

Statement of efficiency gains 2023/2024

Period covering 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

The Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 requires SPT to publish an efficiency statement after the end of each financial year. This statement identifies the steps taken by SPT during that financial year to improve efficiency, effectiveness and economy in the delivery of its functions.

The relevant efficiency statement for SPT for the year ending 31 March 2024 is set out below.

The Act also requires SPT to provide details on the current level of shared services provided by the public body. During the year SPT has:

- delivered on behalf of 11 local authorities school transport planning, delivery and monitoring of services ensuring that approximately 40,000 children per day were carried on school transport services,
- delivered the management and maintenance of bus stops and shelters for 12 local authorities,
- managed and monitored the Strathclyde Concession Scheme on behalf of 12 local authorities,
- worked with local authorities to maximise fleet efficiencies, and
- wherever possible, utilised procurement portals and public sector framework contracts to achieve best value.

Statement of Efficiency

SPT achieved savings and increased income of £3.984m million in 2023/2024. This has reduced slightly compared to 2022/2023. Since the beginning of 2022, new financial challenges have arisen for SPT and other public sector organisations due to high inflation and the cost-of-living crisis. This has included increased pay pressures, supported service contract increases and increases in external contract costs. Saving and efficiencies generated in 2023/2024 are as a result of an ongoing review of costs. In order to achieve a balanced budget it was necessary to critically review all expenditure areas with a view to reducing costs and commitments where possible that had the least impact on the services SPT provides. The main areas are listed below.

Theme	Description of efficiency, effectiveness, economy measure delivered	Impact on service delivery and performance / other information
Workforce Planning	Staff Turnover and Recruitment Timeline	Staff savings achieved due to the number of employee's in post being below the budgeted establishment throughout the year. Staff turnover and the time taken to recruit suitable replacements took longer than usual due to competition in the market for specific roles which also contributed to reduced costs in 2023/2024.

Theme	Description of efficiency, effectiveness, economy measure delivered	Impact on service delivery and performance / other information
Procurement	Property Costs	Savings on ongoing repairs and maintenance due to refurbishment of Buchanan bus station in 2020.
Procurement	Transport & Plant	Savings obtained by prior investment in fleet replacement resulting in a subsequent reduction in fleet repairs, maintenance and running costs. Further efficiencies achieved in Travel & Subsistence as a result of utilising digital platforms like Teams and Zoom for meetings where previously travel costs were incurred.
Other	Increased Interest Earned on Cash Balances	Obtained greater return on interest earned whilst maintaining priorities of security and liquidity on capital sums (cash balances) due to close management of cash balances.