



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Sustainable Development Annual Report 2019/2020

17 September 2020

Reference: SPCB(2020)Paper 39

Executive summary

1. The SPCB is invited to review the Sustainable Development Annual Report as part of the planned programme of senior management review of sustainable development. This report outlines how the SPCB is meeting the three duties for public sector bodies contained in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and how it is performing against its environmental and climate change targets.

Issues and Options

2. This year's Sustainable Development Annual Report provides a status update on key aspects of sustainable development and how we are meeting the 3 duties on climate change mitigation, adaptation and acting sustainably.
3. We are on track to meet our long term target of carbon emissions reduction of 56% by 2021 by reducing our emissions by 54% during 2019/20. We have also reduced our electricity consumption by 34%.
4. Some environment targets continue to not be met. Business travel emissions, and single use waste products such as coffee cups remain a concern.
5. The Covid 19 pandemic has meant that all the environmental targets are likely to be met in 2020/2021. It has also provided an opportunity to measure and analysis data to identify sustainable recovery opportunities.
6. The environment targets conclude in March 2021, and a new Sustainable Development Strategy has been developed. New long-term targets will be created by the Sustainable Development Board for review by the SPCB prior to March 2021.
7. There are a couple of changes to the report which were raised by Leadership Group at its meeting on 7 September and will be made to the final version. These are:
 - Page 5 - changing the wording for paragraph 7 in Lynsey's intro to the following; 'The lockdown has meant that the building has been operating at minimal occupancy levels, we have been monitoring the building energy use closely and ensuring maximum efficiency and energy savings during this time. Business travel has ceased which has helped reduce our carbon emissions. Overall it is likely we will easily meet our carbon, utilities, water, waste and paper reduction targets in 2020/21. We are cognisant that this will be a 'false' achievement and we are keen to make sure that emissions levels don't return to previous levels after lockdown has eased. We will therefore be looking at

how we take the learnings from Covid 19 and integrate them to keep the emissions and sustainable development benefits.

- Page 7 - changing '17 tonnes' to '25% reduction' in the Paper box.

Resource Implications

8. Sustainable development work is resourced through the Group Head of Resilience and Sustainability, the Facilities Environment Team and the SPICe Head of Research and Sustainable Development.

Governance issues

9. Governance for sustainable development sits with the Sustainable Development Board, chaired by the Group Head of Resilience and Sustainability.

Publication Scheme

10. This paper may be published in line with SPCB's publication scheme.

Next steps

11. Agreed actions will be delivered by the Sustainable Development Board forward plan.

Decision

12. The SPCB is invited to discuss the Report and agree that it can be published.

Resilience and Sustainability Group

September 2020