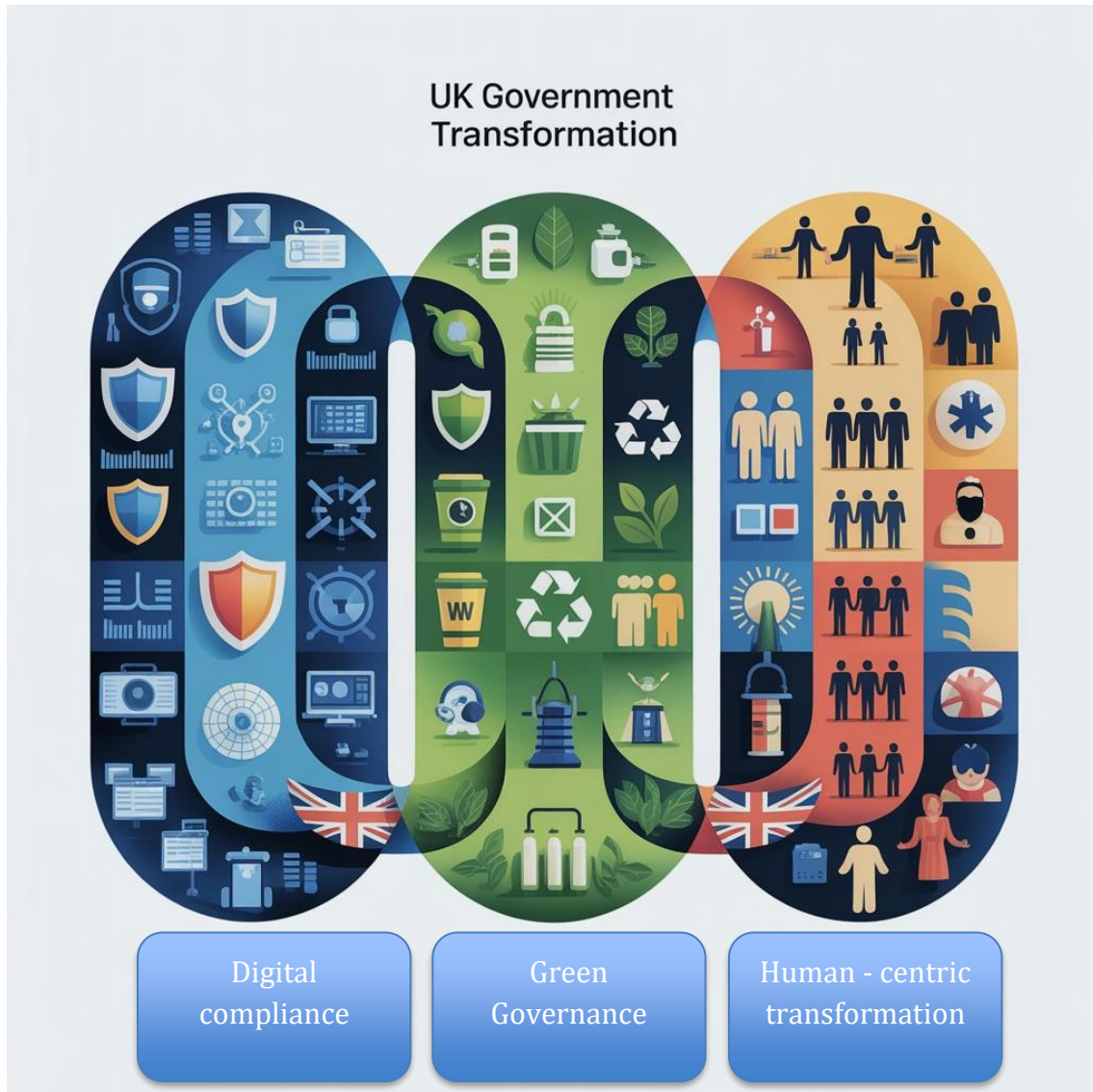




Digital Safety, Greener Government & the Human Case for Transformation

Insights for UK Public Sector Leaders



Thought Leadership by Connected Safety Net



Executive Summary

The United Kingdom has set ambitious targets: achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, simplify public services through a modern digital government roadmap for 2025-2030 and ensure that everyone can participate in a connected society. These commitments are driving councils and government departments to adopt digital solutions that not only meet compliance and safety obligations but also contribute to sustainability, inclusion and productivity.

