

Transport Planning Society

Meeting Date	7 May 2020
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 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

I would like to thank all Board members for their continued support in keeping our operation going during the lockdown. We have provided a number of activities and events over the last few weeks for our members and continued with all our planned initiatives.

It is also important that the TPS provides leadership for the profession at this time, and we will be using our Covid-19 survey and other inputs to produce a response to the Transport Select Committee Call for Evidence which we are planning to promote and publicise once complete.

And I have just heard that our Director of Skills, Keith Buchan, has been interviewed by the BBC on the pandemic and travelling by public transport (2 May) which is great for our profile. We have offered further comment and input to the BBC if needed.

TPS Annual General Meeting

We held a successful (and first ever) virtual AGM on 19 March. Thanks to everyone who helped make this happen. We had enough attendees to be quorate, so all business was approved. We decided to cancel the Annual Lecture on that evening, but I am pleased to say this was rearranged for 6 May.

Transport Planning Day Campaign 2020

I have spent time engaging with the TP Day 2020 campaign since the last Board meeting. This included managing the Campaign Manager (JFG Communications) and attending

Steering Committee meetings. I am chairing the Steering Committee. Further details are provided in the TP Day Board report at this meeting.

Transport for the South East Transport Forum

As per my email to the Board, I attended an online TfSE Transport Forum on 31 March 2020, representing TPS. They were reviewing and agreeing amendments to the Draft Strategy following the public consultation, to get the final Strategy signed off at an April Board meeting. I made some comments on the call. The next meeting is 30 June 2020.

Planning and Transport Groups

With Lynda Addison, I attended two separate calls with volunteers who have agreed to provide support for TPS on planning and transport. These are split into Level 1 (smaller group of more experienced people who will succeed Lynda in her current role leading this initiative) and Level 2 (larger group of people who will provide a forum to support the Level 1 group). We briefed the groups and discussed plans. Lynda will manage this for a transition period until the Level 1 group is in a position to take over from her.

DfT Transport Decarbonisation Plan

I attended a call with RTPi and CIHT on 6 April 2020 to consider the DfT's recent Decarbonising Transport paper and discuss how we might collaborate on our engagement. We agreed this should be a wider government (not DfT) plan and there is a risk that if the economy is top of the agenda the government could lose focus on a sustainable approach to rebuilding the country. RTPi is considering undertaking research on this topic to feed into their engagement, TPS and CIHT could support this. Further discussions to be held.

Royal College of Art 'Our Future Journeys' initiative

I have had further discussions with Lynda Addison and Dan Philips (RCA) on this initiative on engaging communities in sustainable placemaking and mobility planning, as primary sponsor and lead organisation. Lynda has secured additional sponsorship from NALC and Sustrans, with other potential contributors being approached. We are setting up a governance panel to manage the work. Thank you to Susan Cross, one of our new Board members, who has volunteered to lead on this from the Board.

Women in Transport

Jo Ward and I had a good meeting with the CEO of Women in Transport (Sonya Byers) and Jo Field, a WiT Board member, on 8 April 2020. WiT is a not-for-profit membership organisation for women in the transport sector, from frontline operational staff to consultants and transport planners. Further details on their website at: <https://www.womenintransport.com/>.

We talked about opportunities for the two organisations to work closer together, as we share member interests and objectives, from which there were several good ideas and actions – my email of 8 April includes more details. Any queries or further ideas for cooperation with WiT then please let Jo Ward know.

TPS Policy Group

I attended TPS Policy Group calls on 9 and 24 April 2020, discussing a range of policy items and activities including the TfSE Transport Forum, the State of the Nation report, Covid-19 response, RTP/CIHT/TPS joint research, Future of Transport regulatory review, CIHT sustainability indicators, New Transport Planning edited volume, and the DfT Appraisal Approach.

New Board Members

I held introductory calls with all four of our new Board members, Lucy Marstrand, Susan Cross, Isabelle Milford and Tim Cuthbert. I would like to welcome them to the Board and look forward to working with them.

TPS Officers Group Meeting

The TPS Officers Group comprises myself, Kate Morris (Company Secretary), David Connolly (Treasurer) and Andy Costain (Business Manager). We held a call on 1 May 2020.

In this meeting we discussed the coronavirus situation and update, 2020 Board roles and responsibilities, Proposal for Future of TPS event, Proposal for Business Manager replacement, Company Secretary Update, Treasurer Update, Business Manager Update, and the RCA initiative funding and contractual arrangements.

TPS Skills Group meeting

The TPS Skills Group comprises myself, Kate Morris (Company Secretary), David Connolly (Treasurer) and Keith Buchan (Skills Director). We held a call on 1 May 2020.

In this meeting we discussed the TPS Code of Conduct, the Indian PDS Pilot, Final reviews and the remote version, Video-conferencing software, PTK versus PDS, Recruitment, Stakeholder subscriptions and Local authority membership for PDS.

Stephen Bennett, TPS Chair

3 May 2020