

Transport Planning Society

Meeting Date	11 March 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.

Transport for the South East Transport Forum

I attended the online Transport for the South East (TfSE) Transport Forum on 12 January 2021, representing TPS. The main items were the outcome of the rural mobility session, challenges and opportunities with the future energy supply in relation to transport, outcome of their carbon assessment work, and the usual updates on Area Studies, investment priorities for the Major Road Network, freight and future mobility strategies, and strategic consultation responses.

Key points I took away:

- There was a big challenge from some rural area representatives that the transport strategy is not addressing their needs as it focuses on inter-urban corridors. TfSE pushed back but there may be some validity in the challenge – do they need a rural transport strategy as well as the orbital and radial corridors?
- On the zero emissions fuels/vehicles topic, the discussion demonstrated that TfSE are not really clear on what their role should be with regard to promoting and encouraging low emission vehicle use. A lot of interventions around cost and infrastructure provision seem to be the role of central government. Conclusions were that TfSE needs to show leadership, lobby government, develop a strategy for low emission vehicle use and for infrastructure provision to support this (i.e. electric charging points), and educate people on sustainable transport
- The carbon assessment work was interesting as it showed that even with their most radically sustainable strategy scenario and stretching government assumptions on low emission vehicle uptake, they only get close to net zero (within 5% of 2018 baseline) by 2050. There was no time to discuss this so I suggested they include it in a future session

as it seems a pretty significant conclusion, and to me suggests they need to review other work on Area Studies and the Major Road Network in response to this.

TPS Skills Group

The TPS Skills Group comprises me, Kate Morris (Company Secretary), David Connolly (Treasurer), Keith Buchan (Skills Director) and Mark Frost. We held a call on 12 January 2021.

In this meeting we discussed, Revisions to TPP guidance and subsequent changes to the PDS, Preparing for TPTech to be used for apprenticeship End Point Assessment (EPA), Skills retention scheme, Apprenticeships and degree apprenticeship, PDS reviews and PDS mentor training.

Rail Delivery Group Meeting

Isabelle Milford and I met with Seb Gordon (Director External Communications) and Anna Pandoulas (External Affairs Manager) at the Rail Delivery Group (RDG) on 18 January 2021.

We talked about how TPS and RDG can work together more in future. We found lots of topics of common interest that we can work together on, including decarbonisation, diversity and inclusion (for TP Day), transport pricing, and a sustainable recovery from the pandemic. We also shared key TPS contacts for our Business Manager, Policy and Events leads, and links to some of our recent publications and activities.

Inauguration of the 2021 RTPI President

I attended the online inauguration of Wei Yang FRTPI as President of the RTPI in 2021 on 20 January 2021 on the RTPI's YouTube channel. This included Sue Manns RTPI 2020 President valedictory speech and Wei Yang's President inauguration speech, in which she called for a revival of spirit and for a modernised planning profession to proactively address the challenges of the 21st century, including the climate and biodiversity emergency. Notably, Wei Yang is the first BAME President of the RTPI.

TPS Annual Stakeholder Forum

We held our annual stakeholder forum on 20 January 2021. I hosted the event and many thanks to Keith, Justin and Andy for contributions (and Jo W for Bursary notes), and to other Board members who attended the Forum, particularly David Connolly who mentioned the limited liability issue.

I gave an update on our activities over the last year and plans for this year. Keith spoke about Skills, Justin about Policy activities and Andy picked up various points on the business. As usual, we didn't get a lot of feedback, although we got a nice comment in the chat from Nicola Kane of TfGM: "I've been very impressed by the range of activities TPS has delivered over the past year or so including some high quality consultation responses and thought-pieces. Thank you for everyone's hard work on this."

Some key points we raised:

- There was general support (and no objections) to David's proposal on limited liability, even from a client organisation (Dominic McGrath at Hampshire CC).
- I offered a chance to join us as a partner/sponsor for TP Day this year. Didn't get a direct response but some general indications of support from TfGM (likely to be more in-kind support) and from Podaris (a new member).

- I asked if members had any diversity and inclusion interest groups that might support TP Day this year, in terms of blogs, speakers, etc. Nicola Waight from Hampshire CC offered to connect us with their Better Balance group.
- I also mentioned a possible transport planning showcase with the Transport Select Committee, which a few members supported, which I have since actioned.

Transport Planning Day Steering Group Meeting

I attended a steering group meeting on 26 January 2021 and 23 February 2021. We discussed Financing and sponsorship, the new 2021 logo, and brainstormed the outline campaign plan for activities and events this year, as well as Governance after I step down as Chair and from the Board.

