



Supporting transport planning skills for local authorities

Meeting the needs of local communities

Transport Planning Society

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The Transport Planning Society and its Professional Development Scheme

The Transport Planning Society (TPS) is committed to identifying and promoting good practice in transport planning. A key part of that commitment is the development and maintenance of transport planning skills, together with recognition of professional transport planners and the work that they do. We believe that these objectives apply equally within both the public and private sectors.

The TPS Professional Development Scheme (PDS) is a structured training scheme, designed to guide both transport planners and their employers through the early stages of their career. It has been designed to equip staff with most of the range of knowledge and experience required to become a truly professional Transport Planner, and fulfils the first stage requirements of the Transport Planning Professional (TPP) qualification. This is awarded jointly by the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT) and TPS.

Individuals with an interest in transport planning, whether recent graduates, career changers or those with an established career can follow the PDS, which opens up a pathway to the TPP itself, to Chartered membership of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, and to Chartered Engineer for those with a civil engineering degree.

Why Should a Local Authority Offer the TPS PDS?

Transport Planners play a key role identifying the needs and opportunities to improve transport, working across traditional modal boundaries, and making good use of communications and control technology. They provide advice on how best to achieve local objectives, and ensure that the Authority's projects are delivered efficiently. They present their Authority's case to stakeholders, the public and Government and at Public Inquiries and Examinations in Public.

Thus, it is imperative that organisations within both the public and private sectors who employ transport planners, have highly competent, professional staff who have both a breadth of vision and a depth of knowledge. This will ensure that they are properly equipped to face the increasing challenges in transport planning and provision over coming years.

A commitment to professional development will help to attract and retain high quality staff, and ensure that they continue to develop their skills.

Transport planning is a long term investment. Developing highly skilled transport planners now will ensure that Local Authorities have the depth of knowledge and skills to be able to achieve more on tighter budgets as well as tackle planning issues well in the future.

How to Sign up for the TPS PDS?

Any Local Authority that is a Corporate member of TPS, as well as any organisation employing professional transport planners that is a Stakeholder member of the Society, can sign a licence agreement with TPS. The TPS also offers a consortium arrangement for groups of Local Authorities, designed to make the PDS more accessible and easier to run.

For more information e-mail martinrichards1@aol.com, info@tps.org.uk, or call Martin Richards on 01306 711885. Some documentation is also available on the TPS PDS, including a full TPS PDS overview, for download on <http://www.tps.org.uk/main/professionaldevelopment/> or it can be obtained by e-mailing info@tps.org.uk.

The TPS Professional Development Scheme and the TPP Qualification

What is the TPP qualification?

Launched in 2008, the TPP is a qualification for transport planners, providing professional recognition, in the same way that membership of the Royal Town Planning Institute recognises professional town planners and being a Chartered Engineer identifies professional engineers. An increasing number of employers, in both the public and private sectors, are now making award of the TPP a condition of career progress, just as they do with other professional qualifications. It is recognised as of benefit to those giving expert evidence in Public Inquiries and Examinations in Public.

What is needed for the TPP qualification?

For most candidates, there are three key stages to satisfying the TPP requirements.

- The first is learning, obtaining the technical knowledge that underpins a professional career. This can be achieved by one of four routes - completion of the TPS Professional Development Scheme, an approved transport Masters, a Portfolio of Technical Knowledge (for graduates) or a Technical Report (for those without a degree).
- The second is obtaining the breadth and depth of experience required to work as a professional transport planner and to supervise other transport planners.
- The third is demonstrating professional competence through a professional review interview.

It takes most transport planners at least five years from joining the profession to satisfy all the requirements.

There is a special route - the Senior Route - for transport planners in a senior management position within transport planning and who also have very extensive experience.

What is the TPS Professional Development Scheme?

The TPS Professional Development Scheme, the TPS PDS, provides a structure to help transport planners develop (and keep a record of) the competences they need to become a truly professional transport planner. It has been developed by TPS working closely with employers, is based on the National Occupational Standards for Transport Planning, and can be used by recent graduates, career changers or those with an established career wanting to work to the TPP qualification.

