

University of Exeter Travel Plan 2016-2020 update

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the report is noted.

1. Introduction

In 2016, the University of Exeter produced a Travel Plan for the Exeter Campuses 2016-2020. The content of this report is based on information provided by the University of Exeter.

Travel Plans are voluntary documents (unless conditioned through planning applications) and the University of Exeter is one of the leading organisations in the city for seeking to increase non-car mode share through its Travel Plan. As part of its sustainable transport fund workplace engagement programme, Devon County Council engages with several major businesses around the city and cites the University's Travel Plan as an example of good practice. The University performs very well compared to other higher education 'leading Travel Plan' institutions and to the average Travel to Work mode share for Exeter. 24% of staff walk to work; 14% cycle; 9% travel by bus; 7% by train; 10% car share and 36% drive.

In addition to the Travel Plan update below, the County Council has also begun a review of parking in the St James' area (term time and out of term time) to assist with future proposals in the area, including the University Travel Plan work and potential cycle network improvements.

2. Travel Plan progress to date

The [Sustainable Travel Plan for the Exeter Campuses 2016-2020](#) has been formally adopted by the University of Exeter and there are no plans to renew/amend this particular document. There is nevertheless a dynamic action plan that combines the 110 actions highlighted in the plan (p21-36) with many others added on an ongoing basis. This includes actions added as a result of feedback from County Council officers and Councillors since the strategic plan was published in 2016.

The policy that is currently being reviewed is the University's car parking policy – the improvement of which was highlighted as one of the primary objectives in the 2016-2020 travel plan to assist in reducing the level of staff commuting by single car occupancy. This process will consider many aspects of car parking policy and operation including:

- Car parking permit allocation (geographical restrictions).
- Car parking permit price increases and banding.
- Sustainable travel initiatives such as car sharing incentives, car-free days, low-emission vehicle incentives.
- Car parking operational systems (automatic number plate recognition etc.).
- Investment of car parking revenue.

In addition, the University will submit a project-specific Travel Plan for new developments, linked to planning applications. Each of these would reference and become an addendum to the 2016-20 Travel Plan.

Listed below for information are some examples of recent and current developments related to sustainable travel at the University. Many of these link to actions identified in the 2016-20 Travel Plan; whilst others have been developed through review of the action plan and in response to feedback and new opportunities.

The University will continue to seek feedback and guidance – both locally and nationally – on matters relating to sustainable travel; and would be willing to respond to any questions raised by Members in response to this update.

3. Achievements during 2017

Listed below are the projects, initiatives and achievements since the adoption of the University's Travel Plan:

- Continued annual investment of ~£130k in bus service and discount subsidies.
- Further increases in patronage on the University's minibus scheme. This year-round scheme funded by the University consists of four minibuses which provide a range of free-to-use services for staff and students. These include an early morning pick-up route around the city (07:00-07:30); and continuous morning (07:45-10:30) and evening (15:50-18:30) shuttle services linking St David's Railway Station with the Exeter campuses.
- The University's designated Liftshare page now has over 700 staff members; with in excess of 130 registered car sharing teams.
- Participation in DCC/ECC-supported behaviour change campaigns to promote active travel (e.g. Love to Ride cycle challenge: 1st place in Devon and 2nd place nationally in 2017).
- A 14% increase from 2016 to 2017 in the recorded number of parked cycles across the campuses.
- An increase in the number of events (28 in total in 2017) on campus supporting and enabling sustainable travel to staff and students; including:
 - Twice-monthly engagement events with Travel Devon, Co-bikes, Sustrans etc.
 - New staff induction events
 - Prospective student open days and offer-holder visitor days
- All new students received sustainable travel information in their welcome pack on arrival in September 2017.
- Improved electronic and printed communications materials to students discouraging car use and promoting services to support sustainable travel.

4. Upcoming Activities

These are a list of current or upcoming initiatives:

- Installation of two electric bike docking stations on University land (St Luke's Campus and St David's Railway Station) – operational in January 2018. These are in addition to the successful docking station installed on Streatham Campus in September 2016.
- Further investment in additional cycle parking (including two-tier cycle racks) on campus.
- Establishing regular meetings with Stagecoach to discuss their ongoing service provision to the University campuses; and collaborative promotion of their services to staff and students. These have been agreed and recent meetings have been held with representatives from Stagecoach in November 2017 and January 2018.

- A data analysis exercise to review the effectiveness of the University's existing bus subsidies and services; to inform potential developments and investments.
- A project to provide new staff with a personalised travel plan and support to encourage sustainable travel (e.g. free bus taster tickets).
- To introduce registration to the University's designated Liftshare site as a mandatory field within the car parking permit application process.
- Development of an Electric Vehicle Strategy; and ongoing collaboration with DCC, ECC and other local stakeholders as part of the local Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) partnership; which recently submitted the DELETTI project application to DCLG.
- New student communications resources being produced promoting services to support sustainable travel and discouraging car use around the city.
- Participation in a 2017/18 pilot project targeting sustainable travel behaviour change through cycling, in partnership with Love to Ride, the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC) and the National Union of Students (NUS).

5. Financial Considerations

There are no financial considerations.

6. Environmental Impact Considerations

The Travel Plan is intended to incentivise uptake of non-car modes, which will minimise car-borne carbon emissions and air pollution.

7. Equality Considerations

The University of Exeter has an annual Equality and Diversity Action Plan, which details the key priorities on the University's equality and diversity agenda per academic year. In respect of the Travel Plan, at Exeter HATOC in November 2016, Members fed back that the action plan needs to include the needs of staff and students with disabilities.

8. Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal considerations associated with this report.

9. Risk Management Considerations

There are no known risks.

10. Public Health Impact

The scheme will have a positive public health impact by encouraging increased cycling and walking, which is associated with physical and mental health benefits.

11. Reasons for Recommendations

The report is for noting only.

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Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Electoral Divisions: Exeter (Duryard & Pennsylvania; St Sidwell's & St James; St David's & Haven Banks)

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper

Date

File Ref.

NIL

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Appendix I
To PTE/18/??