I have also held separate calls with Jo Field of JFG Comms and Daniel Parker-Klein and Brogan McPherson of PTRC about support for the campaign this year. More details in the TP Day report.

Sustainable Transport & Planning Reform MHCLG Roundtable

I attended this event with Lynda Addison on 27 January 2021. The meeting included the MHCLG's Chief Planner, Joanna Averley, and the DfT's Deputy Director for Local Transport, Andrew Morrison.

We discussed the timing, current direction and scope for change in the MHCLG planning review, the DfT's work to support the Planning reform programme, including managing demand and decarbonisation, the key changes we (CIHT, TPS, RTPI, TfNH) want to see, and had a discussion on how the reform programme could deliver on outcomes for sustainable transport. We also discussed Capacity and capability, where I highlighted the need to promote transport planning skills and CTPP in local authorities to support the reform. It was a good discussion with some senior figures from MHCLG and DfT and we plan to continue the engage to support them on the planning reforms and the integration of spatial planning and transport.

Roads v Rail: Reducing carbon emissions by 2030

I chaired this joint CILT / TPS event organised by Isabelle Milford and the PTRC Education and Research Services team on 28 January 2021.

The event featured a presentation by Lynn Sloman and Lisa Hopkinson on their research on a programme-level estimate of the likely carbon impact of the government's second Road Investment Strategy, RIS2 and a presentation by Stephen Hart, Lead Strategic Planner from Network Rail, on the role of rail in supporting decarbonisation of the UK economy and what rail is doing to achieve the legislative decarbonisation targets.

We then had a panel discussion also including Ivan le Fevre, Head of Environment at Highways England and Julian Worth, Chair of the CILT(UK) Rail Freight Group, where we asked the panel how difficult it is to reduce carbon in transport and what each industry

(highways and railways) could do to help achieve the targets the UK government committed to.

Steve Melia meeting

On 1 February 2021 Isabelle Milford and I met with Steve Melia from the University of the West of England, after an introduction from Jonathan Flower. The meeting was regarding Steve's new book, 'Roads Runways and Resistance – from the Newbury Bypass to Extinction Rebellion', and a possible event on this topic, which we are currently considering. His book tells a 30-year story of the most controversial issues in transport, and the protest movements they spawned. Steve offered a talk to TPS and a discount on the book for our members.

RCA Project Brief: Our Future Places & Journeys with Lynda Addison

On 3 February 2021 I attended this briefing to MHCLG and DfT on our RCA project. The meeting included the MHCLG's Chief Planner, Joanna Averley, and the DfT's Robert Singleton. Dan Phillips from the RCA and Lynda Addison presented the project and there was a discussion about how we might continue the work in the next phase. Joanna Averley asked us to respond with a more detailed ask on funding, which is currently in preparation.

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 10 February 2021.

In this meeting we discussed Co-optee spaces on the Board, Succession plans for Chair, Treasurer and Business Manager, Finance update, TPS Annual General Meeting, Contractual arrangements for those people considered to be employed by TPS, the new Service Level Agreement (SLA) for 2021 with ICE, the proposed TPS Advisory Group (separate report for March Board meeting), and TP Day plans.

TPS Transport Planning Showcase Proposal to Transport Select Committee

On 11 February 2021 I wrote to the Chair of the Transport Select Committee, Huw Merriman MP, proposing a 'Transport Planning Showcase' event for TSC, arranged by the TPS. I am awaiting a response.

Our thinking is that this could be a session where transport planners share great examples of policies and trials and schemes which have actually worked in achieving the various aims of mode shift, decarbonisation, behaviour change, and so on. This would focus on specific topics to be agreed (e.g. reducing the need to travel, securing mode shift to sustainable transport, increasing uptake of low emission vehicles, recovering from the pandemic, integration of planning and transport) and would demonstrate what works on the ground and in particular what could be scaled up across the country to achieve your objectives.

I also shared with Huw links to our State of the Nations and RCA Our Future Towns reports.

Testing the planning functions of Active Travel England

On 17 February 2021, I was consulted on the 'planning functions of Active Travel England' by Sustrans, as part of a project they are running on behalf of the DfT. It was a fairly brief discussion but I gave a view largely based on our planning white paper response and my

general view on what ATE needs to do. It struck me that there is a lot of linkage with the discussions we've been having with MHCLG/DfT on planning reforms, so a few of my comments related to this, particularly about the need for joined up government.

Stephen Bennett, TPS Chair

6 March 2021