

Transport Planning Society

Meeting Date	9 November 2023
Report Title	Item 5.1 - Chair's Report
For Decision or for Information?	For Information
Decision Sought	N/A
Report Summary	This report summarises the activity of the Chair since the last board meeting.

Board Engagement

I have continued to have useful engagement with members of the Board, including with the Company Secretary on a number of issues around governance; with the Policy Director on how to get the maximum benefit from the excellent work done by the Policy Group, in particular on integrating land-use planning and transport planning; and with the Skills Director on engagement with other professional bodies on the skills agenda (see item on the TPS/CIHT Skills Partnership Management Group meeting below).

Officer's Meeting 25 October 2023

I met with the Board Officers on 25 October. Key items discussed were:

- **Review of the 9 November Board meeting agenda Board** – TPS officers to ensure their Board papers for the meeting are sent to Kath Coldwell/uploaded to Sharepoint by the usual deadline;
- **Budget for new financial year** – Susan to send a short note to board members ahead of November board meeting re preparing draft budget for new financial year to let her know if there's any significant changes expected from last year.
- **Transport Modeller's Forum (TMF)** – Tom VV raised issue of TPS potentially incorporating the TMF. Ben to ask Tom to come back with more detailed proposal for potential consideration at a future Board meeting, considering Kath's views on practicalities and any unforeseen costs.
- **Transport Planning Day** - Sarah to speak to Eneko about the political speaker at TP Day, given speakers invited to date have been unable to attend.

TPS Board Strategy Day and Business Plan

We had a successful Strategy Day at Steer's offices on 12 October. Lisa Martin has written up the key outputs/actions from the day, which will be discussed under item 5.2 on the agenda.

Events and engagement

Meeting with Jesse Norman MP

Keith Buchan, Lynda Addison and I had a very productive meeting with Transport Minister Jesse Norman MP on 24 October. We only had 30 minutes with the Minister but managed to get through a full agenda, covering issues including recent government announcements on transport policy (e.g. the Plan for Drivers), the importance of integrating transport planning and land-use planning, active travel, decarbonisation and the skills agenda.

Highways UK

I attended Highways UK in Birmingham on 18-19 October. I chaired a panel discussion on “paying for roads in the future”, with Iain Stewart MP, Kerry Bangle (WSP), Claire Sheffield (ex-TfL, now Arup) and Rich Sallnow from PA Consulting. The discussion focused on the practical and political implications of delivering a national road user charging scheme, which has been recommended by no fewer than 9 reports over the past 18 months.

Transport Planning Day 2023 – 13 November 2023

The final planning for TPD2023 is underway. We are still trying to secure one of the plenary speakers after all the people we’ve invited to date have been unable to attend. We have a very strong line-up of speakers and have secured an additional Silver sponsor. So far, we have around 80 people registered to attend in person and 40 people registered to attend on-line. Several supporting events are also in an advanced state of planning. TPD2023 promises to be a great event.

TPS/CIHT Skills Partnership Group (PMG)

Keith Buchan and I attended the regular PMG meeting with CIHT officers and other external members. We agreed the budget for 2024 and agreed that we need to keep a close eye on costs during the year to ensure that the skills programme covers its costs as a minimum.

Policy Developments

Plan for Drivers

The Plan for Drivers was launched by the Secretary of State for Transport during the Conservative Party Conference. The TPS has issued a response to the TPD, which is [here](#). Our response welcomes the recognition of the importance of walking, cycling and public transport; raises concerns about the framing of the issues regarding drivers’ interests relative to other road users; and repeats our call for an integrated transport strategy for England, incorporating the approach being taken in Wales and Scotland.