

Statement of efficiency gains 2020/21

Period covering 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

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 2021 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 £5.705m million in 2020/21. Due to the Covid pandemic which started in March 2020 a number of expenditure areas have achieved savings in 2020/21 with some of these were as a direct result of Covid. Savings were required in 2020/21 in order to achieve a balanced budget. The main areas are listed below.

Theme	Description of efficiency, effectiveness, economy measure delivered	Impact on service delivery and performance / other information
Workforce Planning	Revised Staffing Levels and Vacancy Freeze	Staff savings achieved through revised structures and staffing levels across the organisation. Also for the majority of 2020/21 a vacancy freeze was in place.

Theme	Description of efficiency, effectiveness, economy measure delivered	Impact on service delivery and performance / other information
Workforce Planning	Overtime	Efficiencies achieved through reduced reliance on overtime across the organisation. In the first quarter of 2020/21 reduced overtime was as a result of the first lockdown.
Asset Management	Property Costs	Savings obtained through efficiencies in electricity usage and also savings in repairs and maintenance due to refurbishment of Buchanan bus station.
Other	Supplies and Services	Efficiencies achieved in this area are mainly a result of the Covid pandemic. Savings were achieved within the Subway for ticket costs and bank charges due to reduced passenger numbers. Corporate costs such as training were reduced due to availability of courses and printing costs and general supplies due to the majority of office staff working from home in 2020/21.
Other	Management of Subsidised Bus Contracts	Efficiencies were achieved mainly due to reduced operating levels for local and My Bus services due to lockdowns and general demand decreases as a result of the Covid pandemic. Improved relationships with bus operators also assisted in achieving efficiencies via improved prices for bus contracts

Asset Management	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	Third Party Payments	Efficiencies achieved in this area are mainly a result of the Covid pandemic. Savings were achieved over a number of third party payments including agency staff costs, legal fees, communications costs, Airwave system costs and British Transport Police costs.