

Transport Planning Society

Meeting Date	19 November 2020
Report Title	Chair's Report
For Decision or for Information?	For Information
Decision Sought	N/A
Report Summary	This report summarises my main activities since the last Board meeting and other key issues.

Transport Planning Day Campaign 2020

Thank you to all Board members who supported the TP Day campaign this year and put in the hard work to make this so successful. The campaign is going from strength to strength and it's a credit to the Board that it is now a regular feature of the transport planning calendar, and that it has such great profile with a range of stakeholders. In addition to the national events I also attended and spoke at the North East regional event on 13 November 2020.

The Steering Group will be having one final meeting to debrief on the campaign. The Board also needs to start thinking about the 2021 campaign...

Succession Planning

Sadly, my term as Chair comes to an end in March 2021, just two Board meetings left after this one! I would also like to confirm that my plan is to step down from the Board at this time.

So as per my email of October, we need to start thinking about a succession plan. I have one Board member possibly interested in the role, but I am keen to know if any others are interested in putting themselves forward for nomination, as it is my preference that the Chair comes from the Board, as you all have the best understanding of how the Society operates. If you are considering it and would like to discuss, then please speak to me or any member of the Officers Group (Kate, David and Andy) for an informal chat. We may also need to look wider in the membership, and possibly beyond (as has been the case for some previous Chair nominations). This process may take some time hence we are thinking about this now.

We also still need a successor for the Treasurer role, to replace David when he steps down in March, so if you are interested in that role please let me know – the Society cannot function without a Treasurer!

Also please note that our Business Manager, Andy Costain, has confirmed that she will continue in the role after March 2021 to support the new Chair settling into the role, and will consider her succession plan beyond that.

European Transport Conference

Keith Buchan and I spoke at a Special Session at this conference to talk about TPS and transport planning skills, with a view to engaging with our European counterparts. We had some good discussions in the Q&A with an academic from Italy. We have been invited to put in a proposal for a follow up session in 2021.

TPS Group Plans

I have engaged with a number of Group leads to discuss and advise on the Group plans which will be covered today.

Transport Planning State of the Nations Report

Thanks to everyone involved for a huge effort to finalise and publish this report. I was very pleased with the final report and the launch event with the Transport Select Committee on 20 October 2020. This is a great milestone and a really useful reference point for us to build on.

As per my email after the launch, I would like to think about how we continue to get value out of the report and how we drive forward the recommendations. I propose to pick this up with the Policy Group but welcome any feedback from the Board.

Planning White Paper Consultation

We have now submitted our response to this consultation, and this is on our website. Many thanks to Lynda Addison and the team for pulling this together. It is an important topic and we put together a comprehensive and strong response, and we are following this up with engagement with both the MHCLG and the DfT to discuss how they respond.

Transport for the South East Transport Forum

I attended the online Transport for the South East (TfSE) Transport Forum on 6 October 2020, representing TPS. The main agenda items were a workshop on rural transport and updates on their various studies and activities. Further notes were in my email of the same date.

RCA Project: Our Future Places, Our Future Journeys

I attended a workshop for this project on 7 October 2020 and continue to be involved in this project on the Steering Group.

TPS Officers Group Meeting

The TPS Officers Group comprises me, Kate Morris (Company Secretary), David Connolly (Treasurer) and Andy Costain (Business Manager). We held a call on 15 October 2020.

Using our Group Plan as an agenda guide, in this meeting we discussed the Business Plan and Group Plans, Board Co-Optee vacancies, TPS finances, programme for AGM and new Board members nominations and voting, employment contracts, succession planning, programme for agreeing next year's SLA with ICE, and the next stakeholder forum.

TPS Skills Group Meeting

The TPS Skills Group comprises me, Kate Morris (Company Secretary), David Connolly (Treasurer), Keith Buchan (Skills Director) and Mark Frost. We held a call on 5 November 2020.

In this meeting we discussed the Skills work programme for the next quarter, progress on PDS reviews, the India pilot, and degree apprenticeships, the current situation on TPTech and the apprenticeship, recruitment of a new Review and EPA Manager, Board support on recruiting TPTech pilot candidates, volunteering to become TPTech reviewers, and volunteering to test the IncTP "senior" route, and Skills budget for next year.

Stephen Bennett, TPS Chair

15 November 2020