

PRESS RELEASE

Barry Horne of Nottingham City Council honoured as Transport Planner of the Year 2008

Barry Horne, Director of Environment and Regeneration at Nottingham City Council, was awarded the Transport Planning Society's Transport Planner of the Year Award, at the PTRC Transport Practitioners' Meeting in Reading on 15 July.

The award was made in recognition of Nottingham's achievement in being the first English local authority to publish an Order to introduce a workplace parking levy.

Making the award, Bill Wyley, TPS Chair, said:

"The Workplace Parking Levy is an important tool in the urban traffic demand management toolkit introduced by the 2000 Transport Act. Yet eight years on, Nottingham is the only authority to have stayed the course and got to the stage of making an Order. That has required careful work, perseverance and leadership from Barry and his team, and that is what we recognise today. Nottingham can now look forward to a scheme which will reduce peak period commuter traffic, lead to the more productive use of scarce employment land, and fund a package of transport improvements in Nottingham, including extensions to the Nottingham tram system."

Thanking TPS for the award, Barry Horne said:

"We have persevered with this scheme because it is right for Nottingham. It is cheap to introduce, easy to run and will be set to raise exactly the amount of money we need for our package of transport improvements and no more. Getting to where we are today has been a team effort over a period of years, and consistent political commitment has been the key to success. I hope other transport authorities will take another look at workplace parking levy to see if it can work for them too, and hopefully we won't be feeling lonely for too long!"

If ratified by Secretary of State for Transport Ruth Kelly in next few months, the Nottingham Workplace Parking Levy scheme will come into force in 2010.

PICTURE: Barry Horne receiving the award from TPS Chair Bill Wyley

Notes for Editors

The Transport Planning Society is dedicated to facilitating, developing and promoting knowledge, understanding and best practice in transport planning. It provides a focus for all those engaged in transport planning, from a full range of relevant backgrounds and other professional affiliations. It is supported by the ICE, IHT, CILT and RTPI.
<http://www.tps.org.uk/>

The TPS Transport Planner of the Year award was inaugurated in 2003, and "is awarded to a member of the profession for their involvement in delivering a policy or initiative, possibly controversial, which has required courage and vision to win hearts and minds." Previous winners have been:

2003 Derek Turner, TfL, for implementation of the Central London Congestion Charge;
2004 Keith Mitchell, PBA, for the Transport Planning Skills Initiative;
2005 Andrew Forster, LTT, for Local Transport Today;
2006 Ali Claburn, Liftshare, for Liftshare.com;
2007 Michele Dix & Malcolm Murray-Clark, TfL, for implementation of the Central London Congestion Charge Western Extension.

The citation for the award is as follows:

"Eight years after the powers to introduce a workplace parking levy (WPL) were granted to local authorities by the Transport Act 2000, on 12 May Nottingham became the first English local authority to publish an Order to introduce a scheme.

An exemplary process has been followed, including a wide public consultation and an independent Examination in Public in October 2007, as documented at www.nottinghamwpl.com. The Council has worked hard to sell the scheme, which will simultaneously incentivise reduction in single occupancy car commuting trips and help pay for attractive alternatives, including an extension of the Nottingham Tram.

The Council has persevered with a simple, low collection-cost WPL despite the temptations of TIF and technology-heavy congestion charging, because it is a simple solution suiting the city's needs. Nottingham has had the nerve to stick with WPL, even after it was no longer flavour of the month, and it will provide an invaluable real-life test case for transport planners across UK, succeed or fail."