

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

smartmover



**University of Birmingham
Sustainable Travel
Action Plan
2016 – 2021
February 2021 update**



Bike hire schemes available for staff and students

HEADLINE RESULTS for 2018 Travel Survey

36%
staff response rate

14%
student response rate

7450
total responses

10%
of staff cycle
up 2% from 2016

ACTIVE TRAVEL
78%
of undergraduates travel
by foot or bike



Car usage DOWN
amongst both undergraduate and postgraduate students

35%
of staff drive
(reduced by 5% since the survey started, in 2008)
down 3%
since 2016



50+
car sharing
bays on campus



9%
of staff car sharing
up 1.5%
since 2016



26%
of staff
use the train

More electric vehicle charging points installed on campus

Action Plan

1. The University of Birmingham is seeking to reduce the number of single occupancy car journeys taken to campus by staff, students and visitors. It is also seeking to reduce the carbon footprint of its business travel.
2. This document sets out the actions and resources required to meet the universities targets around single car occupancy.

Major changes since 2016

Since the last travel survey in 2016 the University has:

- Installed 6 new electric vehicle charging points on campus
- Grown the student bike hire scheme by 50%
- Continually increased the quality and quantity of cycle parking
- Negotiated a special £1 fare for staff and students on local buses
- Increased the number of priority car parking bays for car sharers by close to 50%

Key to Action Plan

STG – Sustainable Task Group

STC - Sustainable Travel Coordinator

HAS – Hospitality and Accommodation Services

HR – Human Resources

BUBUG – Birmingham University Bicycle Users Group

BCC – Birmingham City Council

CSTG – Campus Safe Transport Group

EDF – Estates Development Framework

*Travel Plan updated November 2020
(Sustainable Travel Co-ordinator)*

Area	Objective	Action	Means	Ownership	Status	Timescale/ deadline
Commuting	Identify current modes of travel for comparison with targets and baselines to assist in further informing and developing the Travel Plan. Analyse the carbon footprint for Scope 3 reporting purposes	Travel survey of both staff and students	Undertake an online travel survey of both staff and students. Exchange and compare information on key findings from the survey with Birmingham City Council and Transport for West Midlands.	STC	The 2018 staff and student travel survey took place in October 2018. The results will be published alongside this action plan in February 2019. July 2020: CoSS Summer Survey	Completed October 2018.
	Identify staff and student routes	Map and analyse current routes travelled by commuters and cross reference with local travel services	Map staff and student postcodes via GIS and share information with partners.	STC	Routes and 'hot spots' to be updated with 2018 data. Postcode mapping to be shared with key partners.	Completed January 2019
Marketing and communication	Raise awareness and promote Travel Plan	Ensure campus wide awareness of the University travel action plan. Note: Marketing and communication is covered in more detail in each of the following sections.	Use of social media, events, inductions and regular communications to staff and students to raise awareness.	STC	Plan to launch results of 2018 survey via Buzz Bitesize. Engaged with Student Services for an all student communication focussing on travel.	Completed February 2019 Completed March 2019
Reducing the need to travel		Video-conferencing & tele-conferencing	Promote the new fixed 6-seater video-conference suite which is	Learning Resources and	2020: Promotion of	Ongoing project

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	Reduce the need to travel		<p>equipped with large monitors. Up to 4 remote venues can be connected to simultaneously.</p> <p>2020: The University has rolled out the Teams and Zoom platforms this year in response to the demands of the pandemic.</p>	<p>Accommodation Team (LRAT)</p> <p>STC</p>	<p>videoconference facilities to be reviewed when staff numbers on campus re-approaches normal.</p> <p>Online meetings and conferences now viable option experienced by all university staff via Teams and Zoom.</p>	
Walking to the University	Increase the number of people walking to the University for sustainable or health benefits	Introduce and monitor a range of initiatives to encourage people to walk	<p>Initiatives and inducements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved network of signed, well lit pedestrian pathways Provision of free personal alarms by Security Participation in Walk to Work Week events Work with the Security team and West Midlands Police to improve perceptions of campus safety Promote use of the new Vale Path as an alternative to Edgbaston Park Road Canal step access has been improved giving easier access for commuters and leisure walks 	STC, Estates, WM Police, CSTG & Sports	<p>Raised at induction sessions and via Travel webpages</p> <p>New digital totems installed to help with wayfinding.</p> <p>Green Heart has now opened which improves accessibility on campus.</p> <p>2020: UoB Campus Map app available</p>	Completed 2019
Cycling to the University	Increase the proportion of staff and students cycling to the University	Consider options for introducing more local cycle routes	<p>Liaise with Birmingham City Council through the Cycle Revolution.</p> <p>A38 cycle track due to open early 2019.</p>	STC/Estates/ BCC	Improvements made to canal towpath and access at University station.	Completed 2019

