

Launch of New IHT/TPS Transport Planning Qualification

In the Notice of our Special General Meeting on 21st November, sent out to all members by our then Secretary Annette Smith prior to that meeting, we explained that the Society is working in partnership with the IHT to provide a new Professional Transport Planner qualification.

At the meeting there was unanimous agreement to the creation of the new class of Designated Member – for those members of the Society who will have satisfied the requirements of the new qualification and who wish to use the designation PTP.

I am therefore very pleased to be able to advise you that the qualification was formally launched by IHT President, Mike Slinn at their annual lunch today.

As I said in the associated Press Release “This qualification is an important step in the recognition of transport planning as a distinctive multi-disciplinary profession, towards which the Society has been working for several years. I am therefore delighted that, through partnership with IHT, we will now be able to offer it to our members.”

In launching the qualification, Mike Slinn, IHT President said:
“IHT provides professional qualifications that give new members of our profession something to aim for. For many years we have provided a Chartered Engineer qualification for highways and transport engineers. But not all of our members are engineers; about 40% consider themselves to be transport planners”.

“We are pleased to announce the launch of a new qualification for transport planners which the IHT will provide, in partnership with TPS. The qualification is named Professional Transport Planner and will have a similar entry requirement and status as Chartered Engineer”.

The Press Release also explained that, in a recent IHT consultation, over 100 transport planning organisations were contacted regarding the content and structure of the PTP which has the active support of the Department for Transport and the Highways Agency, and many prospective candidates completed the PTP questionnaire on IHT’s website.

Candidates for the qualification will need to demonstrate an appreciation of a broad range of transport planning procedures and techniques, and a competence to work in some of them. The current intention is that a pilot group of 15 candidates should be selected in March 2008 for assessment in June. And I hope very much that an appropriate number of those candidates will be TPS members – details of the specific requirements will be available early in the new year, alongside briefings for employers.

May I, finally, take this opportunity to wish you and yours a happy Christmas and a very good 2008.

Bill Wyley
Chair