This thought-leadership paper examines how Connected Safety Net's platform supports these national priorities. We explore the government context for change, the importance of agile no-code tools, the role of artificial intelligence as a safety coworker, the imperative of inclusive design, procurement frameworks that enable innovation, and the vision for a greener, safer future. Real-world testimonials from local authorities demonstrate how digital transformation is already delivering benefits across the UK public sector.

A Government Context that Demands Change



The UK Government has committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 and is embedding sustainability into every aspect of its digital operations. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) notes that its IT operations produced nearly 10,000 tonnes of carbon emissions in 2023–24 and generated 198 tonnes of electronic waste, only 40 % of which was reused. Reducing e-waste and carbon emissions across government is therefore an urgent priority.

At the same time, the government's Digital Inclusion Action Plan emphasises that digital inclusion is both a social and environmental imperative. Device donation schemes keep laptops, tablets and phones out of landfill and place them in the hands of those who need them, helping to create a circular economy. The plan



defines digital inclusion as ensuring that everyone has access, skills, support and confidence to participate in our modern digital society.

These policies sit alongside a new roadmap for modern digital government (2025-2030) which sets out six strategic pillars: joining up public services, harnessing artificial intelligence (AI), strengthening digital and data infrastructure, elevating digital leadership, funding for outcomes and procurement for growth, and committing to transparency and accountability. Central to the roadmap is the commitment to drive digital inclusion for all and to procure technology that delivers maximum value and innovation.

For councils and public bodies, these national priorities create a clear mandate: invest in digital safety and compliance tools that reduce emissions and waste, are accessible to all, and can adapt rapidly to changing regulations and local needs.

Why Agility and No Code Matter



Government environments are rarely uniform. A health and safety team may one day manage ventilation in a school and the next day check a care home's fire safety or a highway depot's maintenance schedule. A low-code or no-code platform enables safety teams to tailor workflows without writing software. These platforms allow non-developers to assemble applications by dragging and dropping components, reducing development time and enabling staff to test ideas quickly. Citizen developers can create prototypes and adapt them as regulations or operating conditions change.

Connected Safety Net's 'digital factory' concept was born from this reality. When a council signs up, it gains a canvas where safety processes can be digitised, automated and adapted. If legislation changes or a new risk emerges, teams can modify the process without waiting for custom code. Caretakers and highway engineers, people with no formal IT training, can design workflows that fit their daily



routines, empowering local staff and speeding up adoption.

This agility is critical when hundreds of schools or remote community centres across a county each have different requirements. It also aligns with the government’s roadmap, which commits to funding outcomes and procuring for growth, ensuring that public money supports innovative, flexible solutions rather than legacy systems.

AI as a Safety Coworker



Artificial intelligence conjures images of science fiction, yet in the safety world it serves as a coworker that processes data and flags risks early. Contemporary research describes agentic AI systems that synthesise structured and unstructured data to recommend interventions while digital twins provide predictive maintenance and anomaly detection. Such systems can monitor barrier health and calculate cumulative risk in ways human teams cannot. However, success depends on quality data, scalable infrastructure, governance and user adoption.

Connected Safety Net’s AI features are grounded in these realities. Rather than replacing inspectors, our AI flags anomalies in inspection data, predicts maintenance schedules and surfaces patterns that busy teams might miss. It frees people from repetitive checks and allows them to take on proactive roles – coaching, analysis and community outreach – roles that AI cannot fill.

The government’s digital roadmap reinforces this approach by calling on departments to adopt AI responsibly, embed tools across services to cut waiting times and improve decision-making, and establish a Responsible AI Advisory Panel. By aligning our AI development with the AI Exemplars Programme, we ensure that our innovations support public-sector priorities and remain accountable.



Inclusion and Accessibility: More than Compliance



One in five people in the UK has a long-term impairment. Government accessibility guidelines require digital services to meet the WCAG 2.2 level AA standard and to work with assistive technologies such as screen readers, magnifiers and speech recognition. The Digital Inclusion Action Plan highlights four focus areas: developing digital skills, tackling data and device poverty, breaking down barriers to services and building confidence. It also recognises that device donation schemes keep electronics out of landfill and into the hands of those who need them.

For Connected Safety Net, inclusion is not a checkbox. Our platform offers speech-to-text, automatic reading tools and over 200 language options. These features emerged from conversations with inspectors whose first language was not English and caretakers who struggled with dyslexia. When someone can dictate an inspection report in their native language or have a safety manual read aloud, they are more likely to engage with the process.

