



Climate Change and Carbon Management – SPT progress update

Date of meeting 18 March 2022

Date of report 1 March 2022

Report by Chief Executive

1. Object of report

To update the Partnership on recent progress by SPT in relation to climate change and carbon management.

2. Background

Further to the detailed update to the Partnership in December¹, officers continue to progress SPT's approach to climate change, adaptation and carbon management through the revitalised internal Climate Change and Carbon Management Group in line with SPT's Carbon Management Plan, and this report provides a brief summary of recent progress and next steps in that regard.

3. Progress update

3.1 SPT's Energy Source

Through an agreement with our energy supplier (as part of a contract through Procurement Scotland), SPT has adopted a new way of sourcing its energy to ensure it comes from wholly renewable sources (e.g. windfarm, hydro). This positive and significant move, which is effective from 1 April 2022, is a key step in SPT's progress and contribution to reducing climate change and carbon impacts, and officers will update members as further progress is made in this regard.

3.2 New Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) – Decarbonisation of road transport workstream

Further to the update to the Strategy and Programmes Committee in February², this study is nearing completion and its outcomes will be included in the Draft RTS for public consultation over the summer. A key feature of the study is setting out the future demand requirements for ULEV infrastructure across the region to understand when and where infrastructure needs to be delivered. The study has included engagement with Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) to understand the energy supply issues, as well as identifying the hydrogen opportunities for zero emission vehicles in the region aligned with the national policy.

¹ https://www.spt.co.uk/media/finpocsv/p171221_agenda9.pdf

² Section 3.5, https://www.spt.co.uk/media/vh5prl5y/sp180222_agenda11.pdf

3.3 Carbon Literacy Training

Further to the report to the Partnership in December, the first of the Carbon Literacy Training sessions took place over two days in early February and was provided by Keep Scotland Beautiful. Some Partnership members and senior SPT officers attended the training, which was very useful in expanding knowledge on climate change, adaptation, resilience, carbon management and environmental issues in general. Further training sessions are in the process of being planned for those Partnership members unable to attend the session in February and further information on these will be provided in due course.

3.4 SPT Partnership and Committee reports – Climate Change, Adaptation and Carbon Consequences

Further to the report to the Partnership in December, members will recall that the addition of a “Climate Change, Adaptation and Carbon” theme to the Consequences section of Partnership and Committee papers was to be considered after the Carbon Literacy Training in February. The internal SPT Climate Change and Carbon Management Group considered this at its meeting in early March and it is planned that future Partnership and Committee reports will include the new theme in all reports from the beginning of the financial year 2022-23.

3.5 Regional Transport Climate Resilience Group

Further to the update to the previous Partnership, the first meeting of the Regional Transport Climate Resilience Group took place in December 2021. The meeting focussed on the purpose of the group to increase co-ordination and enhanced partnership working on climate adaptation and resilience issues affecting the regional transport network. There was positive support for establishing such a group, and partners gave presentations on their current approaches to adaptation. There was also initial discussion on a future terms of reference for the group. In advance of the next meeting, SPT, Climate Ready Clyde and Network Rail are liaising in regard to next steps including the appropriate governance arrangements and forward agenda for the group.

3.6 Updating SPT Climate Change and Carbon Management Strategy

Further to the previous report to the Partnership, it had been anticipated that an updated SPT “Actions for Carbon Management” would be presented to this meeting. However, on review, and recognising the significant changes underway in this sector and work by partner organisations, consultancy support is in the process of being procured to lead the development of a fundamental review of SPT’s Climate Change and Carbon Management Strategy.

The purpose of taking a refreshed approach will be to ‘reset’ SPT’s climate change vision to a ‘net zero carbon’ approach including SMART targets ideally covering the whole of SPT’s carbon footprint. A refreshed strategy will also aim to mainstream climate change adaptation across SPT’s business planning processes rather than being considered primarily as an infrastructure resilience matter. The “reset” approach will be undertaken in three stages, summarised below:

Stage 1: Where are we now?: This stage will look at current and previous processes and plans, governance, data available, targets set, and other activity in relation to SPT’s approach climate change and carbon management. The output from this stage will be a report summarising the SPT’s current position.

Stage 2: Where do we want to be?: This stage will consider national and local targets to be complied with, best practice elsewhere, stakeholder engagement, and overall scale and scope of SPT's ambition. The output from this stage will be a new SPT Vision for Climate Change and Carbon Management to set out SPT's proposed approach, and a programme for development of a new SPT Climate Change and Carbon Management Strategy.

Stage 3: How do we get there?: Strategy development and implementation.

It is anticipated this work will begin in April 2022 and once timelines and programme are finalised, officers will update members on progress in that regard.

3.7 Sustainability in Procurement

SPT is obligated by the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 to consider Sustainability in all contracts offered to the market. This is referred to as the "Sustainable Procurement Duty" and applies to Supplies and Services contracts in excess of £50k and in Works contracts over £2m.

The Scottish Government is looking to mandate Climate and Carbon Reduction-orientated questions into the core Single Procurement Document, which is a mandatory questionnaire used to assess the basic compliance of any bidder. They will also require Public Bodies to detail all sustainable and carbon reducing solutions realised through tenders within the organisation's Annual Procurement Report. The Scottish Government are in the process of developing these new rules and it is anticipated that from January 2023 onwards all bidders for Public Sector contracts will be required to consider the following:

- What practical steps/activities and changes their organisation can make to what they do now
- The objectives/outcomes expected from their activities
- The timelines involved with these activities
- How they will monitor and evidence the changes and impact their organisation can/will make
- How they can contribute to what we buy, making sure that this is low carbon through the supply chain?
- How they can make a difference to our climate change aspirations?

To prepare for these alterations and to assist SPT to meet its own aspirations, officers are in the process of reviewing our Standing Orders Relating to Contracts. Within these a new section dealing with Sustainability is being introduced which will effectively mandate that where practical, no tender will be advertised unless a sustainable and carbon-reducing solution has been specified. Relevant staff across SPT will be given training and guidance on how to undertake this new approach.

3.8 Energy Sources

SPT has recently changed its approach to electricity supply in seeking to ensure it comes from renewable sources. Through discussions with our energy supplier, EDF, this new approach effectively allows SPT to choose which renewable generation site (e.g. windfarm, hydro) from which to take power. This therefore enables SPT, from a credible position, to say that our energy comes only from wholly renewable sources and, further, be able to disclose the origin of our power should we be requested to do so. This

positive move, which is effective from 1 April 2022, is a key step in SPT's progress in climate change and carbon reduction, and officers will update members on the impacts of this change over time as matters progress.

4. Conclusion

SPT continues to progress delivery of a range of measures in seeking to ensure we are playing our part in progressing matters in relation to Climate Change and Carbon Management. Officers will continue to update members as work progresses in that regard.

5. Partnership action

The Partnership is recommended to note the contents of this report.

6. Consequences

Policy consequences	<i>Reduced Emissions is an outcome of the current RTS, and measures to assist in achieving net zero are likely to feature prominently in the new RTS in development.</i>
Legal consequences	<i>None at present.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>A Category 2 budget of £200,000 is included in the current year SPT Capital Programme for carbon management.</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>None at present.</i>
Equalities consequences	<i>Just Transition impacts on equalities groups of future policy and projects in relation to climate change and carbon management will need to be considered and addressed.</i>
Risk consequences	<i>None at present.</i>

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