

# Annual Statement on Sustainable Economic Growth 2022/23

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 (SPT) has taken in 2022/23 to promote and increase sustainable growth through the exercise of its functions. Further information is available at:

[spt.co.uk/about-us/who-we-are/documents/finance/](https://spt.co.uk/about-us/who-we-are/documents/finance/).

## Introduction

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 west of Scotland, in conjunction with our 12 constituent councils and industry partners.

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

SPT, working with our partners, contributes to sustainable economic growth by: setting a regional transport policy framework that aims to contribute to a healthier environment, inclusive economic growth and improved quality of life; planning and delivering regional transport projects, and operating and funding transport services. SPT also works closely with its constituent councils, Transport Scotland and others to ensure that transport projects and programmes are co-ordinated, integrated and delivered efficiently across the 12 local authorities in our region.

Our new Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), recently approved by Scottish Ministers in July 2023, sets out five objectives that our services, projects and investment programmes will help to achieve over the next 15 years. These objectives, collectively, aim to ensure that everyone - including people with protected characteristics, households on lower incomes and people living in rural, remote and island communities - can use our transport system, in the most sustainable and accessible way possible, to participate fully in our society and economy including getting to work, attending school, college or university, caring for others, shopping, accessing healthcare and services, and enjoying family, leisure and social activities. These objectives also recognise the needs of business both for accessible labour markets and sustainable connections between our region's towns, passenger and freight transport hubs and key economic centres. A key focus of the delivery of the new RTS will be improved active travel connectivity and better bus services.

In 2022/23 we invested £37.111 million in regional transport improvements. This included £19.116 million 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. Expenditure was lower than had been originally planned with various issues being highlighted including: the availability of contractors; supply chain issues; staff resource constraints; and inflationary pressures.

In terms of operation of transport services we incurred net expenditure of £36.281 million in direct support of transport services in 2022/23. This included £13.212 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

## **Annual Statement on Sustainable Economic Growth 2022/23**

significant recent decline in bus patronage and market contraction. SPT's Subway service carried 11.9 million passengers (2021/22: 8 million) in 2022/23 against a pre Covid patronage of 13.2 million in 2019/20 so patronage is increasing year on year and approaching pre Covid levels. Buchanan Bus Station, the largest bus station in Scotland, typically handles around 12 million passengers per year and over 1 million bus service departures departed from SPT bus stations in 2022/23, 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.