

Report to: Partnership Board –Transport for the South East

Date of meeting: 28 October 2024

By: Chair of 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. Introduction

1.1 The Audit and Governance Committee met on Wednesday 2 October 2024. This report provides a summary of the discussions and actions to take forward.

2. Audit and Governance Committee

2.1 The Committee welcomed new member Councillor David Robey (Kent County Council) to the Committee.

2.2 The Committee reviewed the next steps paper as per the Partnership Boards recommendation following the recent General Election and subsequent emerging Policy. The Committee reviewed the two options; continue as a voluntary partnership or to submit a proposal for Statutory Status asking for powers to support delivery on the Boards ambitions. There was a good discussion on both the options. The Committee asked within the theory of change model to include the option for continuing as a voluntary partnership to help inform the decision for the Partnership Board. The Committee reviewed the options and agreed for this to be presented to the Partnership Board, agenda item 5.

2.3 The Committee reviewed the Business Planning 2025/26 funding scenarios. Following a request from the Department for Transport (DfT) to gather intelligence before submitting our formal Business Plan in December. The Committee endorsed the funding scenarios and agreed for this to be presented to the Partnership Board, agenda item 6.

2.4 The Committee endorsed that TfSE should seek local contributions for 2025/26 - and that these should be frozen at the same level as last year, in recognition of the pressures Local Authorities are facing.

2.5 The Committee reviewed the finance position, noting that the full detailed breakdown will be considered at future Audit and Governance committee meetings. The Committee were satisfied that TfSE's spend is in-line with plans. The full breakdown will be presented to the Partnership Board, agenda item 9.

2.6 The Strategic Risk Register was reviewed by the Committee. The Committee requested an increase in probability on the risk which tracks the uncertainty around the lack of devolution in the South East. The Strategic Risk Register will next be presented to the Partnership Board on 27 January 2025.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

3.1 The Partnership Board is 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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