

Audit and Standards Committee annual report 2024/2025

Date of meeting 13 June 2025

Date of report 28 April 2025

Report by Chief Executive

1. Object of report

To provide an annual report on the work of the Audit and Standards committee in 2024/2025, and recommend, if appropriate, that the report should be commended to the Partnership for noting at the meeting on 27 June 2025.

2. Background to report

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) has published practical guidance on audit committees. This standard setter guidance states:

'the audit committee should report regularly on its work to those charged with governance, and at least annually report an assessment of their performance.'

3. Outline of findings

The Audit and Standards committee met on four occasions in 2024/2025 (14 June 2024, 6 September 2024, 29 November 2024, and 21 February 2025).

A total of forty-seven (47) reports were presented to and considered by the Audit and Standards committee at these meetings.

The core functions of the Audit and Standards committee and reports presented were categorised as:

Assurance frameworks and assurance planning: including the assurance framework update report.

Countering fraud and corruption: including the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) in Scotland 2024 and counter-fraud arrangements.

External Audit: reports included the 2023/2024 annual audit report to members of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee and the Controller of Audit, and the External Audit plan 2024/2025.

Financial reporting: reports included the 2023/2024 final draft abstract of accounts for Strathclyde Partnership for Transport and the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme.

Good governance and the annual governance statement: reports included the Audit and Standards committee work plan 2025/2026, Audit Scotland reports, and the local code of corporate governance update.

Governance and Ethical values: reports included minutes of meetings and members and directors’ expenses at each meeting, and a contract awards report.

Internal Audit: reports included an annual opinion and report for 2023/2024, assurance engagement reports, a mid-year progress report, and follow-up performance reports during 2024/2025.

Risk Management: reports included Corporate Risk register updates as at the date of each meeting in 2024/2025.

4. Committee action

The Committee is recommended to:

- (i) note the Audit and Standards committee annual report 2024/2025; and
- (ii) commend this report to the next Partnership meeting on 27 June 2025.

5. Consequences

Policy consequences	<i>In accordance with the Audit and Standards Committee Terms of Reference.</i>
Legal consequences	<i>None.</i>
Financial consequences	<i>None.</i>
Personnel consequences	<i>None.</i>
Equalities consequences	<i>None.</i>
Risk consequences	<i>None.</i>
Climate Change, Adaptation & Carbon consequences	<i>None.</i>

Name	Lesley Aird	Name	Valerie Davidson
Title	Director of Finance & Corporate Support	Title	Chief Executive

For further information, please contact *Iain McNicol, Audit and Assurance manager on 0141 333 3195.*