

Transport Planning Society

Meeting Date	14 January 2021
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.

TPS Policy Group

I attended the TPS Policy Group meetings on 20 November 2020 and 11 December 2020. Topics covered included the TPotY Award, the Bursary competition, Members Survey 2021, Policy Initiatives (including follow up to the State of the Nations report, RCA project, the Planning White Paper response and appraisal issues with government), Parliamentary Committees, External engagement with stakeholders and government, and Policy Consultations (including Union Connectivity Review). At the second meeting I presented a plan on activities to follow up on the State of the Nations report and have a number of actions which I will be working on this year.

RCA Project: Our Future Places, Our Future Journeys

I attended a steering group meeting on 24 November 2020 to discuss the final report and next steps for the project.

Transport Planning Professional (TPP) Qualification Partnership Management Group (PMG)

I attended this meeting with our Skills Director, Keith Buchan, on 3 December 2020. The agenda covered TPP budget (outturn to 30 October 2020 and budget principles and fees for 2021), effect of the pandemic on the profession and potential TPP take-up in 2021 and beyond (we shared information and insights), Report from the 25 November 2020 Professional Standards Committee meeting, and TPS PDS update. It was a constructive meeting and no major issues to report.

Transport Planning Day Steering Group Meeting

I attended a steering group meeting on 4 December 2020. We discussed outstanding actions from TP Day 2020 campaign, the campaign evaluation and survey, and the 2021 campaign. The steering group agreed in principle that it would like to recommend to the Board to hold the campaign again in 2021, although it recognises the financial challenge of securing sponsorship in the current economic environment. This is to be brought to the TPS Board in January 2021 for discussion and agreement.

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 8 December 2020.

In this meeting we discussed Board Co-Optee vacancies, succession plans for the Chair and Treasurer roles, TPS finances, plans for the TPS Annual General Meeting in March 2021, progress on contractual arrangement for people employed by TPS, the programme for agreeing next years' Service Level Agreement with ICE, plans for the TPS Stakeholder Forum in January, and plans for a TPS session at the European Transport Conference in 2021.

Defra Study into Particulate Emissions - Planning and Road Traffic

I was interviewed by Ben Warren of Wood consultants regarding a study they are doing for Defra on particulate emissions. This was mainly focused on who to contact in the transport planning profession and I offered to put Defra in touch with experts on our Society for technical workshops if needed.

Events

I joined a couple of calls with Isabelle and Claire as the Events Group leadership, to discuss plans for 2021. I joined a call with Isabelle and Susan on 5 January 2021 with a number of TPS Regional Reps to discuss plans for events this year. This was a productive call and good to see a high level of engagement from the Reps. I also joined a call on 8 January 2021 to discuss arrangements for our January event on Decarbonising Transport which I will chair.

Stephen Bennett, TPS Chair

10 January 2021