Area	Objective	Action	Means	Ownership	Status	Timescale/ deadline
Cycling to the University (cont.)	Increase the proportion of staff and students cycling to the University (cont.)		Towpath has been widened in Edgbaston Tunnel which further improves canal as a commuting route. Green Heart now open which improves cycle permeability of campus.		A38 cycle track opened in 2019.	
		Bike share scheme	There have been significant delays to the implementation of the regional bike sharing scheme. The University is still planning to be an early adopter for bike share.	STC	Working with TfWM and Estates to implement. 2020: Project restarted in late 2020. Suggest locations for Spring 2021 launch. Jan 2021: 8 sites on and near campus identified.	Spring 2021
		Active bicycle users group (BUBUG)	Website & forum promoted at events, bike roadshows, inductions etc.	BUBUG	Bike User Group has a new member taking lead on their activities including a new Twitter account. Jan 2021: merge overlapping content on BUBUG and sustainable travel sites. Support BUBUG following	Ongoing provision

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					retirement of key organiser	
		Recruitment of bike repair service	Service to include free bike check, self-service pump and the sale of accessories such as discounted D Locks.	STC	Gear Up recruited in Autumn 2021 and operating agreements finalised ready for launch.	Launch March 2021
		Led rides, cycle training and buddying	Led rides and cycle training organised during spring and summer terms for staff and students. Collaboration with Two Wheels Better network—Birmingham riders who are happy to share their commute with a new cyclist.	STC	Led rides and training in 2018 for Bike Week, Week of Wellbeing and Guild 'Go Green Week'. Regular cycle training available for staff and students. 2020: Led rides and training on hold during pandemic.	On hold

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					Promotion of Two Wheels Better, a community-led bike buddying system.	
		Events	<p>National Bike Week in June each year with Cycle to Work day in August.</p> <p>In 2018 cycling was promoted via events related to Clean Air Day, Welcome Week and 'Go Green week'.</p>	STC	<p>Regular events to promote cycling linked to national events.</p> <p>Sept 2020: Engagement events online.</p> <p>One small in-person bike sale and D-lock giveaway during Welcome Week.</p> <p>Start of spring term events TBC in Jan 2021</p>	Ongoing
		Continue to increase and improve cycle parking across campus	<p>Cycle parking is constantly monitored across campus by STC. An annual budget has been approved to fund these improvements.</p> <p>22 metre canopy installed over existing cycle parking in University Centre to provide covered parking.</p> <p>New cycle parking installed at sports centre. Improved cycle parking at JG Smith, Education, Chemical Engineering and Lapworth Museum in March 2018.</p>	STC & Estates	<p>Audit of cycle parking completed in August 2017 with programme of improvement works planned for 2018.</p> <p>Over 1300 spaces to secure bikes on campus.</p> <p>Secure cycle compound</p>	On-going

