

CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT – CLLR PHILIP WHITEHEAD

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

OFFICER CONTACT: Laura Gosling 01225 713481 email: laura.gosling@wiltshire.gov.uk

REFERENCE: HT-19-15

Wiltshire Council Travel Strategy

Purpose of Report

For the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to approve the Wiltshire Council Travel Strategy (see **Appendix 1**).

Consultation

Prior to the development of the Travel Strategy, a Travel Survey was undertaken in October 2013 to gain information on staff and councillors' travel behaviour and inform the process. The Travel Strategy has been approved by the Corporate Leadership Team.

Options Considered

No other options considered.

Reason for Decision

The Travel Strategy will help meet many aims, objectives and targets outlined in various Wiltshire Council plans, such as the Business Plan, Local Transport Plan, the Energy Change and Opportunity Strategy and Air Quality Strategy. In addition, Wiltshire Council wishes to gain full accreditation under the Workplace Wellbeing Charter; to do this the Council must have a Workplace Travel Strategy in place.

DECISION MADE

I approve that the attached Travel Strategy be approved.

This decision was published on 9 October 2015 and will come into force on 19 October 2015

The following supporting documents are attached:

Wiltshire Council Travel Strategy September 2015

The following supporting documents are available from the officer named above:

None

Date

.....signed.....

CLlr Philip Whitehead
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

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Purpose of Report

1. For the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to approve the Wiltshire Council Travel Strategy (see **Appendix 1**).

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. The [Business Plan 2013-2017](#) sets out Wiltshire Council's priorities for those four years:
 - Protect those who are most vulnerable.
 - Boost the local economy.
 - Bring communities together to enable and support them to do more for themselves.

The Travel Strategy sets out policies to help address these priorities in respect of transport.

Main Considerations for the Council

3. The Wiltshire Council Travel Strategy sets out aims and objectives alongside details of the measures already in place to help meet these aims and objectives. The second part of the Strategy outlines further measures which should help meet a 2% target reduction in single occupancy car use (year on year) if promoted and supported by Wiltshire Council. The measures should also assist in reducing the pressure on car parking spaces for staff.
4. The aims and objectives of the Strategy are to help meet many others outlined in the Council's Business Plan, Local Transport Plan, the Energy Change and Opportunity Strategy and Air Quality Strategy.
5. An approved Travel Strategy will enable Wiltshire Council to gain accreditation under the Workplace Wellbeing Charter.
6. The last staff travel survey undertaken in October 2013 showed that the percentage of staff driving to work alone was 77% which is a high percentage when considering the accessible and central location of each of the three hubs, and when compared to other Wiltshire organisations.

Background

7. A workplace travel plan/strategy is a package of measures designed to assist in managing the transport needs and impacts of an organisation. It helps promote the use of sustainable travel modes such as walking, cycling and public transport with the aim of reducing single occupancy car use.

8. A workplace travel strategy can bring many benefits to an organisation, particularly in terms of financial savings and reduced environmental impacts. It also helps a workplace to demonstrate corporate social responsibility, whilst improving staff engagement and retention.
9. Through Wiltshire Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance on Development-Related Travel Plans, the Council requires other large organisations to develop and implement workplace travel plans and strategies. In addition, through the Connecting Wiltshire programme, Wiltshire Council works with several large businesses throughout the county to develop these types of plans. It is therefore appropriate that Wiltshire Council should have its own Travel Strategy in place.
10. Wiltshire County Council previously had an adopted Corporate Travel Plan for the Trowbridge site between 2003 and 2006. In addition, the Bourne Hill site in Salisbury also has a Travel Plan which was prepared for the re-development of the site in 2010.

Safeguarding Implications

11. None identified.

Public Health Implications

12. The Travel Strategy encourages staff to use sustainable and active modes of transport which should be beneficial to the health of staff. The measures outlined within the Strategy should help provide a better work-life balance for staff through flexible working and less need to travel on business. They also help provide less stressful options for travel to work and provide opportunities to build healthy exercise into daily life. In terms of wider public health benefits, the measures outlined could bring about air quality improvements in the local area due to reduced car usage and less congestion on the roads.

Corporate Procurement Implications

13. The Travel Strategy will require little additional funding to take forward the measures outlined within it as the majority of them are already supported by Wiltshire Council. However, all measures will continue to need to be supported using existing funding streams.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

14. The measures outlined in the Strategy will help reduce carbon emissions from transport, as well as helping to reduce dependence on travel by private car and promoting cycling, walking and the use of public transport. This should help bring about an improved environment by reducing CO₂ emissions as well as addressing community severance and air and noise pollution.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

15. The Strategy recognises the needs of disabled members of staff and those with mobility impairments in terms of their access and transport needs.

Risk Assessment

16. Failure to deliver the measures outlined in the Strategy could impair Wiltshire Council's ability to meet national and local objectives and targets. In addition, if Wiltshire Council does not have a travel strategy in place for its staff, they will be unable to gain full accreditation under the Workplace Wellbeing Charter.

Financial Implications

17. The Travel Strategy will require little additional funding to take forward the measures outlined within it as the majority of them are already supported by Wiltshire Council. However, all measures will continue to need to be supported using existing funding streams.

Legal Implications

18. None identified.

Options Considered

19. No other options considered.

Reason for Proposal

20. The Travel Strategy will help meet many aims, objectives and targets outlined in various Wiltshire Council plans such as the Business Plan, Local Transport Plan, the Energy Change and Opportunity Strategy and Air Quality Strategy. In addition, Wiltshire Council wishes to gain full accreditation under the Workplace Wellbeing Charter; to do this the Council must have a workplace Travel Strategy in place.

Proposal

21. That the attached Travel Strategy be approved.
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The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report:

None