

# Transport Planning Society

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| <b>Meeting Date</b>                     | 14 July 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 5 May board meeting has been spent supporting further scoping for TP Day 2022, undertaking annual 1:1 meetings with TPS Stakeholder members and planning activities to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> year as a society.

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

## **TP Day 2022 Update**

Verbal update to be provided by Mark Frost and Alex Bennett (JFG). Key issue is currently a lack of uptake of sponsorship, leaving us around £10,000 under budget (see business manager's report for further details). Without engagement of a platinum sponsor, this is also impacting on the ability to finalise the programme, with time now running out. Encourage all board directors to think about possible contacts that could be approached for sponsorship.

## **TPS 25 Year Celebration**

I have written to all our previous chairs to ask for contributions towards a volume of short essays reflecting on key moments over the last quarter of a century since the society was formed. This would also respond to our TP Day theme of 'future proofing transport' and ask for predictions and hopes for the coming decades for the sector. We also intend to have a celebratory meal and roundtable debate to review our progress and consider priorities for the next phase of the society. Further verbal update provided at the meeting.

## **1:1 Meetings with TPS Stakeholder members**

To date I have had fifteen 1:1s with the following stakeholder members:

- AECOM Ltd
- Amey/TPI
- Arcadis
- BWB Consulting
- CILT (UK)
- Hampshire County Council

- I-Transport
- ITP Royal Haskoning
- Jacobs
- Lancashire County Council
- Leicestershire County Council
- Mayer Brown Ltd
- Mott Macdonald
- SAJ Consultant – booked for 20<sup>th</sup> July
- Stantec

#### Feedback of note:

- Welcomed TPS reaching out for a 1:1 catch-up meeting - varying understanding of the breadth of TPS activity - the majority have been members solely for purposes of running PDS and haven't necessarily engaged with other initiatives. Didn't realize in particular our parliamentary work. Typically tended to break the meeting into discussing skills and then other areas of work.

#### Skills

- Some had completely embedded the PDS in their graduate training, others it was very much an optional extra on top of an internal programme. Some feedback that we needed to innovate to make it more attractive for a new generation of tech-savvy and discerning entrants to the market
- Few companies have experience of apprentices, however, those that do are universally popular. Need to do more to promote, particularly as a tool in addressing ED&I concerns.
- For smaller companies, the architecture of internal support necessary to support an apprentice seems overwhelming – any hand-holding that can be done here? Pooling across smaller companies?
- Some concerns about backlogs in interim and final reviews for PDS, however confidence in the skills team in addressing this
- Concerns that numbers completing the scheme are low – but also no strong view on how to make it easier without 'dumbing down'. Suggestion more information about what 'good looks like' may help take the fear out of completing the forms, which can be quite intimidating for new recruits
- A couple of recruits said they were happy if people didn't finish PDS, as long as the scheme gave them pointers as to the breadth of the industry, and instilled good habits in seeking out and recording CPD
- Some volunteers for becoming mentors
- Concern that value of CTPP 'hasn't yet been proven' – a suggestion that the public sector needs to do more to promote and require it on tenders etc (as Transport Scotland does). Understanding in principle that recruitment should be linked to professional development, however competition in the labour market means being too stringent on this may mean missing out on talent to competitors
- Desire to see progression to CTPP 'normalised' in the industry as a 'must have', in the same way as that for Chartered Planner or Engineer.

#### Feedback on other areas

- Desire in principle to get more involved in policy group, but concern over capacity. Most agreed to discuss this internally. All were happy to be canvassed directly on policy issues - could be used alongside the existing Policy group to form the 'rapid response' panel discussed earlier in the year?
- Surprisingly lots of unprompted comments about parking standards as an area for collective action!
- Desire to see TPS (and PDS, CTPP) have a higher profile with Network Rail, DfT, and National Highways.
- We were invited to come to various offices to hold future board meetings, which was welcomed.
- Brexit surprisingly also often mentioned as a cause of recruitment and retention issues – has made companies think a bit more about CPD.
- Several comments about 'londoncentric' events programme. Need to do more to develop events outside of London. TPS 'dinner in the north'?