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			Cycle parking capacity increased in key central areas in February 2019.		<p>installed in February 2019 with capacity for 52 bikes.</p> <p>2020: Collaboration with security to audit current provision, define best practice and advocate improvements.</p> <p>Jan 2021: Funding available for a new cycle compound</p> <p>Resite Munrow shelter</p>	
		Shower and changing facilities	Number of showers on campus needs to be increased in light of the closure of Munrow.	STC & Estates	<p>Audit of shower facilities required.</p> <p>2020: Showers audited in Sept 2020 and published online</p>	Completed Sept 2020
		Cycle repair stands	<p>Repair stand and pump installed at University station.</p> <p>5 pumps acquired via Top Cycle Location Grant and installed at halls of residence.</p> <p>Repair stand to be installed within Green Heart.</p>	STC	<p>2021: Gear Up to to check and maintain repair stands and pumps</p>	Ongoing

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		Salary sacrifice scheme <i>Cycle Solutions</i>	Allows staff to save money on the purchase cost of a new bike and equipment to an increased value of £3000	HR	Over 1000 staff applications to date 2020: £1,000 cap raised to £3,000 in October 2020 2021: Explore shorter salary sacrifice duration to improve participation	New scheme Oct 2020 Provision ongoing
		Update online map showing shower and cycle parking facilities	Map has been online since 2013. Cycle parking is now included on new digital totems installed in Green Heart.	STC	Map updated in January 2019 reflect new cycle parking around CTL building and Green Heart. 2020: Map will be updated as new cycle parking is provided	Most recent update Nov 2020
		Extend student cycle hire scheme	Student bike hire scheme launched in 2014 has been very successful. 10 bikes added to scheme in August 2017. Further 7 bikes added in summer 2018 – 50% increase since 2016. Sept 2020: Hire process moved online following closure of Urban	STC	All bikes hired in 24 hour period during Welcome Week 2018. Aspiration to further increase bike numbers in summer 2019. 2020: Low uptake during pandemic	Ongoing provision

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			<p>Cycles. Students strongly advised to research insurance at point of hire.</p> <p>Investigating introducing a single insurance product for hirers in 2021.</p>			
		Staff loan bike scheme	<p>Staff loan bike scheme has been increased to 7 bikes.</p> <p>Folding Brompton bikes acquired to encourage multi modal business travel.</p>	STC	<p>Brompton bikes have been allocated to five different teams so far. Two have since procured their own.</p> <p>2020 Update: 21 Staff members have participated this year.</p>	Ongoing provision
		Sale of safety/security equipment	<p>New scheme to register student bikes and give away D Locks launched in October 2018. Managed by Security.</p> <p>Subsidised D Locks and lights may be purchased from Security.</p> <p>Discounted D Locks also available from Urban Cycles.</p> <p>Working closely with Security, Guild and campus police offer to promote use of D Locks.</p>	STC & Security	<p>Work closely with Security and Guild on D Lock giveaway project.</p> <p>Over 200 D Locks given away so far.</p> <p>Secure cycle parking on campus will be increased in February 2019.</p> <p>2020: D lock giveaway and bike marking in Welcome Week, service delivered ad hoc throughout term</p>	Ongoing provision

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Motorcycling	Support those who travel to the University by motorcycle	Increase secure motorcycle parking.	The motorcycle user group now has an intranet page and over 50 members. Further motorcycle parking installed at Elms Road in response to thefts.	STC, HAS & Estates	More motorcycle parking installed at new South Gate car park.	Completed 2019
Public Transport	Increase the number of people travelling to the University by public transport	Promote initiatives to encourage staff to try public transport instead of their car	Ensure new staff are aware of discounts available on bus travel through the university and students are encouraged to buy season tickets via direct debit. Promotion to be aligned with application deadlines.	STC	Continuous engagement through events and inductions.	Ongoing provision
		Promotion of new £1 fare for staff and students on local National Express bus services.	Regular promotion via events, flyers and social media.	NXWM and STC	Big promotional push to students during Welcome. Regular promotion at induction and via social media. Nov 2020: NX Bus to report on adding The Hop! to contactless payments and m-ticket app Jan 2021: NX Bus can only offer tap-only payments of £2.40	Jan 2021
Public Transport (cont.)	Increase the number of people travelling to the	Sept 2020 Launch new two-term pass for university students	Promotion at start of term events	STC, Student Services and Guild	Launch of UoB portal at start of Spring Term	February 2021

