



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) annual report and accounts 2019-20

17 September 2020

Reference: SPCB(2020)Paper 42

Executive summary

1. To request the SPCB to approve the Annual Report and Accounts for 2019-20 to provide assurance to the Chief Executive in his role as Principal Accountable Officer. (Contact Lisbeth Craig, Financial Controller or Sara Glass, Chief Financial Officer).

Issues and Options

2. Audit Scotland has completed its 2019-20 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 9 September. Please note that this year the audit opinion will include an emphasis of matter paragraph in connection with the uncertainty around the value of the Holyrood complex as at 31 March 2020 following the valuation exercise in 2019-20. Audit Scotland are content that the valuation is correctly reflected and fully disclosed in the Annual Report and Accounts. Finance plan to commission a desktop valuation exercise with the external valuer for 31 March 2021 to review the building value in 2020-21.
3. The draft 2019-20 Annual Report and Accounts were recommended for approval by the AAB at that meeting. The draft is attached at Annex A.

Resource Implications

4. Nil

Governance issues

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 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

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 Annex A to this paper should not be published, as the Annual Report and Accounts will be formally published before the October recess.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

7. Signed copies of the Annual Report and Accounts need to be provided to the AGS before 30 November 2020 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 and for these to then be laid and published in October.

Decision

8. The SPCB is asked to note the feedback from the AAB meeting on 9 September and to approve the SPCB 2019-20 Annual Report and Accounts.

Financial Governance Group

17 September 2020