

## **Annual Statement on Sustainable Economic Growth 2019/20**

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 2019/20 to promote and increase sustainable growth through the exercise of its functions. Further information is available at:

<http://www.spt.co.uk/corporate/about/finance/>

### **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 on-going 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), approved by Scottish Ministers, and associated Delivery Plan, 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, Transport Scotland and others to ensure that transport policy and programmes in Strathclyde are properly co-ordinated efficiently delivered and focused on contributing to sustainable economic growth. During 2019/20, SPT began the process of developing a new Regional Transport Strategy for the west of Scotland.

In 2019/20 we invested £36.358m in regional transport improvements. This included £19.086m on Subway Modernisation, enhancing the attractiveness of public transport and active travel, to encourage modal shift, stimulating regeneration, reducing harmful emissions, and improving access to jobs and services.

In terms of operation of transport services we incurred net expenditure of £36.500 million in direct support of transport services in 2019/20. This included £13.164 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 given the significant recent decline in bus patronage and market contraction. SPT's Subway service carries around 13 million passengers per annum and Buchanan Bus Station, the largest bus station in Scotland, handles around 12 million passengers per year, enabling vital access to employment, education, services and key retail centres across the country.

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, and undertook a review of our Carbon Management Plan.