

Report to: **Partnership Board –Transport for the South East**

Date of meeting: **30 October 2023**

By: **Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee**

Title of report: **Audit and Governance Committee Update**

Purpose of report: **To provide an update on the Audit and Governance Committee**

RECOMMENDATION:

The members of the Partnership Board are recommended to note the discussions and actions arising at the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee.

1. Overview

1.1 As previously agreed by the Board, Transport for the South East (TfSE) has established an Audit and Governance Committee. This recognises the increasing responsibilities that TfSE holds for fiscal management of government grant funding.

1.2 The Committee recently met on Thursday 12 October 2023. This report provides a summary of the discussions and actions to take forward.

2. Audit and Governance Committee

2.1 The Audit and Governance Committee met on Thursday 12 October 2023.

2.2 The Committee agreed the recommended appointment of the Chair; Councillor Joy Dennis. The Committee welcomed new members; Councillor Trevor Muten, Vince Lucas and Daniel Ruiz.

2.2 The Committee also considered the terms of reference for the Committee and considered the work programme for the next 12 months. A proposal was put forward for the work programme to determine how TfSE secure value for money through procurement. This will be presented at the next meeting.

2.3 The Committee reviewed the finance report which outlines the spend to date for the 2023/24 financial year and current forecasts. The revised budget was agreed following a discussion on the implications of the work programme due to the reduction in funding from DfT. Local Contributions for 2023/24 proposal to remain the same was discussed and agreed to remain at their current level.

2.4 The risk register was reviewed by The Committee. The Committee requested a report detailing the impact inflation is having on schemes and how this will affect Local Authorities. Subject to the outcome of this work it will be included in the risk

register. The Committee considered the potential impact of current volatility in the national transport policy in the run up to a general election and requested this be added to the risk register. As agreed by the Partnership Board, the risk register will be reviewed by the Committee. It will be presented to the Partnership Board bi-annually. The register will next be presented to the board on 29 January 2024.

2.5 The Committee reviewed the future of the Transport Forum proposal. A discussion on ensuring that there is stronger language for the Advisory Board and clarification on the format for the online meetings. The Committee agreed the recommended proposal. This can be found in Agenda Item 7.

3. Conclusions and Recommendations

3.1 The Partnership Board are recommended to note the discussions and actions arising at the recent meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee.

Councillor Joy Dennis
Chair
Audit and Governance Committee
Transport for the South East

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