

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

**Date of meeting:** 17 March 2025

**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

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***RECOMMENDATION:***

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

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**1. Introduction**

1.1 The Audit and Governance Committee met on Wednesday 26 February 2025. This report provides a summary of the discussions and actions to take forward.

**2. Business Plan for 2025/26**

2.1 The Committee heard the announcement that the Department for Transport (DfT) have approved TfSE's Business Plan for 2025/26 and awarded TfSE with a funding allocation of £2,161,666, a 4.7% increase on 2024/25.

2.2 The Committee heard that the Business Plan needs to be updated to allocate the increase in funding to technical work areas. The views of Committee members were sought, as part of their role to advise Partnership Board on financial matters.

2.3 Committee members had mixed views on allocating the increase in funding. Members of the Committee expressed a preference for additional Scheme Development funding, and work to support Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Charging, as these work areas support the delivery of their Local Authorities' strategic objectives.

2.4 The Department for transport requested for the funding increase to be allocated to the Centre of Excellence and Analytical Framework. Committee Members agreed for it to be split equally between the Centre of Excellence and Analytical Framework, in accordance with this request.

2.5 TfSE's officers will continue to work with Local Authorities to ensure our work plans for Scheme Development Funding and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure for 2025/26

help to support Local Authorities' ambitions, and that the Centre of Excellence and Analytical Framework provide additional support in these work areas, where possible.

### **3. Finance**

3.1 The Committee reviewed the finance position spend to January 2025 and noted the current underspend. The Committee sought assurance on the carry forward to the next financial year. The Partnership Board paper will be updated with spend to the end of February 2025 to provide a further update.

### **4. Strategic Risk Register**

4.1 The Strategic Risk Register was reviewed by the Committee. The Committee approved the new risks that had been identified in relation to the Spending Review and TfSE's governance following devolution developments.

### **5. Forward work programme for the Committee**

5.1 The Committee reviewed their forward programme of work for 2025/26, noting that their two key focuses will be having oversight over the delivery of TfSE's workstreams and reviewing TfSE's role to ensure it remains aligned with the evolving needs of our members as part of the Government's devolution agenda.

5.2 The Committee asked for a specific piece of work to assure the value for money that TfSE provide, including through its use of external suppliers. The Committee also noted that work will need to follow on TfSE's governance and constitution, as devolution progresses.

### **6. Conclusions and recommendations**

6.1 The Partnership Board is recommended to comment on 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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