

Transport Planning Society

Meeting Date	10 September 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.

There is a huge amount of activity in TPS in a number of areas at the moment. I would like to thank those Board members who have been active and contributed to this activity. I am also aware that some Board members are struggling to make time to contribute – I understand the constraints and challenges, but we do need everyone to share the load. If you are struggling then please let me know so we can bring in others, potentially non-Board members, to support activity so it doesn't fall to remaining Board members.

Transport Planning in New Zealand

Following an approach from transport planners in New Zealand about setting up a branch or similar organisation out there, Keith, Andy and I joined a call to discuss this. We provided advice from our experience in UK and advised them to convene an informal group as an initial step. They were particularly interested in our professional qualifications, chartership and code of conduct. We will stay in touch and are looking at linking their first meeting to Transport Planning Day in November. This demonstrates the strength of our brand and experience globally.

Transport for the South East Transport Forum

I attended the online Transport for the South East (TfSE) Transport Forum on 30 June 2020, representing TPS. The main agenda items were additional work on Covid-19 pandemic impacts on the Transport Strategy and methodology for their Carbon Impact Assessment.

Nothing major to report, in particular the Covid work looked comprehensive and sensible to look at impacts on their transport strategy.

TPP Partnership Management Group

I attended this meeting with Keith Buchan on 2 July 2020. Main agenda items were TPP budget, CTPP Marketing update, Report from the Professional Standards Committee, TPS PDS update, and Launch of CIHT Professional Development Framework. No major issues to note, although Keith and I did make clear our concerns about the new CIHT PDF and its impact on TPP and TPS in general.

Transport Select Committee Chair Meeting

Jo Field and I had a call with Huw Merriman MP on 3 July 2020 to introduce TPS and ask if he would host our TP Day Parliamentary Reception, as Lilian Greenwood did in previous years. We had a productive discussion where he agreed to this and also asked for our views on various issues. He is keen to engage with TPS and hear our views on topics. We are working with his office to arrange the event in October, although this will now be online rather than in person.

TPS Business Plan

I spent some time over the summer months working on the TPS Business Plan and circulated a draft to Board members in August for early feedback. This is the subject of a separate Board report for this meeting.

TPS Skills Group Meeting

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 14 July 2020.

In this meeting we discussed Future Skills team structure, Skills Retention Scheme, Website updates and additions, CIHT latest on PDF including report back from PSC and PMG, and TPP latest: review results and revised guidance.

Transport Planning Day Steering Group

I chaired the Transport Planning day Steering Group meetings on 15 July and 19 August 2020. The agendas covered Updated Comms plan overview, Parliamentary reception, TP Day event (Speakers, online or at ICE, Agenda / event plan, Guest list), Poster Comp/Seaford piece update, CPRE update, Stakeholder Engagement, State of Nation, Update on RCA project, Update on regional activity, Update on academia.

Further details and latest update is in the separate TP Day Board report at this meeting.

Over the summer I also negotiated and agreed an extension of the JFG contract for August and am in the process of discussing and agreeing scope and fee for Sep-Nov 2020. All decisions on these commercial matters are taken by the TP Day Steering Group in consultation with the Officers Group.

Transport Planning State of the Nation Report

I have spent time in a number of meetings and discussions on this initiative, with Justin Bishop who is leading on it from the Board. We held meetings with the University of Hertfordshire on 17 July, 11 and 18 August 2020.

We are currently developing a draft report and further details are provided in the separate Board report for this meeting.

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 27 July 2020.

In this meeting we discussed Business Plan and Officers Group Plan, Employment contracts, the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with ICE, Room bookings at ICE, Co-optee places on the Board, Annual Review, State of the Nation project, TP Day, Annual Dinner, TPOTY award and the CIHT PDF.

DfT Transport Decarbonisation Plan Workshop

I attended a DfT workshop discussion on 'Accelerating modal shift to public and active travel' as part of its Transport Decarbonisation Plan development on 29 July 2020. This was a good discussion with a wide range of stakeholders and the outcome will feed into the DfT's upcoming TDP.

Local Transport Today Online Discussion 'Transport Planning Skills after the Furlough'

I attended this event on the panel as TPS Chair on 31 July 2020. It was a good discussion and we had good feedback from LTT. A write-up by LTT is [here](#). We have published this as a TPS [news item](#) also. Thanks to Keith Buchan for a briefing beforehand.

RCA Project: Our Future Places, Our Future Journeys Board Meeting no.2

I attended this meeting on 11 August 2020 to get an update on the project. The main agenda items were Project update (including contract progress, project team at RCA, initial activities and findings, involvement from stakeholders), Communications to date, Communications strategy, Publicity protocol, Stakeholder future input, Progress against project programme. Thanks to Susan Cross who chaired the meeting and leads on this project for the TPS Board.

Planning White Paper Consultation

Following the launch of the [Government's consultation](#) on the Planning for the Future, we held a meeting with RTPI and CIHT on 12 August 2020 and agreed to work on a response jointly. TPS will also prepare an individual response, but this will feed into the joint response. Lynda Addison and I joined the call and Lucy Taussig is supporting. We have mobilized the TPS Planning and Transport Group who have provided inputs to a response

and we are continuing to work on this. We welcome any inputs from Board members who have an interest in this area.

Transport Practitioners Meeting Conference

This conference was held online on 2-3 September 2020. Clare Woodcock made initial arrangements and many thanks to Andy Costain for stepping in to finalise the plans with PTRC, sort out sponsorship and judging and presentation of the awards. Thanks also to those Board members who took part in the judging of papers.

TPS sponsored two sessions at the conference which I chaired, and I also presented our Transport Planner of the Year and Best Paper by a Young Professional award at the awards ceremony.

European Transport Conference

After engagement with the organising committee we secured a Special Session at this conference to talk about TPS and transport planning skills. Tim Morton (ex Board member) kindly made the arrangements and Keith Buchan and I will be speaking at the event on 9 September 2020.

Diversity and Inclusion

We were approached by Eshwyn Prabhu of LB Islington who asked if we could advise on whether there are any organisations that specifically represent and organise transport professionals from black and minority ethnic groups, as he is interested in reaching out to those groups as part of future recruitment drives. Joanna Ward and I had a discussion with Eshwyn on 21 August 2020 to support this and invite Eshwyn to set up a sub-group within TPS to support our diversity and inclusion programme. Discussion have been positive and are ongoing.

This has coincided with an approach from a TPS member at Arup, Aman Gill, who contacted us about celebrating Black History Month in October to attract BAME candidates into STEM careers. We are engaging with Aman on this.

Women in Transport

On 21 August 2020 Jo Ward, Andy Costain and I had a further call with the President of Women in Transport, Katie Hlland, to discuss how we could support them with their current challenges. We agreed that Andy and Katie will work together on (zero cost to TPS) measures to support WIT (e.g. we have put them as a partner on our website now) and to look at models of how the organisations could work more closely together for the benefit of both sides.

TPS Annual Review

I reviewed and signed off the TPS Annual Review which has now been published. Many thanks to Justin Bishop for coordinating this and to all Board members who contributed.

Stephen Bennett, TPS Chair
4 September 2020