

## Statement of Strategic Intentions and Targets

### Introduction and Context

The aviation sector and airports are in the public eye and never more so than in these challenging times of facing, and adapting to, climate change. Airport operations and expansion of infrastructure have associated environmental impacts and the public are increasingly interested in what is being done to mitigate these impacts.

Highlands and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL) are committed to continually improving our airports' environmental and sustainability performance. To meet this challenge, we are developing an ambitious Environmental Strategy to cover the period 2020-2030. Meeting Scottish Government's targets for carbon, energy efficiency and waste reduction are on many organisations' agendas. However, we want to do more than this and will strive to exceed these targets through innovative opportunities.

This document sets out our aspiration and intentions for developing our strategy, which aligns closely with Scottish Government targets, policies and National Outcomes.

The full strategy will develop through an initial 4-year programme that includes baseline measurement and implementation phases. We will develop and progress our ambitions through engagement with our staff, stakeholders and regulators.

- 2019 – Baseline Phase
- 2020 – Year 1 (Launch / 1<sup>st</sup> Year targets at end of Year 1)
- 2021 – Year 2 (2<sup>nd</sup> Year targets at end of Year 2)
- 2022 – Year 3 – (Final strategy targets at end of year 3)

## Our Approach

Our approach to the environment and sustainability will cover the whole HIAL Group, with our staff being involved and taking ownership to help deliver our ambitions. To meet this challenge, we will communicate our policies and views so that everyone understands the importance of what we are doing.

We will drive continuous improvement in our 8 environmental pillars, which are based on sustainable development goals and models. Having a well-defined strategy in place will enable us to set ambitious targets and demonstrate our performance. The strategy will also align closely with the ambitions set out in our Strategic Plan and directly contribute to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals and Scottish Government's sustainability policies and plans.

During our baseline year of 2019, we will work to understand our starting point, which will allow us to set ambitious targets for all 8 of our pillars over the 2020-2030 period. We will work with our staff and stakeholders to develop the full strategy, which will be published in 2020. As new information and knowledge becomes available, we will refine and develop our targets.

With the Scottish Government requiring everyone to generate less waste and become more energy efficient, the HIAL Group are in an ideal position to lead the way in contributing to these ambitions.



Inglis Lyon

Managing Director

24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

## Pillar 1: Waste Management

### Strategic intentions

- 1) Contribute to Scottish Government's 'Zero Waste Policy' of reducing waste to landfill through minimising waste streams, promoting re-use and recycling.
- 2) Contribute to Scottish Government's national litter strategy, 'Towards a Litter-Free Scotland' by adhering to new duties under the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (Scotland) 2018.
- 3) Reduce single-use plastics across the HIAL Group.

### Targets

- 1) Achieve 70% recycling/composting of waste by 2020 with stretch targets of 80% by 2021 and 90% by 2022.
- 2) Send no waste to landfill by 2025.
- 3) Phase out the use of single-use plastics by working in partnership with colleagues, concessionaires and airline operators. Our ultimate aim is to eliminate all single-use plastics.
- 4) Reduce landside litter by using prevention measures to maintain Grade A standard across the HIAL Group by 2020 compared to 2019 baseline.

## Pillar 2: Water Usage

### Strategic intentions

- 1) Contribute to protecting and improving Scotland's water environment by improving the quality of water leaving our airports and investigating new technology to control water pollution.
- 2) Foster strong working relationships with Scotland's environmental regulator.
- 3) Reduce water consumption across the HIAL Group.
- 4) Contribute to flood risk mitigation and adaptation in Scotland.

### Targets

- 1) Achieve 'excellent' SEPA Compliance Assessment Scheme (CAS) scores for all of our Controlled Activities Regulations licences across the HIAL Group by April 2027 and thereafter, annually.
- 2) Invest in new technology to collect and contain aircraft de-icer by winter period 2019-2020.
- 3) Work with academia to carry out a feasibility study into use of recycled de-icer as feedstock for anaerobic digestion plants by March 2020.
- 4) Work with the University of the Highlands and Islands and other academic institutions in Scotland to offer a Master's Degree project to compare methods of de-icing runways that have less environmental impacts.
- 5) Deliver HIAL's actions under the Scotland River Basin Management Plan (2015-2027) to meet our water quality objectives. SEPA sets targets within the River Basin Management Plan and progress is facilitated through membership of the relevant Area Advisory Groups.
- 6) No significant water pollution incidents during the 2020-2030 period.
- 7) Install rainwater harvesting systems across the HIAL Group by 2021 to allow re-use of water on-site.
- 8) Reduce water consumption across the HIAL Group by 20% by 2021 compared to 2019 baseline, and further reduction to 35% by 2025.

