

TfN Audit and Governance Committee Meeting - Item 7

Subject: Corporate Governance Review and Annual Governance Statement

Author: Deborah Dimock

Sponsor: Iain Craven

Meeting Date: 12th June 2020

1. Purpose of the Report:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for Members to consider the corporate governance review and recommend to the Transport for the North Board approval of the Annual Governance Statement

2. Executive Summary:

- 2.1 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
- 2.2 The Annual Governance Statement is set out at Appendix 1

3. Discussion:

- 3.1 Under the provisions of the Regulation 6(1)(a) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 Transport for the North is required to carry out an annual review of the effectiveness of its internal systems of control and to publish a report of that review. This report, the Annual Governance Statement should normally be published before the beginning of June along with the Statement of Accounts and Narrative Statement. Although this rule has been relaxed during the current pandemic Transport for the North has chosen to comply with the requirements of the Regulations
- 3.2 The system of internal controls are all the measures taken together which Transport for the North has put in place to safeguard the expenditure of public money and to ensure value for money. These include Transport for the North's financial regulations and contract procurement rules which are set out in the Constitution. It also

includes the risk management framework through which Transport for the North ensures that risks to its operations are identified and managed.

3.3 Throughout the year we have continuously reviewed the policies and procedures that Transport for the North has put in place since its inauguration in relation to procurement, financial management and risk management in order to identify areas for improvement.

3.4 In carrying out the annual corporate governance review, Transport for the North is required to comply with the guidance issued by CIPFA in its guidance "Delivering Good Governance". The Guidance sets out six principle of good governance:

A Behaving with Integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respect for the rule of law

B Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder Engagement

C Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits

D Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes

E Developing the organisation's capacity including the capacity of its leaders and the individuals within it

F Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

G Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability

3.4 The review assesses to what extent Transport for the North can demonstrate that it has acted in accordance with these principles in carrying out its functions over the year 2019/20.

3.5 The Audit and Governance Committee has received reports on the progress of the corporate governance review and Members have had an opportunity to comment on the draft report of the review. Comments from Members of the Committee have been taken into account in the final report.

3.6 The report of the review is set out in the Annual Governance Statement which is at Appendix 1

4. Conclusion:

- 4.1 The corporate governance review has demonstrated that Transport for the North has an effective system of internal controls and that it has acted in accordance with the six principles of good governance during 2019/20. The report of this review is set out in the Annual Governance Statement.

5. Recommendation:

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Audit and Governance Committee approve the corporate governance review and recommend to the TfN Board approval of the Annual Governance Statement.

6. Appendices:

- 6.1 Appendix 1 –
Annual Governance Statement

List of Background Documents:

There are no background papers to this report.

Required Considerations

Equalities:

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

Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Equalities	A full Impact assessment has not been carried out because the report does not propose any new strategy or service provision	Deborah Dimock	Julie Openshaw

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 the report does not propose any new strategy or service provision	Deborah Dimock	Julie Openshaw
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Legal

Yes

Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Legal	The legal implications have been considered and are included in the report.	Deborah Dimock	Julie Openshaw

Finance

No

Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Finance	TfN Finance Team has confirmed there are no new financial implications.	Gareth Sutton	Iain Craven

Resource

No

Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
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Resource	TfN HR Team has confirmed there are no new resource implications.	Stephen Hipwell	Dawn Maden
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Risk

No

Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Risk	A risk assessment has been carried out and the key risks are included in the report.	Haddy Njie	Iain Craven

Consultation

Yes

Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Consultation	No consultation has been carried out since this report does not propose any new policy or strategy	Deborah Dimock	Julie Openshaw