

Planning Officers Society Annual General Meeting 10 July 2026 Report by POS Enterprises

Headlines of 2025/26

- 1 The projected profit for the 2025/26 financial year is about £28,000 (subject to confirmation by the accountants). This is down on the profit of £38,000 in 2024/25.
- 2 Once we have the formal accounts, the whole of the final amount of profit will be paid across to the Society by deed of gift.
- 3 Being a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Society we share its values and objectives, while providing services and support to authorities and others on a fee basis. Directors put great value on the relationship, and the way the reputation and standing of the Society reflects favourably on POS Enterprises as a trusted provider of support.

Activities

- 4 POS Enterprises focuses on activities which support planning authorities and their staff in dealing with change and new challenges.
- 5 We are very pleased with the continued success of the younger planners' groups, which are provided free on behalf of the Society. We have four groups this year, with a combined membership of 90. It is interesting that membership has fallen into four groups of similar size, covering local planning, development management, and two groups covering both.
- 6 The biggest area of support continues to be the supported learning groups, which are unique to us, and in 2025/6 accounted for over 70% of income. We continue with the local planning group, three CIL and infrastructure groups, the minerals and waste group, the development management and localism group, and the neighbourhood planning group.
- 7 The supported learning groups continue to operate entirely virtually, which reflects the preferences and realities of participants. There is a range of formats, so that some groups have two half day meetings where they previously met all day, whereas others have morning or part day meetings.
- 8 Membership of the learning groups has held up well, with the overall number of participating authorities only a little down from last year due mainly to financial pressures. This is very much a tribute to the project teams for those groups, who have worked hard to make virtual meetings rewarding to group members.
- 9 The remainder of activity takes the form of direct support to planning authorities. The amount of direct support to LPAs continues to decline, which it is felt reflects ongoing uncertainties about change to the planning system.

Looking ahead

- 10 The Government has continued with changes to the planning system, with the new local plan regime now operational, and review of the NPPF to incorporate decision-making policies,

- 11 The introduction of mandatory spatial development strategies will create new challenges for planning authorities across the country, which we shall seek to support.
- 12 Decisions are now emerging on the reorganisation of local government in some two-tier areas, and first indications is that the number of local planning authorities will be reduced by about a half. The Board will have a special meeting once the decisions for the remaining areas are published, to consider how best to respond to keep POS Enterprises viable and effective. This will include seeing the reorganisation itself as a business opportunity.

Our thanks

- 13 A key function of POS Enterprises Directors is to bring their knowledge and awareness about current challenges into our business planning and decisions on priorities for new services. Thanks are due to our Directors for their efforts on behalf of POS Enterprises over the past year: Stuart Dunoon-Stevens, Victoria Geoghegan, Peter Geraghty, Anneleise Hutchinson, Richard Morris, Paul Seddon, Karen Shaw and Penelope Tollitt.
- 14 The Directors are very grateful to our support team of Andrew Wright and Linda Durtnal for their hard work and commitment in sustaining services and developing new opportunities; and to our associates for their energy and exemplary commitment to supporting good planning.

July 2026