

# Transport Planning Society

<b>Meeting Date</b>	4 May 2023
<b>Report Title</b>	Chair's Report
<b>For Decision or for Information?</b>	For Information
<b>Decision Sought</b>	N/A
<b>Report Summary</b>	This report summarises the activity of the chair since the last board meeting.

Since being elected as TPS Chair at the AGM on 9 March, I've spent my time engaging with other members of the Board and attending a number of events on behalf of the TPS. Those few weeks have amply confirmed my view that the TPS is a fantastic organisation, punching well above its weight in the sustainable transport debate and through its work developing and promoting the professional skills needed to deliver a fair, decarbonised transport system.

## Board Engagement

I've been talking to my fellow Board members since the AGM and a few themes have emerged:

- The TPS does a huge amount with very limited resources, including significant voluntary effort from members of the Board, members of the Board working groups and TPS members;
- We have developed great programmes led by members of the Board, around policy, membership, events, comms and regions and nations;
- We can build on this work by exploiting the synergies between different activities, so our policy work can be amplified through our events and communications, which can in turn attract more members and influence the national policy debate;
- Our work on skills and professional qualifications is critical and we need to ensure we can continue to deliver and develop this work.

## Officer's Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> April

I met with the Board Officers on 17 April. Key actions were:

- **TPS Business Plan for 2023/24 and "programme on a page"** – agreed that updating the TPS Business Plan could be useful, given everything that has happened since the last one. It would also be useful to produce an at a glance summary of activities planned for 2023/4 by the main Board sub-groups. – **Sarah to arranging meeting with Ben to discuss both further (see below).**
- **Company Secretary Report for May Board Meeting** – Kate to attend online to update board. Kate and Kieran to catch up separately so Kate can handover Company Secretary role to Kieran.
- **Ofqual compliance** - Keith to be made aware once any changes to directors have been made to Companies House so he can update Ofqual – **Kate/Kieran.**
- **E-voting for AGMs** – Kate and Kieran to discuss the advantages/practicalities of this and feedback their views to Ben.

## TPS Business Plan

The TPS does not currently have an agreed Business Plan. A draft was developed in 2022-3 but never formally adopted. There could be value in updating the 2022-3 draft to set out the TPS's plans for the next 12-18 months across its main areas of activity and how these are going to be resourced and delivered. This process could be informed by a Board Strategy Away Day and I will update on both of these suggestions at the meeting.

## External events and engagement

### TPOY lecture –“Transport Decarbonisation: Debunking the Discourse of Delay”

I chaired an excellent lecture by Jillian Anable from the University of Leeds on the “Discourse of Delay” following the AGM on 9 March. Jillian analysed our lack of progress in decarbonising transport and how the way the decarbonisation process is being framed can be used to legitimise this delay. You can see the lecture [here](#).

### TAPAS Round Table

I attended the first Round Table organised by TAPAS (Transport and Accessibility Policy Alternative Solutions) on 13 April. TAPAS is a new platform developed by Peter Stonham (of Local Transport Today) and Arman Farahmand-Ravazi, a transport planning consultant. It aims to provide a forum for discussion about the key transport challenges of our time. The first Round Table opened with a sobering presentation from Prof Greg Marsden of Leeds University, whose talk “*The Death of Sustainable Transport*” concluded that there is currently no credible pathway to a decarbonised transport system on the timescale necessary to meet our net zero commitments. I gave a brief response on the importance of understanding that transport is as much a political issue as a technical one. You can see a summary of the event [here](#).

### Interchange

The TPS was a Supporter of the new Interchange Conference, which was held on 18 and 19 April in Birmingham. Interchange is the brainchild of Andrew Dowding, who set up Highways UK and ran the first conference on the Sub-National Transport Bodies last year. Mark Frost and I were both on the Interchange Steering Group and it was fascinating being involved in development of the programme. The conference focuses on how to improve integration in transport – within the sector, with other sectors and between infrastructure and data. There were some great speakers and a lively debate about how to overcome the silos that get in the way of delivering and operating a truly sustainable transport system.

### Bradshaw Address 2023 – The Future of Rail

Meanwhile plans are well-advanced for the Bradshaw Address 2023 at the ICE (and on-line) at 1800 on Thursday 4 May. Former TPS Chair and Director of Strategic Planning at the Great British Railway Transition Team (GBRTT) Elaine Seagriff has agreed to talk about the progress in delivering rail reform, the impacts of recent political changes and what to expect next.

### Transport Planning Day 2023

Looking further ahead, we’re gearing up for this year’s Transport Planning Day, which will be held on 13 November at the ICE in London and on-line. The theme of this year’s TPD is “*Tackling transport-related social exclusion and delivering a just transition to a decarbonized future*”. Research from Transport for the North suggests that 30% of the population in the TfN region suffer from transport-

related social exclusion. This highlights the urgent need to tackle this problem and have an honest debate about social and economic impacts of decarbonisation and how to mitigate these.

## **Policy developments**

### **Transport and Spatial Planning**

The TPS joined forces with the CIHT, Transport for New Homes, Sustrans, Living Streets and CPRE in a joint response to the Levelling up and Regeneration Bill (LURB) on the Draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Alongside our response, we wrote to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to seek a meeting. This was an important collaboration, which was led by Lynda Addison and Alexis Edwards, with support from JFG

### **Transport Infrastructure Planning**

The DfT have [published](#) a draft revision of the national networks national policy statement (NNNPS), which covers the strategic road and rail networks and strategic rail freight interchanges (SRFIs). This is a critical document, as it will set the policy framework for future decisions on major transport infrastructure. Former TPS Chair (another one!) Glenn Lyons has done a typically pithy [analysis](#) of the draft NNNPS, which is well worth a read. The deadline for comments on the draft NNNPS is 6 June.