

Transport Planning Society

Meeting Date	05 September July 2024
Report Title	Item 9 - 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.

TPS Business Strategy

The Business Strategy steering group has continued to meet to review progress in delivering against the agreed priorities for taking forward the strategy. These are to:

- Increase individual membership via improved retention;
- Improve relationship with/income from corporate supporters;
- Increase revenue from alternative sources;
- Increase influence on policy agenda.

There is significant activity underway in relation to delivering these priorities, including:

- A meeting of the membership group on 29 July to explore options for retaining and recruiting members (see Agenda item 10);
- A set of proposals around how to structure our relationship with our corporate members and supporters, based on an analysis of the recent Stakeholder Members survey (see Agenda item 10);
- Examination by the Treasurer of the options for moving the TPS's cash reserves into a higher interest-bearing account.
- Development of our approach to the TPS's policy programme (see Agenda item 6);
- Agreement by a senior Partner at a leading law firm to have a pro bono session (in the first instance) on the pros and cons of the TPS applying for charitable status (meeting to be arranged in mid/late-September).

The Board is invited to comment on the activities underway to support delivery of the Business Strategy and identify whether/how they would like to contribute to these.

TPS Programme Planner

The Board agreed at the October 2023 Strategy Away Day that it would be useful to have a "plan on a page" of the TPS's planned activities for the forthcoming year.

The Programme Planner should include information on significant activities/events likely to be of interest to several/most/all members of the TPS Board. This should include key external events and activities (e.g. local/regional/national elections, the Budget/Autumn Statement, likely publication date of key Government consultations) and key internal events and activities (e.g. major TPS events, Board meetings, AGM, publication of key reports/responses). This should allow the links/synergies between different TPS programmes to be identified in advance and increase our ability to leverage those links/synergies (e.g. events, comms, skills, membership, regions and nations).

JFG have developed a pilot programme planner to capture the relevant information across the main programme areas. The intention was that Board members would update the planner as part of their update to the Board meeting. It is not clear whether the planner is proving useful and if not, what changes might be needed to how it is designed to increase its value.

The Board is invited to comment on the pilot programme planner and what changes could be made to its design/functionality to increase its value to the organisation.

Policy Developments

Draft NPPF Consultation.

MHCLG has published a major consultation document on proposed changes to the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This is an early element of the new Government's reform of the planning system to support national economic growth and deliver ambitious housing targets. The consultation document can be seen [here](#) and the revised NPPF can be seen [here](#). An update on the proposed changes to the NPPF and how the TPS plans to respond will be provided at the Board meeting.

Letters to new ministers

I have written to the new Secretary of State for Transport and the relevant new junior ministers in DfT. The letters summarise the key priorities in the TPS Manifesto based on the Member Survey and welcome the extent to which the Government's manifesto reflected our priorities. We have requested introductory meetings with both the SoS and the junior ministers.

Transport Planning Day 2024

Plans for TPD24 are well developed. We have a full line-up of both plenary speakers and panellists and have secured an additional Gold Sponsor. We also have a well-developed programme of supporting events leading up to TPD on 11/11. An update on the current plans for TPD24 and supporting events will be provided at the Board meeting.