
Meeting:	Transport for the North Board
Subject:	Annual Governance Statement, Statement of Accounts and Audit Opinion 2020/21
Author:	Paul Kelly, Financial Controller
Sponsor:	Iain Craven, Finance Director
Meeting Date:	Wednesday, 29 September 2021

1. Purpose of the Report:

- 1.1 This report requests the Board's approval of Transport for the North's Annual Governance Statement and Statement of Accounts for financial year 2020/21.
- 1.2 The report is supported by an appended report from Transport for the North's independent external auditor which provides an unqualified, clean opinion.
- 1.3 This report should also be considered alongside the Annual Report from the Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee which recommends approval of the Accounts.

2. Recommendations:

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board approve the corporate governance review and the Annual Governance Statement.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Board notes the recommendation in the Annual Progress Report of the Audit & Governance Committee to approve the Statement of Accounts for 2020/21.
- 2.3 It is recommended that the Board approve the Statement of Accounts for financial year 2020/21.

3. Executive Summary:

- 3.1 Under Regulation 6(1) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 Transport for the North is required to carry out an annual review of the effectiveness of its system of internal controls and to publish a report of the review in its Annual Governance Statement. The Board is required to approve the Annual Governance Statement. The Annual Governance Statement Report is set out within Appendix 6.1. The

Annual Governance Statement is included in the Statement of Accounts at appendix 6.3a.

- 3.2 In common with partner authorities Transport for the North is required to publish a set of annual Statements of Accounts and an Annual Governance Statement in compliance with statute. Those Accounts are held open for public inspection and formally audited by an external auditor.
- 3.3 Under Transport for the North's constitution the Accounts are reviewed by the Audit & Governance Committee who are then required to offer an opinion to the Transport for the North Board. The Annual Progress Report of the Audit & Governance Committee is included at Appendix 6.2.
- 3.4 Transport for the North Board, as 'those charged with governance', are required to approve the Accounts and the Chairman of the Board is required to sign the Statement of Accounts. For the 2018/19 Accounts this was to be no later than the 31 July. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the approval date for the 2019/20 Accounts was extended to 30 November 2020. For the 2020/21 Accounts the deadline was set at 30 September 2021. Appendix 6.3 provides a summary of the production, audit, and scrutiny of the Accounts and concludes by noting the audit completion report from Mazars which offers an unqualified opinion on the Accounts, and the recommendation from the Audit and Governance Committee for the board to approve the Accounts.
- 3.5 The Transport for the North Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 are included at Appendix 6.3a. The Audit Completion Report of Transport for the North's independent external auditor, which provides an unqualified, clean opinion on that Statement of Accounts, is included at 6.3b.

4. Appendices:

- 4.1 Appendix 6.1 – Corporate Governance Review and Annual Governance Statement Report
- 4.2 Appendix 6.2 – Annual Progress Report of the Audit & Governance Committee
Appendix 6.2a – Audit & Governance Committee terms of reference
Appendix 6.2b – Summary of progress
- 4.3 Appendix 6.3 – Annual Statement of Accounts Report
Appendix 6.3a - Annual Statement of Accounts
Appendix 6.3b – Independent Audit Completion Report

List of Background Documents:

There are no background papers to this report.

Required Considerations

Please confirm using the yes/no options whether or not the following considerations are of relevance to this report.

Equalities:

Age	Yes	No
Disability	Yes	No
Gender Reassignment	Yes	No
Pregnancy and Maternity	Yes	No
Race	Yes	No
Religion or Belief	Yes	No
Sex	Yes	No
Sexual Orientation	Yes	No

Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Equalities	A full Impact assessment has not been carried out because it is not required for this report.	Paul Kelly	Iain Craven

Environment and Sustainability

Yes	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Sustainability / Environment – including considerations regarding Active Travel and Wellbeing	A full impact assessment has not been carried out because it is not required for this report.	Paul Kelly	Iain Craven

Legal

Yes	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Legal	The legal implications have been considered and are included in the report.	Julie Openshaw	Dawn Madin

Finance

Yes	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Finance	The financial implications have been considered and are included in the report.	Paul Kelly	Iain Craven

Resource

Yes	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Resource	Transport for the North HR Team has confirmed there are no resource implications.	Stephen Hipwell	Dawn Madin

Risk

Yes	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Risk	The Transport for the North Risk Manager has confirmed that there are no risk implications associated with this report.		Iain Craven

Consultation

Yes	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Consultation	A consultation has not been carried out because it is not required for this report.	Paul Kelly	Iain Craven