

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Minute of the Audit & Standards Committee

27 August 2021

held by video conference

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Minute of the meeting of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Audit and Standards Committee held by video conference on 27 August 2021

Present Councillors Marie McGurk (Chair), Colin Cameron, Ian Cochrane, Maureen Devlin, Jim Finn (by telephone), Jim McGuigan (Substitute) and appointed member Ed McGrachan.

Attending Valerie Davidson, Acting Chief Executive; Neil Wylie, Director of Finance; Iain McNicol, Audit & Assurance Manager; Stuart Paul, Chief Accountant and Gary Devlin and Karen Jones of Azets (External Auditors).

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Richard Bell and David Shearer and appointed members George Hazel and Jim McNally.

2. Declaration of interest in terms of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc (Scotland) Act 2000

The Committee noted there were no declarations of interest.

3. Minute of previous meeting

[Click here to view the minute](#)

The minute of the meeting of 4 June 2021, having been considered at the Partnership meeting of 18 June 2021, was submitted and approved as a correct record.

4. 2020/21 Annual Audit Report to those charged with Governance

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 August 2021 by the Director of Finance providing the Committee as those charged with governance, with the final audit report from Azets, SPTs external auditor, following the final year audit of SPT and SCTS's accounts and financial arrangements for 2020/21.

The Chair, on behalf of members thanked Mr Devlin and Mr Wylie's team for maintaining the strength of financial management as detailed in the report. Thereafter the Committee noted the details of the 2020/21 Annual Audit Report.

5. Annual Financial Statements and Accounts 2020/21

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 August 2021 by the Director of Finance providing the Committee with the audited annual financial statements and accounts for financial year ending 31 March 2021 for Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) and Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee (SCTSJC) for final scrutiny prior to their submission to the Partnership and SCTSJC for approval on 17 September 2021.

After having heard from Mr Wylie, the Committee noted the annual accounts for SPT and SCTSJC for the financial year 2020/21 and agreed they should be submitted to the Partnership and SCTSJC respectively for approval on 17 September 2021.

6. Corporate risk register update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 August 2021 by the Acting Chief Executive updating the Committee on the Corporate Risk Register and mitigations to minimise risk.

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After having heard from Mr McNicol, the Committee noted the contents of the report and the Corporate Risk Register.

7. Cyber resilience update

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 August 2021 by the Director of Finance advising the Committee:

- (i) of the issue of a Scottish Government report titled 'the Strategic Framework for a Cyber Resilient Scotland',
- (ii) an outline of SPT's response to the key actions contained therein; and
- (iii) an update on progress to meet the Cyber Resilience Framework requirements.

After discussion and having heard Mr Wylie in answer to members' questions, the Committee noted the contents of the report and the Scottish Government report titled 'the Strategic Framework for a Cyber Resilient Scotland', and SPT's commitment to the highest standard of cyber security arrangements where possible.

8 Contract audit of escalator and lift maintenance

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 18 August 2021 by the Acting Chief Executive advising the Committee on the findings of a contract audit of escalator and lift maintenance, which was included in the annual Internal Audit plan for 2021/2022.

After hearing from Mr McNicol, the Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed that the Audit & Assurance Manager submits a follow-up report on the implementation of the recommendations to a meeting in approximately six months.

9. Contract audit of waste management services

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 August 2021 by the Acting Chief Executive advising the Committee on the findings of a contract audit of waste management services, which was included in the annual Internal Audit plan for 2021/2022.

After hearing from Mr McNicol, noted the contents of the report and agreed that the Audit & Assurance Manager submits a follow-up report on the implementation of the recommendations to a meeting in approximately six months.

10. Engagement follow-up performance April to August 2021

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted and noted a report (issued) of 18 August 2021 by the Acting Chief Executive advising the Committee on the performance and implementation rate of recommendations from follow-up engagements undertaken between April and August 2021. Planned resource is included in the annual Internal Audit plan 2021/2022 for these reviews.

After hearing from Mr McNicol in response to members' questions, specifically seeking assurance relating to those recommendations not yet implemented, the Committee noted the contents of the report and the implementation rate of the recommendations from assurance engagements previously reported to the committee.

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11. Audit Scotland report: 'Fraud and irregularity 2020/2021'

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 August 2021 by the Acting Chief Executive advising the Committee on the issue of an Audit Scotland report titled 'Fraud and irregularity 2020/2021' and outline SPT's response to the key messages contained therein.

After hearing from Mr McNicol in response to members' questions, the Committee noted the contents of the report and the Audit Scotland report titled 'Fraud and irregularity 2020/2021'.

12 Public reporting complaints statistics Q1 2021/2022

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 August 2021 by the Acting Chief Executive providing the Committee with the complaints statistics for Quarter 1 of 2021/2022, noting that the detail was also presented to the Operations Committee at its meeting of 20 August 2021.

After hearing from Mrs Davidson, the Committee noted the level of complaints received, in the context of the volume of service provided and the complaints response statistics.

13 Members and Directors expenses

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report (issued) of 18 August 2021 by the Director of Finance advising the Committee of members and directors expenses to 31 July 2021.

After consideration and having heard Mrs Davidson and Mr Wylie in answer to members' questions, the Committee noted the details of members and directors expenses to 31 July 2021.

14 Review of recent press statements regarding SPT

[Click here to view the report](#)

There was submitted a report of 27 August 2021 (issued on the morning of the meeting in agreement with the Audit & Standards Chair) providing the Committee with the outcome of an investigation into the substance, or otherwise, of the recent statements made in the press regarding the management of SPT business activities which were contained within articles on the conduct of the former Chief Executive.

The Committee, having noted the reasons why the report was issued later than the committee papers and having heard from Cllr Finn, seconded by Cllr McGuigan, agreed that the report would be submitted to the next Audit & Standards Committee, to allow more time for the report to be considered.
