

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

10th August 2006

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET DECISION

**Regeneration & Transport – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Bob Cook
Environment – Lead Cabinet Member – Cllr Steve Nelson
Adult Services, Health – Lead Cabinet Member – Cllr Ann Cains**

CORPORATE TRAVEL PLAN

1. Summary

The purpose of this report is to agree the adoption of a revised travel plan for the Council setting out actions that will deliver a modal shift towards more sustainable forms of travel for staff whilst at work and on their way to and from work.

2. Recommendations

That the travel plan entitled “Up and Running” attached at Appendix 1 is adopted as the Corporate Travel Plan for the Authority.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

Travel plans are required as a planning condition for significant developments as a means to alleviate the growth in traffic volumes and to encourage more sustainable modes of transport.

As a major employer in the Borough this travel plan will support the delivery of elements of the Second Stockton on Tees Local Transport Plan 2006-2011.

4. Members Interests

Members (including co-opted members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (paragraph 8) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard

as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (paragraph 10 of the code of conduct).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting is being held, whilst the matter is being considered; not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (paragraph 12 of the Code).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc.; whether or not they are a member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting, and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room during consideration of the relevant item.

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MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Cabinet Member: Councillor R Cook, Regeneration & Transport
Cabinet Member: Councillor S Nelson, Environment
Cabinet Member: Councillor A Cains, Adult Services, Health

CORPORATE TRAVEL PLAN

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to agree the adoption of a revised travel plan for the Council setting out actions that will deliver a modal shift towards more sustainable forms of travel for staff whilst at work and on their way to and from work.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Travel plan attached at **Appendix 1** is adopted.

DETAIL

1. This travel plan reflects the need to address the environmental impact of the Council's activities in terms of staff travelling to and from work and carrying out their duties whilst at work.
2. It has been estimated that car commuting contributes almost 20% of all United Kingdom energy use, whilst cars traveling on business contribute a further 10%.
3. The survey conducted as part of the development process for this travel plan revealed that 84% of those who were interviewed traveled to work by car of which 89% traveled alone.
4. Over 2.4 million business miles were claimed by staff in the year 2004/05, which apart from the cost to the Authority has a significant impact on the environment.
5. The aim of the travel plan is to offer incentives, provide alternatives and encourage a modal shift away from single occupier car journeys.

6. Evidence has shown that even the most basic travel plans can achieve reductions of 3-5% in the numbers of people travelling to work alone in the car (DfT "Making Travel Plans Work", 2002).
7. Nearly all of the significant new developments within the Borough are required to have a travel plan framework as a condition of the planning consent. As the single biggest employer in the borough it is right that we lead by example in adopting a travel plan that mirrors the aims of these local and national policies.
8. As the biggest employer in the Borough, Stockton Council needs to develop and implement its own workplace travel plan and also work with other businesses in the Borough to develop their own workplace travel plans.
9. This Plan has been designed to deliver a range of benefits and should not be seen as anti-car:

The Council will benefit from increased productivity and efficiency generated by a healthier, more motivated workforce.

Council staff will benefit from improved health, cost and time savings, reduced stress and a general improvement in their quality of life.

The local community will enjoy reduced congestion, reduced journey times, improved public transport services, energy savings and reduced overspill parking in residential areas, and

The local environment will benefit from improved air quality, less noise and dirt, and the reduced impact of other national and global environmental problems such as global warming.

10. The two key factors in making a travel plan work are the financial incentives or disincentives related to travel and the availability of parking. This travel plan will establish infrastructures to support the modal shift as well as a range of incentives and disincentives to encourage positive action.
11. The current policies in respect of travel and parking are heavily weighted towards the car driver such as free parking, car loans and allowances with very little recognition of more sustainable forms of transport. A review of these policies will be carried out in full consultation with trade unions and staff representatives.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial

None as costs will be met from existing resources.

Legal

None.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The travel plan is a low to medium risk as the existing staff consultation procedures are in place to deal with any changes that may arise from the implementation of this plan.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD COUNCILLORS

Trade unions to be consulted on policy issues relating to staff terms and conditions.

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Background Papers:

Corporate Travel Plan.

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors

N/A

Property Implications

None.