



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

SPCB Annual Report and Accounts 2020-21

23 September 2021

Reference: SPCB (2021) Paper 54

Executive summary

1. To request the SPCB approve the Annual Report and Accounts for 2020-21 to provide assurance to the Chief Executive in his role as Principal Accountable Officer.

Issues and options

2. Audit Scotland has completed its 2020-21 audit and has advised that an unqualified audit opinion will be given on receipt of the signed Annual Report and Accounts. An Annual Audit Report, including the International Standards on Auditing (ISA) 260 letter confirming this, was issued to the Advisory Audit Board (AAB) for its meeting on 22 September.
3. The SPCB's Governance statement includes reference to the certificate of assurance received from the Commissioner for the Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland. The Accountable Officer for the Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland has raised that while they are satisfied that an effective system of internal control remained in place during the period ensuring that finances were managed appropriately, they were not satisfied that an effective scheme of governance was in operation. This is more fully expanded in the Commissioner for the Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland's Governance Statement in their annual report and accounts including the issues and actions taken.
4. There has been an accounting adjustment between reserves (General Fund and Revaluation Reserve) in respect of the treatment of the realised element of revaluation reserves, amounting to a movement of £9.566m, including a prior year adjustment of £6.630m. This did not impact the net assets in the statement of Financial Position, or the net Operating Expenditure in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure. This had no impact on the SPCB's cash or resource outturn.
5. The draft 2020-21 Annual Report and Accounts were recommended for approval by the AAB at that meeting. The draft is attached at Annex A.

Governance

6. The SPCB Annual Report and Accounts are prepared in accordance with the Direction issued by Scottish Ministers under Section 19(4) of the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000. The Clerk and Chief Executive has responsibility as the Principal Accountable Officer to sign the Annual Report and Accounts at the end of the Performance Report, the Accountability Report and on the Statement of Financial Position and then present the signed statements to the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS).

Publication Scheme

7. Annex A to this paper should not be published, as the Annual Report and Accounts will be formally published before the October recess.

Next steps

8. Signed copies of the Annual Report and Accounts need to be provided to the AGS before 30 November 2021 to meet the statutory deadline for laying the Accounts before Parliament. Subject to the SPCB's approval, arrangements are in hand for the Principal Accountable Officer and the AGS to sign the final accounts on 23 and 27 September respectively and for the accounts to be laid and published before October recess.

Decision

9. The SPCB is asked to note the feedback from the AAB meeting on 22 September and to approve the SPCB 2020-21 Annual Report and Accounts.

Financial Governance Group
September 2021