

TRANSPORT PLANNING SKILLS INITIATIVE

**Existing Arrangements for
Professional Qualifications**

Executive Summary

February 2003

Prepared for:

Transport Planning Skills Initiative

Prepared by:

The TPSI Task 9 Group with
support from Halcrow

About the Transport Planning Skills Initiative

Delivering sustainable and integrated transport systems for the future is one of the major challenges facing the world over the next decade and beyond. Making sure that there are enough skilled practitioners to take forward this mission is fundamental to achieving this, whilst sustaining a successful economy and the daily needs of a vibrant society.

The Transport Planning Skills Initiative (TPSI) has been created to provide a clear focus for a programme of action to increase the number of transport planners in the UK, who will need the range and depth of skills essential for the effective delivery of the Government's Ten Year Transport Plan, the transport strategies of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and implementation locally through Local Transport Plans.

The initiative is being managed under the auspices of the Transport Planning Society by a Management Group drawn from the professional institutions, employers, training providers and the Department for Transport.

The specific objectives of the initiative are:

- To increase the size of the skills pool
- To increase the range and level of skills
- To raise awareness of the profession among the public and among opinion makers

TPSI is seeking to raise awareness of transport planning as a career particularly among sixth formers and undergraduates, as well as professionals with other backgrounds but who may wish to move into the transport field. The initiative is also seeking to provide broader, more accessible and reactive provision of education for new entrants and training for the Continuing Professional Development of those people already working in the field.

The Transport Planning Skills Initiative

is co-ordinated by the
Transport Planning Society

For a copy of the TPSI Action Plan and information on how you can support the Initiative please contact:

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Acknowledgement

This guide to the Existing Arrangements for Professional Qualifications has been prepared by the Task 9 Working Group of the Transport Planning Skills Initiative chaired by David Bayliss and with financial support from Halcrow as part of their contribution to the Transport Planning Skills Initiative. Representatives of all five professional bodies participated in the Working Group.

The Management Group of the TPSI would like to acknowledge the considerable time and other resources that the Working Group has put into this report.

A hard copy of the full report (some 60 pages) is available free of charge to all TPSI sponsors and stakeholders and at a cost of £50 to all others. Copies may be ordered by email from Andy Costain, TPSI Project Manager at acostain@compuserve.com

TRANSPORT PLANNING SKILLS INITIATIVE

EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

There are five professional bodies involved in offering recognition to transport planners; the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Royal Town Planning Institute, the Institute of Logistics and Transport, the Institution of Highways and Transportation and the Institute of Highway Incorporated Engineers. Collectively these provide routes to recognition at the levels of senior chartered professional level (F/MRTPI, FCIT & CEng), ordinary professional level (IEng, MCIT) and technician level (Eng Tech & Tech RTPI). Only one body (the ICE) provides recognition at all three levels. The first four of these are institutional sponsors of the Transport Planning Society. The Transport Vocational Group is developing National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications at all three levels. None of these organisations except TVG has a dedicated recognition for transport planners per se.

To varying degrees all require a mixture of educational achievement and practical experience for recognition and all have procedures for assessing candidates' competence.

It is generally possible to achieve professional recognition by these bodies with little competence in transport planning and for the ICE, without any assessed competence. All organisations expect or require their members to undertake continuing professional development.

There are many university and some other courses that meet the requirements for educational achievements for professional recognition by these bodies and, although not all types of courses are available in all regions in all learning formats, lack of choice should not present an insurmountable obstacle to achieving the required education. Cost is another matter and where candidates choose a path involving a postgraduate degree the costs can be very high and the availability of grants to meet these is limited.

As practical experience is usually acquired "on the job" there should be little extra cost in obtaining this, however there are (modest) costs associated with this being appraised. After education the main costs are associated with membership fees and continuing professional development. Lifetime costs (mainly annual subscriptions) for professional recognition to the most senior level can reach £8,000. These costs are higher for the RTPI and the ICE where professional certification is of greater importance to career prospects.

Some of the key characteristics of the recognition procedures are listed in the following three tables. In short, whilst there are plenty of routes to a form of professional recognition for transport planners none of the qualifications awarded is a guarantee of professional competence in that specialisation. Moreover the suite of qualifications is not complete in that at the "planning" end of the spectrum, represented by the RTPI, there is no incorporated level, and at the operational end represented by the ILT there is neither a clear incorporated nor technician level.

TABLE A - Full Chartered Membership

Organisation ⇒ Parameter ↓	RTPI	ICE	ILT	IHT
Qualification	M/FRTPI	CEng	MICT	Ceng
Chartering Body	RTPI	Engineering Council	CILT (International)	Engineering Council
Minimum Educational Requirement	Bachelor's degree or degree + diploma (4yr) or 2 yr post graduate degree or diploma	MEng*	Bachelor's degree	Meng*
Requirement for Undergraduate entry	Relevant subjects indicated	Intake standard specified (EC)	No	Intake standard specified (EC)
Range of educational routes	Fairly wide	Limited	Wide	Limited
Internal Examination	No	EC examination	Yes	EC Examination
Transport content essential	No - but expected on accredited courses	No	Yes	Yes
Specific Transport Planning Class	No	No	No	No
“Industrial” experience requirement	Yes – 2 years	Yes – normally 4 years	Yes – varies but normally 5 years	Yes
Formal training scheme	Not required	Preferred	Not required	Not required
Professional review required	Not normally	Yes – report plus interview	Not normally	Yes – report plus interview
CPD	Required	Required	Required	Required
Cost of membership	High	High	Quite high	Moderate
Chartered members	14,451	Approx 42,000 in the UK	6,150 in the UK	

* 4 Year undergraduate degrees

TABLE B - Incorporated Membership

Organisation ⇒ Parameter ↓	ICE	IHT	IHIE
Qualification	IEng	IEng	IEng
Chartering Body	Engineering Council	Engineering Council	Engineering Council
Minimum Educational Requirement	BSc or equivalent	BEng or equivalent	BSc or equivalent
Requirement for Undergraduate entry	Intake standard specified (EC)	Intake standard specified (EC)	Intake standard specified (EC)
Range of educational routes	Wide	Wide	Wide
Internal Examination	No	No	No
Transport content essential	No	No	No
Specific Transport Planning Class	No	No	No
“Industrial” experience requirement	Yes - normally 4 years	Yes - normally 4 years	Yes - normally 3 years
Formal training scheme	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended
Professional review required	Yes	Yes	Yes
CPD	Required	Required	Required – 5 days a year
Cost of Recognition	Quite high	Quite high	Quite high
No. of members	3,000 approx		1,450 approx

TABLE C - Technician Membership

Organisation ⇒ Parameter ↓	RTPI	ICE	IHIE
Qualification	Tech RTPI	EngTech	Eng Tech
Chartering Body	RTPI	Engineering Council	Engineering Council
Minimum Educational Requirement	N/SVQ level 3 or equivalent	NVQ level 3, AVDC, ND/C or equivalent	NC, NVQ level 3 or equivalent
Range of educational routes	Wide range	Wide Range	Wide range
Internal Examination	No	No	No
Transport content essential	No	No	No
Specific Transport Planning Class	No	No	No
“Industrial” experience requirement	Yes – normally 2 years	Yes – normally 3 years	Yes – normally 3 years
Formal training scheme	No	Recommended	Recommended
Professional review required	No	Yes	Yes
CPD	Required	Required	Required
Cost of Recognition	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
No. of members	115	Approx 700 in the UK	250 approx