Area	Objective	Action	Means	Ownership	Status	Timescale/ deadline
Public Transport (cont.)	University by public transport (cont.)	Improve bus coverage in the local area	<p>Liaise with National Express West Midlands on potential improvements to local bus services.</p> <p>Undertake a review of University and UHB staff postcodes and work with local transport operators in particular working with National Express West Midlands to identify whether services/routes can be improved.</p>	STC, STPSG & UHB	<p>Working with National Express on their Network Development Plan to increase services to campus.</p> <p>The above has resulted in a new 1A service from Moseley to campus.</p> <p>2020: Supported communication of restarted services during summer with an intranet page.</p>	Ongoing project
	Increase the number of people travelling to the University by public transport (cont.)	Interest free loans for public transport season tickets	In partnership with National Express West Midlands the University offers a 25% discount on annual bus passes to all staff	STC & Finance	Continue to promote via inductions and events	Ongoing provision
		Swift card	Promote the use of Swift card on local buses to staff and students.	STC & TFWM	<p>Swift card now accepted on all buses in the city.</p> <p>Promotion via events, internal communications and social media.</p>	Ongoing provision
		Provision of shuttle buses	A free shuttle bus service operates between the Edgbaston and Selly Oak campus.	HAS & STC	Review of usage of the shuttle bus was conducted	Ongoing provision

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			A new night shuttle bus service has been set up in collaboration with the Guild of Students to transport students from the library after dark.		<p>during the travel survey period.</p> <p>The 'Selly Express' night service is very popular.</p> <p>Sept 2020: Intercampus shuttle reopened</p>	
		Develop good working relationships with local partners	Close links with Birmingham City Council, Transport for West Midlands, West Midlands Trains and National Express	STC	<p>Regularly attend Birmingham Bus Alliance Meeting to engage with operators.</p> <p>Director of Facility Services attending regular meetings in relation to the redevelopment of University station.</p>	Ongoing partnership
		Introduce quicker systems to obtain tickets	<p>Contactless payment is now available on all local buses.</p> <p>Mobile tickets are now being accepted on the Cross City Line.</p> <p>National Express 'M Ticket' app a further option for ticketless travel.</p>	STC	<p>Ongoing promotion of the use of technology to improve ticketing.</p> <p>See above on £1 The Hop! Fare</p>	Ongoing provision

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		Improve University Station facilities	<p>Plans are in place to improve and expand the station in the long term.</p> <p>In the short term West Midlands Trains have increased staff levels and marketing materials to promote use of the additional ticket machine on campus.</p> <p>A further ticket machine in the Learning Centre installed in July 2017.</p> <p>University staff heavily involved in plans for long term redevelopment of station.</p>	<p>STC, Estates, West Midlands Trains</p> <p>Estates and STC</p>	<p>Redevelopment of University station for June 2022.</p> <p>Director of Facility Services is representing UoB at project meetings.</p> <p>Promotion of smart ticketing and ticket machines on campus.</p>	<p>Ongoing partnership</p> <p>Ongoing partnership</p> <p>Ongoing promotion</p>
Car Sharing	Increase the number of people car sharing to the University	Continue to increase the number of staff signed up to the Liftshare system.	<p>Increase the incentives to car share via promotion and extension of the priority parking spaces.</p> <p>Now more than 50 priority bays on campus with plans to increase to over 60 by February 2019.</p> <p>Authentication feature introduced in December 2018 to improve reporting, stop misuse of priority bays and monitor usage in real time.</p>	STC	<p>Currently 606 users on Liftshare system (February 2019) and 128 Liftshare teams.</p> <p>Nov 2020: Liftshare licence not renewed following 80% fall of car park use.</p> <p>Liftsharing not actively promoted in line with government guidance</p> <p>Jan 2021: Explore opportunities of Microsoft Teams to continue car sharing when</p>	Scheme closed and active promotion on hold