## Pillar 3: Energy Consumption and Carbon Management

### Strategic intentions

- 1) Contribute to reducing impacts on climate change by understanding our annual carbon emissions from our activities and operations.
- 2) Contribute to the Scottish Government's 2030 target for the equivalent of 50% of energy for heat, transport and electricity consumption to be supplied from renewable sources.
- 3) Commit to continuously improving energy management across the HIAL Group.
- 4) Carry out work to understand and adapt to climate change risks across the HIAL Group.
- 5) Engage with staff, partners and stakeholders to explore ideas for reducing consumption.
- 6) Encourage and enable staff to be 'environment champions'.

### Targets

- 1) Complete an energy audit by the end of the 2019/2020 financial year.
- 2) Gain Level 1 (carbon mapping) accreditation under the Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) scheme in 2019/2020 with steady progression to Level 4 (carbon neutrality).
- 3) Set minimum Energy Efficiency Standards for HIAL properties and specify minimum design standards in line with BREEAM, where practicable, for new or refurbished buildings over the 2020 – 2030 period.
- 4) Contribute to the Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan by reducing carbon emissions for scope 1 and 2 emissions (against 1990 baseline). Targets to be set in 2020 informed by results from our baseline year of 2019.
- 5) Invest in and support low-carbon technologies and innovations in aircraft design and fuels over the 2020-2030 period.
- 6) Work in partnership with hybrid/electric aircraft manufacturers over the 2020-2030 period for a long-term solution for sustainable aviation.
- 7) Reduce energy consumption (electricity and gas) by 14% (against 1990 baseline) by 2025.
- 8) Be in a position to only use fuel from renewable sources and offer airline fuel from renewable sources by 2025.
- 9) Contribute to the Scottish Government's Scottish Energy Strategy by generating our own energy at sites through renewable sources by 2030.
- 10) Continue to offset 100% of our energy consumption by participating in Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO) scheme.
- 11) Invest in a minimum of one carbon-offsetting project a year across the HIAL Group. Work with local partners such as Forestry and Land Scotland<sup>1</sup> to plant trees to offset the growth in passenger numbers.
- 12) Empower our staff through training and education to make energy efficiencies in the workplace and at home over the 2020-2030 period.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Forestry Commission Scotland' and 'Forest Enterprise Scotland' no longer exist. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, forestry has been fully devolved and two new Scottish Government Agencies, 'Forestry and Land Scotland' and 'Scottish Forestry' have been created.

## Pillar 4: Noise

### Strategic intentions

- 1) Understand the impacts that noise from operational activities has on the communities we serve.
- 2) Continue to be a good neighbour by managing noise through 'best practice' measures.
- 3) Work with airlines and partners to reduce noise impacts around the HIAL Group.

### Targets

- 1) Reduce the impact of operational noise around the HIAL Group against a 2019 baseline. Targets to be set by December 2020.
- 2) Encourage the use of quieter aircraft over the 2020 – 2030 period as aircraft technology develops.
- 3) Continue with regular engagement with our local communities over the 2020 – 2030 period.

## Pillar 5: Surface Access

### Strategic intentions

- 1) Work with partners across the region to increase sustainable access options for staff and passengers.
- 2) Understand the electrical capacity demands for providing electric vehicle charging points around the HIAL Group.