Inclusive design also supports sustainability: donating refurbished devices reduces e-waste and ensures that hardware is reused across projects before being responsibly recycled. Small choices scale up when hundreds of councils adopt greener practices.



Procurement and the Public Sector Marketplace



Public procurement may not be glamorous, but it is where transformation happens. Frameworks such as G-Cloud 14 provide an online catalogue of cloud-based computing services – hosting, software and support – that public bodies can purchase quickly. G-Cloud 14 offers access to more than 46,000 services from over 4,000 suppliers. Any call-off contract can last up to 36 months with an option to extend for another year. Benefits include scalable, pay-as-you-use services, quick routes to market, reduced total cost of ownership and the ability to switch providers easily.

The public procurement system is evolving to embed sustainability and inclusion. Defra’s strategy notes that new contracts for connectivity, end-user devices and hosting will include robust sustainability requirements. The government’s digital roadmap also commits to outcome-focused funding models and procurement for growth and innovation. Through frameworks like G-Cloud and the Digital Marketplace, smaller innovative companies can compete alongside larger vendors, fostering diversity and resilience in the technology supply chain.

Connected Safety Net’s recent three-year contract with Northumberland County Council was called off through G-Cloud, giving the council confidence that we meet government security and sustainability requirements while giving us a clear runway to deliver and innovate.



A Greener, Safer Future Isn't Inevitable – It's Built



The Climate Change Committee's 2025 progress report concluded that the UK's net-zero target is within reach provided the government stays the course. Achieving this ambition requires partnerships between government, suppliers and citizens. No single contract changes the world; the impact comes when dozens of councils adopt greener, more inclusive digital tools and share their learning.

Our team is energised by what lies ahead. We are introducing AI features that align with the government's AI Exemplars Programme and exploring integrations with digital twins to provide predictive insights. We are working with clients to reuse devices, design inclusive interfaces and reduce paper usage. We encourage staff to retrain for forward-facing roles that involve coaching, analysis and community engagement – roles that AI cannot fill but that digital transformation makes possible.

As we celebrate new partnerships, we invite colleagues across local government to consider how safety and compliance can be part of a wider sustainability and inclusion agenda.

We should ask not only "Is the site compliant?" but also "Are we making life easier for workers and residents?" and "Are we leaving the planet better off than we found it?"





Customer Success & Testimonials

Northumberland County Council

Andrew McKenna – Corporate Health & Safety Manager

“We can't wait to launch the new incident database – feedback from colleagues has been really positive with staff liking the intuitive forms, especially the body maps and the mobile functionality.”

Cartrefi Conwy

Victoria Poulter – Group Health & Safety Compliance Manager

“We're delighted to share that Connected Safety Net has been awarded a three-year contract with us – a leading not-for-profit registered social landlord for North Wales.”

Dover District Council

“Following a comprehensive and competitive tendering process Dover District Council was pleased to appoint Connected Safety Net as the provider of a new corporate health and safety management system. The new system is expected to enhance DDC's ability to meet health and safety obligations and reflects the council's ongoing commitment to maintaining high standards in workplace safety.”

Blackpool Council

Ian Large – Head of Highway & Traffic Management Services

“This partnership represents much more than just technology. It's about future-proofing how we operate, serve the public and take climate responsibility seriously. With Connected Safety Net we've eliminated paper, introduced automation and created a platform that reflects Blackpool's ambition to lead the way.”

RJ Dance

Jamie Larter – Chief Executive Officer

“Partnering with Connected Safety Net allows us to maintain our legacy of excellence while embracing cutting-edge digital tools.”



Conclusion & Call to Action

The UK public sector is at a pivotal moment. The convergence of climate commitments, digital inclusion goals and rapidly evolving technology demands a new approach to safety and compliance. By adopting adaptable, inclusive and sustainable digital platforms, councils can protect their communities, free up staff for meaningful work and contribute to national goals.

Connected Safety Net stands ready to partner with local authorities and government departments on this journey. Our clients across county councils, housing associations and civil engineering firms are already realising the benefits of intuitive workflows, AI-powered insights and inclusive design.

We invite public sector leaders to join us in building a greener, safer future. One that puts people at the centre, leverages technology responsibly and leaves no one behind.

