

# Transport Planning Society

<b>Meeting Date</b>	13 January 2022
<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.

Much of my time since my last report given at our 11 November board meeting has been spent organising and supporting TP Day on 15 November and subsequent follow ups.

This report also summarises other engagements I've undertaken in the capacity of chair.

I'd like to draw board member attention to:

- Reflections from the **Local Transport Summit 2022** 18/19 November and potential policy areas for us to explore as a society this year
- Summary of **Officers Group** meeting on 05/01 (end of report) notably:
  - Note the discussion on the setting up of a £20,000 innovation fund for 2022 for each group to submit ideas against.
  - The draft business plan for 2022/23 sent alongside this report which needs finalising before the AGM. In particular we need to agree the priorities for each of the working groups.

I'd also have another round of 1:1s with all board members in the coming weeks to get some informal feedback on the Society's work over last 12 months, and what our priorities should be for the coming year or so, to the end of my term. I'm also interested in whether there is any appetite amongst existing board members to step into the chair's role for March 2023.

Please can everyone indicate a slot here:

[https://doodle.com/poll/a97knism462p4uvp?utm\\_source=poll&utm\\_medium=link](https://doodle.com/poll/a97knism462p4uvp?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link)

## **11/11 ICE Event – Rethinking Transport Appraisal.**

I supported the organisation of this event in my capacity as chair of TPS and as part of the ICE's Transport & Mobility Community Advisory Panel. It was a really interesting discussion

about the role of appraisal in transport decision making and how those tools should be developed to address the challenges we face as an industry, particularly around decarbonisation. Further details here - [Rethinking appraisal and prioritisation of transport infrastructure investment, London | Institution of Civil Engineers \(ice.org.uk\)](#)

## **15/11 Transport Planning Day**

I chaired the annual Transport Day Event on 15 November. Unfortunately we had a last minute cancellation from David Blunkett as one of our keynote speakers following irreconcilable challenges with his legislative work in the Lords. This inevitably reduced engagement in the event to some extent, however it remained well supported by our sponsors and also the DfT.

### *Follow up*

I'm meeting with JFG to discuss initial feedback on morning of 13/01 and will share the results of that verbally at the board meeting. We also have a TP Day steering group the following week (18/1) to discuss further, and take soundings on approach for 2022.

Following our normal approach, the theme for TPD 2022 would follow our bursarian theme which for 2021 was around the use of scenarios in transport planning decision making.

I'd like to widen that technical approach into something a bit wider around 'storytelling' - what are the stories we need to tell next year as Transport Planners? Yes about how we want the future network to look and behave, and the choices we need to make to get there, but also about how we sell the profession to elected members and the public - particularly the next generation. We should also continue the EDI conversation, particularly by following up on the roundtable recommendations, and think about what stories the industry tells itself - who is telling those tales and how does that contribute to the development of the professions culture and norms?

I welcome feedback from the board on last year's campaign and day, and any ideas for 2022 - either at the meeting or informally direct to me.

## **17/11 ICE Roundtable on Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy 2**

I attended this roundtable to discuss the second Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy due for release in 2022. It was a useful discussion, where I echoed many of the points in our submission to the APPG on cycling and walking. [TPS.pdf \(allpartycycling.org\)](#). DfT seem ambitious for the strategy to deliver real change, but are very cautious about prescribing local targets.

## **18 & 19 November Landor Local Transport Summit**

I attended the 2022 Local Transport Summit and spoke on a panel in my role as chair of TPS, considering opportunities and challenges for the coming year in response to a keynote from Stephen Fiddler, Director for Local Transport.

