Purpose of report:

• To inform members on the budget situation of the Forum.

Recommendations:

1. To approve the budget statement.

1 Background

1.1 At its meeting on 7 June 2006 the Forum agreed to establish a fund to support the commissioning of studies and other work of the Forum rather than seek contributions on a project by project basis.

1.2 It was agreed that each County should contribute £6000 and each Unitary £3000. This will be reviewed annually and Hertfordshire County Council will manage the fund and bring a budget statement to each Forum meeting. If all the authorities pay their appropriate financial contribution £48,000 income would be generated per annum.

2 Budget Statement

2.1 It was reported to the RTF meeting on 5th March that the balance for 2009/10 stood at £58,079.30 and approval was given to pay the account from Smallfish who had provided advice on the review of RSS transport policies. Their final account has since been paid and came to £7491.05. That leaves the current balance as £50,588.25.

2.2 There are currently no commitments for further expenditure from the fund. However, at the RTF meeting in December 2009 members received a report on the programme of DASTS studies being carried out in the region and agreed that it would consider providing financial support for the study programme in 2010/11. The future of the study programme and the future funding mechanisms will not be clear until after the October spending review. It may be that the previous 'commitment' by RTF will no longer be needed.

2.3 It was reported orally at the June meeting that in view of the uncertainty about the future structure of regional groups, subscriptions for 2010/11 will not be requested until the future role of RTF is clarified and what future programme of work might be required.

3 Conclusions

3.1 The budget statement is submitted for information and approval.