



Report to: Cabinet

Subject: Travel Plan

Date: 7th December 2006

Author: Head of Planning and Environment

Purpose of Report

To introduce the Travel Plan for information.

Background

In June 2006 the findings of the staff travel survey were reported to SMT. These identified heavy reliance on single occupancy car journeys, both for travel to work and work related journeys. In response, the report identified the need to focus on;

- Reducing single occupancy car trips to work.
- Promoting the consideration of alternative modes of transport including walking, cycling, and public transport.
- Reviewing the requirements upon staff to use their own vehicles for work related journeys and consideration of alternative means of undertaking these.
- Promoting measures to reduce the need to travel.

Gedling Borough Council has joined Nottinghamshire County Councils TRANACT scheme and the Travel Plan has been produced in conjunction with this. Membership of the scheme also allows access to County Council grants for funding schemes promoting the use of alternative modes of travel.

Travel Plan Objectives

The Travel Plan identifies a series of challenging targets;

1. Identify Travel Plan Co-ordinator by January 2007.
2. Launch travel Plan in January 2007.
3. Establish car share database in February 2007.
4. Increase number of staff walking from 10.5% to 15% of all modes by October 2008.

5. Increase number of staff cycling from 2.5% to 5% of all modes by October 2008.
6. Increase number of staff travelling by bus from 4.7% to 15% of all modes by October 2008.
7. Increase number of staff car sharing from 10% to 15 % of all modes by October 2009.
8. Reduce single car occupancy journeys (including travel to work) from 66% to less than 50% of all modes by October 2009.

The measures proposed to assist this include;

1. Appoint Travel Plan Co-ordinator.
2. Introduce car parking management policy at Civic Centre campus In January 2007, including dedicated spaces for car sharers and controlling the number of staff vehicles by the introduction of permits.
3. Review the use of agreements with local car hire companies to cater for 'just in case' work related trips.
4. Review the contractual requirements of essential users to have their car available for work at all times. This may require amendments to staff terms and conditions.
5. Encourage working from home and remote working to reduce the need to travel.
6. Introduce an intranet based car share data base.
7. Consider the introduction of a further 20 secure cycle parking spaces at Civic centre and others around campus buildings.
8. Provide public transport information to all members of staff.
9. Investigate the negotiation of reduced fare public transport tickets.

Progress against the targets will be monitored by the Travel Plan Co-ordinator, by means of checks on facility usage and a further staff travel survey, and will reported back to SMT.

Funding

Grant is available from the County Council on the basis that spending is made by the end of March 2007. In approved cases, spending will be made from existing budgets and refunded by the County Council.

At present it is proposed that;

- 20 covered and lit cycling spaces be installed in the courtyard to the West of the entrance of the Civic Centre. The use of integral sustainable energy generation will be considered as part of this.
- Contributions will be made to the cost of the car parking management works at the Civic Centre campus to introduce dedicated car share parking spaces.

Benefits of adopting the Travel Plan

The targets are hard –hitting and will not be straight forward to achieve. However the adoption of a travel plan, and the active support for the measures proposed will have a number of benefits for the Council and its staff. These include;

- Helping to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and attendant reduction in Carbon Dioxide emissions.
- Promotion of healthy lifestyle alternatives in staff transport mode choices
- Greater awareness of alternative transport modes.
- Promotion of the Borough Council as a considerate employer and as a promoter of sustainable transport.

Recommendation

That the Travel Plan is noted.