It was a useful couple of days to reconnect in person with the industry and great to see TPS board members there in force. Some of the ideas that came out of the session through discussion with those present that I thought we might want to explore as a society in a bit more depth in 2022 were:

- Developing Local decarbonisation pathways (in context of LTP guidance) - where is the 'state of the art'?
- Vision zero - from vision to reality
- Best practice in use of scenario planning for sustainable outcomes, local and regional
- The science of politics in local transport decision making
- Spotlight on Parking. The cost of parking, pavement parking, parking standards, locating EV chargers, parklets, re-using parking garages, etc
- Modelling. Are models objective? What needs to change to support decarbonisation. Not by sceptics but by experts. Model forms. Simpler and faster models. Representing behaviour change. Clarity on that we model people, not vehicles. Assessing models from an EDI perspective. Linking TDP targets to interventions.
- Rural transport. Finding solutions to decarbonise that work in less dense areas compared with the concentration on urban solutions
- Success stories from our members on projects and interventions
- Horizon scan to determine the potential investors in the future of transport, recognising key role for private sector
- Need to align with Select Committee programme if possible and seek to inform that

I'm really keen to get some original content out from us this coming year, going beyond perhaps just consultation responses. It would be good to explore doing some horizon scanning short and sharp policy briefs, co-creating those with input from members where possible.

## **09/12 DfT Roundtable on new LTP guidance**

I attended this meeting of behalf of TPS, following discussions with Stephen Fiddler on the topic at Local Transport summit. DfT colleagues set out the basic framework for new LTP guidance and took comments from attendees on what should be included in the refreshed guidance. There is a strong ambition from the department to use this guidance to link Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Strategy, National Bus Strategy, Transport Decarbonisation Plan and 'bring it all together' to support a single coherent local package. It was interesting to discuss the pros and cons of a binding decarbonisation target, with the

key point being that 'with great responsibility should come great resourcing' (with consistency of resource level almost if not more important than quantum).

### 16/12 TPS Membership offer working group

I attended this meeting with Isabelle, Tim, Rose and Sarah to discuss opportunities for innovation in our offer to members. It was a really positive session with some great ideas as to how we can develop our offer for members, to be reported in the membership group report to this board.

### 05/01 TPS Officers Group Meeting

I chaired the officers group, agenda and key points below.

<p>1. Budget Planning for 22-23</p>	<p>The bulk of the meeting was spent going through the 2022 budget.</p> <p>We agreed the proposed budget in principle, noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Some level of uncertainty still exists around the skills budget and our new role (if approved!) as End Point Assessor.</li><li>- subscription income was conservative, some £5k below actual from 2021. Officers could see no reason why there would be such a sudden drop off in 2022. This was considered prudent.</li><li>- Stakeholder income a significant proportion of our budget. Need to make sure we are targeting all major transport consultancies (matching exercise against current membership and inventory of largest transport operators to be undertaken by Keith). Also need to ensure we have an offer which is palatable to all public sector agencies, perhaps moving more towards consortia agreements</li><li>- TPD 2022 needs to be closer to income from sponsorship</li><li>- Ensure we are not duplicating between ICE and JFG contracts for support. Kate to circulate ICE SLA when agreed.</li></ul> <p>We also agreed to introduce a new £20,000 budget line to support the work of the TPS groups in the coming years. Group chairs are encouraged to put together a very brief proposal for funding in 2022. This should set out:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is to be delivered</li> <li>• How this links to our mission and strategic objectives (see: <a href="http://tps.org.uk">The Society (tps.org.uk)</a>)</li> <li>• Commissioning approach if any external expertise is required (via call-off to JFG if appropriate, or via competitive tender)</li> <li>• Note any opportunities for match funding or to unlock future income</li> <li>• Any other relevant information</li> </ul> <p>This should be submitted by 21 Feb for consideration by the Officers group ahead of announcement at 10 March board.</p>
2. Business Plan 2022-23.	<p>We noted the proposed new business plan for discussion at 13/01 board.</p> <p>Agreed that setting out 3-5 priorities for each of the Groups would likely be sufficient for the coming year and negate the need for each of them to develop detailed workplans. Agreed that, rather than a standing advisory council as previously envisaged, we would develop an informal panel of experts as required to advise the officers group as appropriate. This would be augmented by a refreshed stakeholder member forum and renewed emphasis put on 1:1 engagement with Stakeholders.</p>
3. TPD 2022 – initial thoughts on 2022?	Noted the need to refresh the format for TP Day to ensure it can be delivered within income from sponsorship.
4. Revised membership application process update	No update.
5. Board vacancies and elections	Noted three board members stepping down in 2022, with elections ahead of AGM. Encourage all board members to start thinking about potential applicants.
6. Next meeting	4pm 23 Feb (TBC)
7. AOB	None.

**Report ends**