

Statement of efficiency gains 2024/2025

Period covering 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

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 2025 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 £3.539m million in 2024/2025. This has reduced slightly compared to 2023/2024. Since the beginning of 2022, financial challenges have arisen 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. These challenges have been managed within the funding envelope available. Although inflation has decreased then stabilised, there are still a number of financial challenges to SPT and its stakeholders in 2025/2026 and beyond. These financial pressures are not short term in nature and will have material impacts on internal and external costs in the current and future financial years. 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 2024/2025.
Procurement	Property Costs	Savings on ongoing repairs and maintenance due to ongoing refurbishment of Buchanan bus station and other bus stations.
Procurement	Supplies and Services	Efficiencies across the organisation were achieved in a number of areas including reduced rolling stock maintenance costs as a result of the introduction of the new fleet into the Subway. Also there was a reduction in general supplies costs due to hybrid working and reduced need for stationery and general office supplies.
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 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.