### Targets

- 1) Introduce company-wide policy in 2020 to procure hybrid/electric vehicles as first choice when replacing vehicles over the 2020 – 2030 period.
- 2) Carry out work to facilitate electric vehicle charging points at 11 airports by 2023.
- 3) Provide infrastructure at all HIAL Group airports for dedicated electric taxis to provide low-carbon transport services by 2023.
- 4) Work with car hire businesses at sites around the HIAL Group in influencing provision of electric vehicles.
- 5) Work with public transport companies in influencing them to invest in new low-carbon technology and fuels i.e. electric vehicles, Euro-6 standard vehicles and green hydrogen by end of 2020.
- 6) Introduce company-wide sustainable transport policy for business travel in 2020 with public transport being the preferred choice of transport.
- 7) Explore the potential for introducing flexible working practices and initiatives such as staff car-pooling to reduce commuter traffic over the 2020 -2030 period.

## Pillar 6: Air Quality

### Strategic intentions

- 1) Contribute to Scottish Government's 'Cleaner Air for Scotland Strategy'.

### Targets

- 1) Reduce impacts on air quality from operational activities against a 2019 baseline. Target to be set by December 2022.
- 2) Work with airlines, airline handling agents and partners over the 2020 – 2030 period to reduce air quality impacts through investing in new technology such as low emission vehicles, fuels and ground equipment.
- 3) Carry out regular inspections and emissions tests on all vehicles that operate on airfields around the HIAL Group over the 2020 – 2030 period.
- 4) Introduce company-wide policy to procure hybrid/electric and Euro-6 standard vehicles as first choice throughout the 2020 - 2030 period.
- 5) Investigate options for vehicle permitting over the 2020 – 2030 period based on an emissions hierarchy i.e. low emissions, low permit cost; high emissions, high permit cost.

## Pillar 7: Community

### Strategic intentions

- 1) Actively engage with local authorities and communities to develop and strengthen relations so we continue to act as a 'good neighbour'.
- 2) Contribute to Scottish Government's 'Community Empowerment' legislation and National Outcomes for Scotland.
- 3) Promote opportunities for service partners and contractors to share in the benefits of working for the business and our airport sites.
- 4) Continue to seek new partnerships to offer opportunities for local people around the region.

### Targets

- 1) Develop a Community Engagement Plan during 2019/2020.
- 2) Install 'greenspace boards' at all of our terminal buildings by 2023 to communicate and promote our environmental aspirations and achievements.
- 3) Develop an effective partnership with the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) over the 2020 -2030 period to facilitate meaningful and mutually beneficial opportunities for student placements and work experience.
- 4) Engage effectively with Skills Development Scotland and Developing the Young Workforce to offer apprenticeship opportunities to support vibrant local communities.
- 5) Work in partnership with local schools and education providers to develop, deliver and support learning opportunities across our local areas.
- 6) Increase the awareness of employment opportunities in the HIAL Group through engagement in recruitment events and career guidance activities.
- 7) Explore opportunities for partnership working with local community projects over the 2020-2030 period. These could include working with local beekeepers to place beehives at appropriate airports.
- 8) Work to support staff to participate in volunteering activities over the 2020 – 2030 period.

## Pillar 8: Ecology and Landscape

### Strategic intentions

- 1) Contribute to the delivery of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.
- 2) Contribute to delivery of the Scotland River Basin Management Plan objectives.
- 3) Protect and enhance biodiversity, where practical to do so, at all airports around the HIAL Group.

### Targets

- 1) Commission Extended Phase 1 Habitat Surveys at each of the 11 airports in 2019 to understand the habitats and protected species present across HIAL's estate.
- 2) Commission spring, summer and autumn macroinvertebrate surveys at Inverness Airport in 2019.
- 3) Work with SNH advisors over the 2020-2030 period to improve grassland diversity through modifying grass-cutting regimes where there are opportunities to do so.
- 4) Work with SNH and Bumblebee Conservation Trust over the 2020-2030 period to explore suitable sites to improve habitat for the great yellow bumblebee.
- 5) Contribute to community-led conservation projects over the 2020-2030 period.
- 6) Work in partnership with the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative project in 2019 to improve data on the presence of mink at Inverness Airport.
- 7) Explore opportunities for provision of bat boxes at appropriate airports around the HIAL Group during the 2020-2030 period.
- 8) Publish and submit our 3-yearly biodiversity duty report to Scottish Government January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, 2024, 2027 and 2030.