Completion of the TPS PDS meets all the knowledge requirements and most of the experience requirements of the TPP. It also meets the experience requirements for Chartered membership of CILT and it satisfies many of the experience requirements for CEng for those with an accredited degree,

Thus, the TPS PDS fully supports the TPP but has significant value in its own right. The PDS process itself helps maintain and develop the transport planning skills of the participants.

Who can participate in the TPS Professional Development Scheme?

Anyone pursuing a career as a professional transport planner. Although most of those just starting their career are likely to be graduates, having a degree is not essential. Indeed, those joining as career changers, as well as those with several years experience using the PDS to provide a framework to obtain the full set of competences required for the TPP qualification might not be graduates. There is no charge to individual PDS participants.

Who uses the TPS Professional Development Scheme?

Since it was launched in 2008, the TPS PDS has become the standard scheme for transport planners across much of the industry. Some consultants have adopted it in place of their in-house schemes so as to provide their staff with a clear pathway towards the TPP qualification.

Local Authorities using it include Hampshire and Leicestershire County Councils and Transport for London. Consultants using it include Arup, Atkins, Halcrow, Hyder Consulting, Integrated Transport Planning, Jacobs Consultancy, JMP Consulting, Mayer Brown, Mott MacDonald, Mouchel, MVA Consultancy, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Peter Brett Associates, PFA Consulting, Ramboll, SKM-CBP, URS -Scott Wilson and WSP.

How is the TPS Professional Development Scheme structured?

The PDS consists of a set of 18 Units, some of which are mandatory, while others are used to provide a set of choices. Eight of the 18 Units are concerned with management and generic skills (such as communications and inter-personal relations), two are concerned with policies, laws and regulations, and eight with transport planning techniques, such as data collection, assessment, public consultation, plan development and travel planning. Each Unit consists of a set of Objectives.

The PDS is based on four levels of competence – Awareness, Knowledge, Experience and Proficiency - with Proficiency requiring an ability to work unsupervised or to supervise others. Completion requires demonstration of competence Objective by Objective, with Proficiency required for some Units and Experience for others. Depending on the choices made, completion can require demonstration of either Experience or Proficiency in at least seven or all ten of the technical, policy and legal Units.

What is needed to manage the TPS Professional Development Scheme?

First, a PDS licence – that requires timely payment of the annual TPS subscription

Second, a set of documents provided by TPS, in digital format (and a hard Master copy):

- *The TPS Professional Standards for Transport Planners*, a document designed mainly to inform PDS Managers and Mentors about the Scheme requirements
- *The TPS Professional Development Scheme for Transport Planners*, a document that provides an overview of the PDS and contains a record sheet for each Objective, to be completed by the Scheme participant and their Mentor as they progress through the PDS, Objective by Objective.
- *The TPS Professional Development Scheme: Guidance for Mentors*, a document providing information for PDS Mentors.

Third, initial training for the PDS manager and Mentors, so they have a good understanding of the Scheme. TPS provides information leaflets for Managers and Mentors

Fourth, a set of committed scheme participants.

What assistance does TPS provide?

All TPS PDS Managers are invited to participate in twice yearly PDS Workshops, at which they share experience and discuss issues relating to the PDS and its management, as well as the relationship between the TPP and other professional qualifications.

The TPS also provides Mentor training sessions, whenever there is sufficient demand

In addition, the TPS will provide a reasonable amount of advice to those getting going with a new PDS, and is always available to answer questions from, and to provide support to, PDS Managers.

For further information

For information on the TPS PDS go to www.tps.org.uk/main/professionaldevelopment/ where some documents, including a TPS PDS overview, can be downloaded, or it can be obtained by e-mailing info@tps.org.uk. Further information can also be obtained by e-mailing info@tps.org.uk.

Further information on the TPP qualification is at www.tpprofessional.org or e-mail info@tps.org.uk or education@ciht.org.uk.

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One Great George Street London SW1 3AA info@tps.org.uk www.tps.org.uk