
Meeting:	Transport for the North Board
Subject:	Annual Governance Statement, Statement of Accounts and Audit Opinion 2022/23
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Sponsor:	Martin Tugwell, Chief Executive
Meeting Date:	Wednesday 27 September 2023

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 2022/23.
- 1.2 The report is supported by an appended report from Transport for the North's independent external auditor that 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:

The Board is recommended to:

- 2.1 Approve the corporate governance review and the Annual Governance Statement.
- 2.2 Note that Transport for the North's draft statement of accounts was laid open to public inspection for the statutory period without objection being raised.
- 2.3 Note the recommendation in the Annual Progress Report of the Audit & Governance Committee to approve the Statement of Accounts for 2022/23.
- 2.4 Approve the Statement of Accounts for financial year 2022/23.

3. Main Issues:

- 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 1. The Annual Governance Statement is included in the Statement of Accounts at Appendix 6.
- 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 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. Under the relevant regulations, the accounts normally have to be completed and approved no later than the 31 July (i.e., within four months of financial year-end). In recognition of the pressures faced by delivering external

audits within this limited timeframe, the approval date for the 2022/23 Accounts has been extended to 30 September 2023. Appendix 5 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 2022/23 are included at Appendix 6.

3.6 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 Appendix 7.

4. Corporate Considerations:

4.1 *Financial Implications*

There are no financial implications within this report.

4.2 *Resource Implications*

There are no direct resource implications as a result of the report.

4.3 *Legal Implications*

The legal implications have been considered and are included in the report.

4.4 *Risk Management and Key Issues*

There are no risk implications as a result of this report.

4.5 *Environmental Implications*

A full environmental impact assessment has not been carried out because it is not required for this report. There are no environmental implications within this report.

4.6 *Equality and Diversity*

A full impact assessment has not been carried out because it is not required for this report.

4.7 *Consultations*

A consultation has not been carried out because it is not necessary for this report.

5. Background Papers:

5.1 Audit & Governance Committee 9 August 2023 – Draft Statutory Accounts

5.2 Audit & Governance Committee 15 September 2023 – Year End Statutory Accounts

6. Appendices:

6.1 Appendix 1 – Corporate Governance Review and Annual Governance Statement Report

6.2 Appendix 2 – Annual Progress Report of the Audit & Governance Committee

Appendix 3 – Audit & Governance Committee Terms of Reference

Appendix 4 – Audit and Governance Committee Terms of Reference Activity

6.3 Appendix 5 – Annual Statement of Accounts Report

Appendix 6 - Annual Statement of Accounts Appendix

Appendix 7 – Independent Audit Completion Report

Glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used

a) TfN Transport for the North