

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's annual statement on sustainable economic growth for 2010/11

The Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, section 32(1)(a) requires listed public bodies to publish a statement on sustainable economic growth as soon as possible after the end of the financial year.

The following statement sets out the steps that Strathclyde Partnership for Transport has taken in 2010/11 to promote and increase sustainable growth through the exercise of its functions. Further information on this and our activities is contained in our annual report 2010/11 which is available from our website at www.spt.co.uk

Introduction

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) was established by the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 which created Scotland's seven Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs). SPT's role involves planning and delivering transport solutions for all modes of transport across the region, in conjunction with our constituent councils and industry partners.

Sustainable economic growth and contribution to the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework

SPT, together with its partner organisations, contributes to sustainable economic growth by planning and delivering regional transport improvements, and through the operation and support of transport services. The regional economy is directly supported by SPT's ongoing investment and expenditure programme. This programme spans all modes of travel. It seeks to improve connectivity, accessibility, reduce emissions and provide attractive, seamless and reliable travel. These are key elements of sustainable economic development.

Our Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) and delivery plan, approved by Scottish Ministers, is a key statutory activity for SPT which sets out when and how transport projects and proposals are to be delivered. SPT works closely with its constituent councils and Transport Scotland to ensure that transport policy and programmes in Strathclyde are properly co-ordinated, efficiently delivered and focused on contributing to sustainable economic growth.

In 2010/11 we invested over £26 million in regional transport infrastructure improvements. This included £3.9 million in Strategic Park & Ride sites at locations such as Croy with over 700 spaces, supporting employment opportunities within the construction industry during construction, alleviating traffic congestion and improving access to jobs and services once operational.

In terms of operation of transport services we provided over £43 million of direct support for transport services in 2010/11. This included over £11 million of support from SPT to join up communities by subsidising local bus services in

areas not served by the commercial bus market, an increasing challenge in the current economic climate.

SPT's Subway service in particular carries over 13 million passengers per annum and our bus stations facilitate over 1.3 million departures per annum, providing vital access to employment, education, services and key retail centres.

For each of our twelve Community Planning Partnerships (CPP's), SPT prepares Transport Outcome Reports (TORS). These detail our investment in transport improvements in these areas and demonstrate alignment with the local outcomes of each of our CPP's, and the Scottish Government's national outcomes.

All of the TORs are published on our website: <http://www.spt.co.uk/cp/tors.aspx>

In terms of SPT's own staff training and development policies, these result in a highly trained and professional workforce which is ideally placed to meet the future needs of the economy.

In addition to the above we have contributed to the national performance framework by implementing a number of measures to reduce our impact on the environment. SPT is statutorily obliged to reduce transport related carbon emissions through inclusion of the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme. A commitment has been made to reduce emissions through investment in new technologies and by increasing energy efficiency.