Possible follow ups:

- Include Stakeholder members on the bulletin
- Follow-up volunteers for PDS mentor
- Invite them (or colleagues) to engage on policy issues?
- A joint initiative with CIHT to promote CTPP, particularly to the public sector?
- More promotion of apprentices
- Engage with Sub-national transport bodies to explore consortia membership and promotion to unitaries and counties.
- Anything else?

### **5 May – TPS lecture on Great British Railways**

It was great to be back in person hosting this excellent seminar with past TPS chair Elaine Seagriff on Great British Railways and the Whole Industry Strategic Plan (WISP). Really good feedback from all attendees, and the hybrid version also worked really well. Huge thanks to Susan and Tim from Jacobs for doing most of the running on this.

### **20 May – Loveable Neighbourhoods**

I chaired an afternoon session at this Landor conference on neighbourhood-level transport schemes on behalf of TPS, exploring the importance of 'groundbreaking schemes'. Really interesting debate on a wide range of different approaches and experiences ranging from school streets to low traffic neighbourhoods. I particularly liked the session from Ian Plowright from LB Croydon on links between transport planning and ecology, and especially the idea of young people using streets as an 'indicator species' for whole system health and vitality.

### **23 May – APPG Cycling & Walking - Baroness Vere**

I attended this meeting with Baroness Vere online, focusing on road safety and the emerging Road Safety Framework. It seemed to be largely a placeholder for future announcements but does seem to be a growing focus that road policing in particular needs to be reviewed and enhanced. Meeting

summary here: [All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group | Meeting with Baroness Vere - All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group \(allpartycycling.org\)](#)

### **24 May – Annual catch up with Victoria Hills RTPI**

I enjoyed a quick catch-up with Victoria Hills and Harry Steele at RTPI. We discussed the institute's Transport Planning Network and a need to ensure we work closely together on this. I reiterated the offer to engage with the Politicians in the Planning network to talk to the placeshaping role of transport and how to deal with reactionary responses to progressive transport policies and initiatives (see for example my chair's message here: [TPS Chair's message February 2022](#) )

### **26 May – LTP Guidance workshop**

I attended a meeting between the DfT and representatives from RTP and CIHT to discuss new LTP guidance. Good further context [here](#). I supported the focus on quantifiable carbon reductions as a binding requirement of the new plans but also stressed the need to ensure that no authority was left behind - the country's decarbonisation targets are universal and are necessary as much in Halifax as Hackney. I also was strongly supportive of the idea of the LTP becoming a mini SOBC (strategic outline business case) for government funding, therefore helping reduce the need for competitions to distribute funding.

### **Review TPM young professional Paper**

In early June I worked with Alex and Tom to review the submitted papers for the Transport Practitioner Meeting. The 12 papers were all of universally high quality and it was a very difficult task! Congratulations to Yasmin Fox from the DfT for her paper on embedding Scenario Planning in decision making (see [here](#)). It felt that the papers were high enough quality that we should look to try and put on a couple of events to share these wider with members?

### **14 June – ICE Transport & Mobility Community Advisory Board**

I chaired this session of the ICE Community Advisory Board. Amongst other topics, we reviewed the submissions made to their Learning Society for research grants. Unfortunately, the two put forward from this CAB (looking at strategic outline business cases and levelling up and around further guidance on incorporating walking and cycling into urban strategies) were not shortlisted in this round. It was agreed to review the investment business case and see if this can be strengthened and to also explore a piece around road user charging. The ICE is holding a 'world café' event on 18 July to consider options in this space further. We also agreed on nominations for a wide range of 'Knowledge Networks' that will feed into the work of the CAB and ICE more generally:

- Walking & Cycling Active Travel [Existing] - Helen Littler
- Inclusive Urban design, planning & development - Mark Frost
- Highways Infrastructure Asset Management – Kenny Aitken
- Aviation – Mark Frost
- Inter-Urban Transport - Jonathan Buttery

If TPS board members, or indeed members more generally, are interested in getting more involved with the CAB or the Knowledge Networks please let me know – there is no need to be an ICE member.

### **16 June Move conference**

I attended the Move conference as a guest. It was an interesting event, and great to see the amount of attention that innovation in mobility is now receiving. It was also good to see TPS' own Tom Van Vuren looking after a key session, including introducing the Transport Minister! I even managed to get my first ride on an e-scooter on their test track – remain to be convinced...

