

SPT Climate Change Strategy: Climate Resilience and Adaptation Plan

Date of meeting 13 June 2025

Date of report 3 June 2025

Report by Head of Policy & Planning

1. Object of report

To update the Committee on the:

- developments in relation to SPT's Climate Change Strategy; and
- draft SPT Climate Adaptation Action Plan (see Appendix 1).

2. Background to report

2.1. SPT Climate Change Strategy

SPT's Climate Change Strategy, approved by the Partnership in 2023, set out a dual approach to address both mitigation and adaptation, supporting our statutory commitments including national, regional, and local emission reduction targets. This includes the development of a Net-Zero Action Plan and a Climate Resilience and Adaptation Plan to guide delivery.

SPT's Net-Zero Action Plan sets out targeted measures to reduce emissions across our corporate estate and operations structured around six key delivery themes, aligned to SPT's principal emissions sources. The supporting Net-Zero Pathway outlines the trajectory to achieve zero carbon emissions across Scope 1 and Scope 2 by 2030, and net zero carbon across our Scope 3 emissions by 2045.

2.2. Net-Zero Delivery Group

To support implementation and improve transparency on emissions reduction progress and projects delivered through the Action, governance structures have been strengthened through establishment of the Net-Zero Delivery Officer Group. The Group supersedes SPT's Carbon Management Working Group (CMWG) to enable coordinated oversight, monitor progress and ensure integration of climate action across operational planning and delivery.

To date the group has taken forward critical work to shape a coherent delivery framework and building a shared understanding of the requirements for Net-Zero implementation across all areas of SPT. This has included advanced programme scoping, securing cross departmental engagement, and refinement of the delivery programme to focus on high impact actions that reflect operational realities and resource constraints.

A key focus for 2025/2026 will be the development of Building Assessment Reports (BARs) for SPT's property portfolio, to identify practical, site-specific recommendations to

support SPT's transition from natural gas, improve operational efficiency and assess readiness for future heat network connection.

2.3. Climate action groups

SPT continue to actively participate in Climate Ready Clyde, Sustainable Glasgow and the Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network, all of which are central to driving coordinated action on climate resilience within the region. As valuable platforms for collaboration, engaging in these climate action networks enables SPT to remain informed and up to date on the latest policy developments and emerging risks.

3. Outline of proposals

3.1 SPT Climate Resilience and Adaptation Plan

SPT is increasingly exposed to the impacts of climate change, including more frequent and intense rainfall, rising temperatures, extreme heat events and flooding. These evolving climate pressures present challenges to the integrity and reliability of our physical assets, transport services, and key infrastructure dependencies. In response, we are committed to future-proofing our estate and operations, ensuring they remain resilient and adaptable in a changing climate.

SPT's Climate Resilience & Adaptation Plan (see Appendix 1) has been developed to identify potential risks and opportunities, through development of a Climate Risk Assessment (CRA), which identifies and prioritises the climate hazards of highest threat to the different assets within SPT's corporate estate. The plan aligns with the outcomes in the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP) and will integrate long-term sustainable solutions that protect our infrastructure and services while embedding climate adaptation across our corporate estate.

The plan focuses on opportunities for biodiversity enhancement, nature-based solutions and ensuring the actions contribute positively to the wider environment and local communities wherever possible. It aims to reduce risk exposure and vulnerability for each asset and associated hazard. This includes a variety of strategies that can be considered, such as infrastructure improvements, implementation of sustainable drainage systems, and engagement in community awareness programs. Priority actions for 2025-2035 and beyond include:

- Short term actions to enhance Subway maintenance, SuDs implementation, integration of nature-based solutions at Buchanan Bus Station, and improving energy efficiency through natural ventilation systems and water-efficient fixtures;
- Medium term actions to further develop Subway flood defences, explore rainwater harvesting, and integrate renewable energy sources; and
- Long term actions to enhance public transport information systems to keep passengers informed about weather related disruptions, and digital SMART technology generation including smart drainage systems to improve flood resilience for SPT.

As SPT moves forward with the actions, it is essential to focus on fostering effective partnerships, ensuring alignment with regional and national strategies, addressing policy uncertainties, and collaborating with local authorities. These steps are crucial to achieving SPT goals, driving impactful change, and building a more sustainable and resilient future.

4. Committee action

The Committee is recommended to:

- (i) Note the content of this report; and
- (ii) Note the SPT's Climate Resilience and Adaptation Plan attached at Appendix 1.

5. Consequences

Policy consequences	<i>Delivery of climate change mitigation, carbon management and climate change adaptation measures is in line with the new RTS.</i>
Legal consequences	<i>None at present.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>Delivery of some actions will be dependent upon government support and new funding.</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>None at present.</i>
Equalities consequences	<i>It is essential that transport policies in relation to climate change contribute to the delivery of a Just Transition to achieve a net zero and climate resilient economy that delivers fairness and tackles inequality and injustice. The Climate Change Strategy has undergone Equality Impact Assessment screening.</i>
Risk consequences	<i>None at present.</i>
Climate Change, Adaptation & Carbon consequences	<i>The delivery of an effective SPT climate change and carbon management strategy and action plan, positive procurement policies and effective partnership working can help reduce SPT's carbon footprint and wider efforts to reduce emission.</i>

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