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**Secretariat memorandum**

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LTW572

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National Audit Office report on the Thameslink, Southern and Great Northern franchise

**1 Purpose of report**

- 1.1. To inform members of the outcome of the National Audit Office investigation into the poor performance of this franchise.

**2 Recommendation**

- 2.1. Members are advised to note this report and discuss whether further measures and representations are necessary to improve conditions for passengers using this franchise.

**3 Background**

- 3.1. The poor performance of the GTR (Thameslink, Southern, Great Northern and Gatwick Express) franchise has been a constant concern of London TravelWatch since its' inception in September 2014.
- 3.2. The National Audit Office has conducted an investigation into the circumstances and processes behind this poor performance and has published its report which can be found here:- <https://www.nao.org.uk/report/the-thameslink-southern-and-great-northern-rail-franchise/>

**4 London TravelWatch's response**

- 4.1. In response to the publication of this report a press release was issued on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 which can be found here:- [http://www.londontravelwatch.org.uk/news/view?id=682&x\[0\]=news/list](http://www.londontravelwatch.org.uk/news/view?id=682&x[0]=news/list)

**5 London TravelWatch priority**

- 5.1. The GTR is the largest rail franchise operating in London TravelWatch's area of responsibility in passenger usage and geographical coverage, and so the items in this report meet our priority criteria for consideration.

## **6 Equalities and inclusion implications**

- 6.1. There are no equalities and inclusion implications arising from this report

## **7 Legal powers**

- 7.1. Section 252A of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 places a duty upon London TravelWatch (as the London Transport Users Committee) to keep under review matters affecting the interests of the public in relation to railway passenger and station services provided wholly or partly within the London railway area, and to make representations about them to such persons as it thinks appropriate.

## **8 Financial implications**

- 8.1. There are no financial implications for London TravelWatch arising from this report.