

Transport Planning Society

Meeting Date	02 May 2024
Report Title	Item 11 - 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

Welcome to Darren Kirkman and Roger Evans as our new Board members.

I contacted all the applicants for Board membership following the AGM in March and arranged follow-up meetings with the successful candidates. I have put all the applicants in touch with the relevant Board leads so they can get involved in the TPS Board either as a Board member or via one of the programme groups.

I have continued to have useful engagement with members of the Board. I am delighted that Mark and Lisa have agreed to jointly take on the Policy Lead and would like to thank Tom for his sterling service as Policy Director over the past few years.

TPS Business Strategy

The new Business Strategy Steering Group has met and had a very useful discussion about TPS priorities and identifying how to develop the Society's impact by making better use of our existing resources (e.g. leveraging different programmes in support of each other) and exploring the potential for raising additional revenue from existing and new sources.

JFG have developed a new TPS Programme Planner, which will show a 12-month "plan on a page" on a rolling basis. Board members are encouraged to make sure the draft planner is an accurate reflection of their planned activities and to make sure the planner is updated as part of the preparation for the Board meetings. We will review the planner at the May meeting and subsequent meetings and see whether/how it is proving valuable.

Events and engagement

Event planning

There is a great programme of events being put in place for 2024. I have continued to meet Mark Frost and Ruby Stringer in the events planning group. This provides oversight of the

emerging events programme for the year and keeps track of event organisation, speakers etc.

TPS Summer Reception

The TPS will be holding its first-ever Summer Reception on 19 June at the Jacobs offices in SE1. The theme of the reception is “Celebrating Diversity in Challenging Times”. Many thanks to Susan, Tim and Jacobs for providing the reception room and a generous contribution towards the refreshments. Invitations are going out to key stakeholders, the Stakeholder Members and to the individual members for a member ticket “ballot”. The room has a maximum capacity of 120 so I am working with JFG to make sure we get a good, diverse turnout but stay within the room capacity.

Transport Practitioners Meeting

Mark Frost and I will be representing the TPS at this year’s TPM in July.

Interchange

TPS is again sponsoring the Interchange Conference in 2025 after a very successful second conference in February. This does not involve any financial sponsorship.

Transport Planning Day 2024

We have agreed the theme for TPD24, which is “*The Road Less Travelled – the Principles, Policies, Practicalities of reducing car travel in the UK*”. I am also delighted to confirm that Buro Happold have confirmed they will be Platinum Sponsors; discussions are underway with a potential Gold Sponsor; Tracsis are a Silver Sponsor; Mayer Brown are an SME sponsor and Charge Surveys will be the badge sponsor. We are now in the process of agreeing the programme for the day and approaching speakers and panellists and developing the programme of supporting events.

Policy Developments

TPS Policy Group

Mark Frost and Lisa Martin are reviewing the TPS Policy Group to see how it could be developed to allow the TPS to increase its policy visibility and influence.

Transport and Land Use Planning guidance

TPS is working with the CIHT and the RTPI to finalise the survey to the three organisations’ memberships on the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) on **Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements**. The results of the survey will be used to inform the DfT how useful transport planners find the guidance, whether it needs updating or changing to align with new developments such as the forthcoming National Development Management Policies.

Labour Party rail proposals

The TPS responded to the Labour Party's proposals to modernise and improve the UK rail network, which were published on 25 May.