### **22 June – TPS/ICE catch up**

I had a catch-up with ICE about how they can support the TPS as one of their 'specialist knowledge societies'. We discussed some practical issues such as the hosting of events and promotion of our 'blogs'. We also explored how ICE could do more to support Transport Planning Day and our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **30 June – Transport Practitioners Meeting**

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the first day and dinner for this event, and left the honours of handing out the awards for Best Paper and Transport Planner of the Year to Tom in his capacity as Director of Policy. I understand he did very well! I did attend the second day and thought the event was of high quality, with some excellent presentations (see for example: [reallocating parking space to support micromobility](#); exploring the value of [small time savings](#) in business cases and [tools and techniques to explore city level strategies for decarbonisation](#)).

I was particularly taken by the discussion around the value of time and how this influences investment decisions – feels a while since we have explored this in detail, could be another opportunity for an event?

### **4 July – TPS officers group meeting**

I met with the other key TPS officers, agenda, and notes from the meeting are below.

1. Chairs 1:1 meeting with Stakeholder members – initial feedback.

Noted progress made in the Chair's 1:1 sessions with Stakeholder members, and feedback to date (see above)

2. Budget Planning for 22-23

The budget is looking good, with stakeholder and membership revenue remaining steady, and more funding coming in from job adverts in particular. TP Day remains a concern however (see above)

3. TPD 2022 Update

Noted the issue with funding and a need, in particular, to get a platinum level sponsor in to support the funding and finalise event details (speakers, etc).

4. Business Plan 2022-23 update.

Noted that we needed to confirm the revised business plan.

5. Revised membership application process update

This is now live and largely working well.

6. Board vacancies and elections

We had a discussion on succession planning for Kate as Company Secretary, I've put my name forward to take that on post my stint as Chair. We also noted an ongoing issue around the succession of the chair's role and a need to secure potential candidates as soon as possible. Directors are invited to nominate themselves or put forward other candidates.

**Other updates**

Noted that Stephen Bennet's paper on Transport Planning practice across Europe (see Appendix 1) has been accepted by the European Transport Conference and will go ahead in September.

We also have an update on the work to refresh State of the Nations (verbal update from Stephen Joseph).

# Transport Planning Society

## *DRAFT PROPOSITION FOR TPS SESSION AT THE EUROPEAN TRANSPORT CONFERENCE 2022*

### CONNECTING TRANSPORT PLANNING PROFESSIONALS ACROSS EUROPE

7-9 September 2022 - Milan, Italy

#### **Background**

In September 2021, the UK's Transport Planning Society held a special session at the online European Transport Conference (ETC) asking an exclusive lineup of transport professionals from across Europe how can we create and maintain a pan-European transport planning profession that best serves the ever-changing needs of society.

The session found that there is a large variation in perspectives of transport planning across different countries, from those who recognise it as a profession to areas where it is not a commonly used term. Despite this, there was a general recognition of the importance of transport planning as a discipline in addressing problems of pandemic recovery, decarbonisation, health and wellbeing, city placemaking, etc, and transport planners role as integrators across multiple disciplines to improve the transport system for people. And there was a clear desire for further pan-European cooperation and collaboration between transport planners, particularly for practitioners and professionals, but also for those involved in research and tertiary education, building on existing networks such as AET/ETC, POLIS, and UITP.

Following the event, it was agreed to find ways to continue engagement between European transport planners through AET/ETC, with the shorter term goal of connecting transport planning organisations across Europe with TPS, and in the longer term developing European transport planning professional bodies and potentially introducing transport planning qualifications.

#### **Proposition for a session at ETC 2022**

ETC 2022 will be held in September in Milan, Italy. To meet the objectives identified above, it is proposed to hold a TPS-led session at the ETC conference to continue and develop the engagement of transport planners across Europe.

#### **Aims and Objectives**

The aim of the session is to connect transport planning professionals across Europe.

The objectives are to:

- Share the UK's experience in recognising transport planning as a distinct profession and the success of the UK's Transport Planning Society in developing the identity of the profession and growing it's status through skills development and chartership

- Hear from transport planning professionals across Europe on the status of transport planning and the opportunities for more professional recognition within the industry in the countries they operate in
- Have a discussion on how we can develop, improve, and better connect the transport planning profession across Europe
- With 50 years of ETC and (nearly) 25 years of TPS, demonstrate the value of providing a forum for discussion between transport professionals