Reference: SPCB (2025) - Paper 42

The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body
Thursday 25 September 2025 (Session 6)

Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) Annual Report and Accounts 2024-25

Executive summary

1. To request the SPCB to approve the Annual Report and Accounts for 2024-25 to provide assurance to the Clerk/Chief Executive in his role as Principal Accountable Officer.

Issues and options

2. Audit Scotland has completed its 2024-25 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 17 September.

3. As in the previous two financial years, a pensions surplus arose on the Scottish Parliamentary Pension Scheme as at 31 March 2025. Its treatment in the SPCB's accounts was also consistent with the approach adopted last year and we consulted with Government Actuary's Department, Advisory Audit Board and Audit Scotland to agree to recognise the surplus of £18.0m (2023-24 £6.2m) in our 2024-25 figures.

4. The draft 2024-25 Annual Report and Accounts were recommended for approval by the AAB at that meeting. The draft is attached at Annex A.

Governance

5. 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/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).

Resource implications

6. There are no resource implications associated with this paper.

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 Annex A to this paper should not be published, as the Annual Report and Accounts will be formally published before the October recess.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 must be provided to the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS) before 30 November 2025 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 25 and 26 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 17 September and to approve the SPCB 2024-25 Annual Report and Accounts.

Finance and Resilience Directorate
September 2025