



SPT Carbon Management Plan

Date of meeting 13 December 2019

Date of report 25 November 2019

Report by Chief Executive

1. Object of report

To recommend approval of an updated Carbon Management Plan for SPT.

2. Background

2.1 Early development work on our approach to carbon management was undertaken with and partially funded by the Carbon Trust and over recent years, SPT has made considerable progress in a range of carbon reduction initiatives. Examples of work undertaken include utilising solar power and voltage optimisation at Buchanan Bus Station, LED lighting upgrade on the Subway and innovative initiatives such as the ground source heat pump at Broomloan depot which provides up to 40% of the heating load of the staff messing facility. In addition, in a number of Subway stations we have installed air source and water source heat exchange installations making use of the 12 - 14°C latent water and air temperatures prevalent in the Subway tunnels, this concept being developed and delivered through a Knowledge Transfer Partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University. Further work that has contributed to SPT's carbon reduction includes:

- roll out of a managed print service in SPT offices to reduce unnecessary printing;
- an IT software upgrade to reduce out of hours consumption on computers, and more efficient servers, including virtual servers (the "cloud");
- utilising technology to reduce business travel, for example, through more teleconferencing;
- diverting waste from landfill by increasing recycling rates;
- reduced carbon emissions at SPT head office (131 St Vincent Street) through introduction of LED lighting and energy efficient heating boilers and controls;
- introducing lighting controls at Shields Road Park & Ride;
- limiting heat loss and installing energy efficient heaters at Broomloan depot;
- staff communications initiative, "Second Nature"; and
- investing in a lighting upgrade programme at Buchanan Bus Station.

2.2 Further to earlier reports, including most recently to the Strategy and Programmes Committee in November¹, a review of SPT's approach to carbon management has

¹ http://www.spt.co.uk/documents/latest/SP221119_Agenda11.pdf

been undertaken. The reasons for this review were, in essence, twofold. Firstly, in recognition of recent declarations of a climate emergency, and new 'net-zero' carbon emissions targets set by the Scottish Government and other partners.

- 2.3 Secondly, SPT's previous target of a 35% carbon reduction by 2024/25 based on 2008/09 levels was surpassed by a significant margin in 2018/19, where a 52% reduction had been achieved. While acknowledging that this was in part due to changes to the methodology used to calculate carbon output (the grid emissions conversion factor), it is important to ensure that SPT's future target is sufficiently ambitious and challenging enough to deliver the change required in line with wider national and local aspirations.
- 2.4 It should be noted that the scope of the Carbon Management Plan relates to SPT's operational activities, including the Subway, bus stations and offices. There will be further opportunities for SPT and partners to promote reduced carbon emissions through the developing Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) where, given the significantly increased policy focus on the climate emergency, it is likely to feature heavily. Indeed, and being mindful of the fact that the RTS will require the co-operation and actions of many organisations to assist in its delivery, it may be the case that in order to help other partners deliver reduced carbon, SPT's usage may actually have to increase e.g. through greater use of SPT's bus stations as more people move to public transport.

3. Outline of proposals

- 3.1 SPT's proposed Carbon Management Plan consists of a Vision, Objectives, Target and Actions.

- 3.2 SPT's proposed Vision for Carbon Management is:

"Through efficiency, innovation, and collective endeavour through partnership, SPT's organisational activities generate 'net-zero' carbon emissions."

- 3.3 SPT's proposed Objectives for Carbon Management are:

"In pursuit of the 'net-zero' Vision for Carbon Management, in all organisational activities which generate carbon emissions, SPT will:

- *Adopt the most carbon-efficient means possible and practicable*
- *Utilise best practice and beneficial innovative approaches*
- *Work with partners through collective action, promotion and engagement in:*
 - *seeking to ensure the required reduction in our direct and indirect carbon emissions*
 - *through the Regional Transport Strategy, seek to ensure the required wider societal reduction in carbon emissions."*

- 3.4 SPT's proposed Target for Carbon Management is:

"To contribute to the delivery of national targets (including interim targets) set by the Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Target) (Scotland) Act 2019 no later than prevailing statutory timescales, while also taking into account timescales set by our partners."

3.5 In pursuance of the above, SPT's initial proposed Actions for Carbon Management are:

- Current and ongoing - Establish partnerships with private sector energy providers to seek to ensure sources of energy for SPT activities minimise carbon usage in line with Target for Carbon Management;
- Current and ongoing - Work with external partners in relation to developing workstreams in line with a 'paths to net-zero' approach, sourcing funding, sharing best practice, climate adaptation, planning and development issues, a "Just Transition" , and co-ordinated engagement with the public including through any Citizens Assembly arising from the Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019;
- By March 2020 – Strengthen governance arrangements for Carbon Management within SPT, with renewed focus on delivery of the Carbon Management Plan;
- By June 2020 – Establish procedures for all SPT future activities to undergo a Climate Risk Assessment, identifying potential negative carbon impacts and mitigation measures, and add 'Carbon Management Consequences' section to all Partnership and Committee reports; and,
- By December 2020 – Prepare SPT Carbon Management Implementation Programme for Partnership approval. This will be developed in line with emerging best practice in terms of scale – the United Nations has recently highlighted a 7.6% annual reduction² is required – and will take into account partners plans and programmes as they develop.

4. Conclusion

4.1 Climate change has risen to the top of the global policy agenda over 2019, stimulated by the announcement in March by the United Nations that there were 'only 11 years left to prevent irreversible damage from climate change'. The impacts of this have been significant, with declarations of a 'climate emergency' being made by organisations across the world.

4.2 Both the UK and Scottish Government have provided the national context for how Scotland will play its part in dealing with the climate emergency, and at local level, councils have announced - in some cases - more ambitious targets for going net-zero than those at Scottish level. It is essential that SPT too plays its part in delivering the change required, and the proposed Carbon Management Plan noted in section 3 is a revitalised step towards a transformational change in our approach.

² <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/26/united-nations-global-effort-cut-emissions-stop-climate-chaos-2030>

5. Partnership action

The Partnership is recommended to:

- note the report, and
- approve the proposed Carbon Management Plan noted in section 3 of this report.

6. Consequences

Policy consequences	<i>In line with the current RTS outcome of “reduced emissions”, and carbon management is likely to form a key part of the developing new RTS.</i>
Legal consequences	<i>National targets for emissions reduction are statute through the Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>None at present.</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>None at present.</i>
Equalities consequences	<i>Impacts on equality groups of moves to a net-zero carbon society will need carefully monitored. The ‘Just Transition’ initiative will also be an important part of ensuring mitigation of any negative impacts.</i>
Risk consequences	<i>There are a range of potential risks in relation to climate change impacts on SPT activities, including resources being available to deliver. These will be monitored through future carbon management work and through corporate risk monitoring.</i>

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