Area	Objective	Action	Means	Ownership	Status	Timescale/ deadline
					pandemic restrictions ease	
Rental Scooters	Make Voi rental e-scooters available to staff students and visitors on campus	Trial presence of e-scooters on campus	Agree terms for trial on UoB's private land in collaboration with legal, insurance and estates departments Promote the scheme on and after launch	STC	Feb 2021: Internal consultation on agreements and operation of trial nearly complete	February 2021
City Car Cub	Increase the number of staff and students using Enterprise City Car Club vehicles	Work closely with Enterprise to encourage staff and students to utilise car in West car park by University station and at the Vale	Social media and special offers for staff. Enterprise regularly attend engagement events.	STC	Feb 2021 Investigating use of third car, a hydrogen vehicle, as business travel option for Tyseley Energy Park	Ongoing provision Second car 2019
Business Travel	Reduce the carbon footprint generated from business activities	Continue to increase the number of electric vehicles within the fleet	Assess where changes could be made to make fleet for efficient.	STC & Transport	40% of fleet is now electric. Future fleet upgrades to be to EV and H2 options Feb 2021: 3 electric bikes sourced by Council funding to join the fleet	Ongoing provision

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Business Travel		Encourage and enable staff to drive lower emission vehicles.	Promote Tusker salary sacrifice scheme as below. Improve EV charging infrastructure on campus for staff and visitors.	STC STC and Estates	6 new charging points installed on campus. Monitoring usage of new charging points. Nov 2020: EV charging to be installed at Tyseley; cross-campus review of EV charging	Ongoing provision
		Hire vehicles	Increase promotion of the University pool car as an alternative to external hires Make available fuel cell vehicle for business trips	Transport	Nov 2020: Arranging H2 fuelling at Tyseley	February 2021
		Telematics to be installed in all University vehicles.	Enable monitoring of fleet and increase efficiency.	Transport	Transport team training fleet drivers to improve safety and efficiency.	Ongoing provision
		Promote alternative modes of travel for business use	Two folding Brompton bikes now available for business travel.	STC & Transport	Brompton's loaned to university departments. Two departments have procured folding bikes for their staff to utilise.	Ongoing provision

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		Increase usage of Key Travel system for business travel.	Regular communications and events to promote usage of the system.	STC and Procurement	Key Travel usage fallen drastically during pandemic 2020: New tender for business travel contract	Ongoing provision March 2021
		Salary sacrifice schemes	2020: New car benefit scheme with Tusker went live in Feb 2020 Scheme makes available ULEV cars (below 75g CO2 emissions) and a small selection of models in the 75–120g range to give otherwise excluded staff more sustainable, affordable options Staff can apply for a free home charge point through scheme	STC, Transport & Finance	Salary sacrifice only available for ULEV. Oct 2020: Affordable options added Tusker to provide new customer service process	Ongoing promotion
Partnership Working	Establish good links with the University's partners and key stakeholders	Develop close working relationships and engage on a regular basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC) Birmingham TravelWise membership University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust National Express West Midlands Trains Transport for West Midlands Birmingham City Council Guild of Students 	STC, SEA & Guild	Green Travel District partnership being reviewed.	Ongoing partnerships

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General Measures	Maximise success of the Travel Plan	Make safety improvements to the campus	<p>Improve CCTV coverage around campus.</p> <p>CCTV provision under review for potential upgrading following an assessment of a camera by camera operational requirement.</p>	STC & Security	Feb 2021: Security have to review and add CCTV	Spring 2021
			Promote usage of the new shared path to the Vale as an alternative to Edgbaston Park Road.	STC	Promoted via inductions and regular communications.	Ongoing promotion
General Measures	Maximise success of the Travel Plan (Cont.)		Promote improvements to canal towpath surface and access point to encourage increased usage as a walking and cycling route.	STC	<p>Promoted via inductions and regular communications.</p> <p>Edgbaston tunnel has been widened to further improve</p>	<p>Ongoing promotion</p> <p>Completed.</p>

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					the canal as a walking and cycling route.	
Car Parking	Reduce the number of people driving to the University	Improve the management and control of car parking facilities	Maintain a daily pay-as-you-go option	STPSG, STC, HAS, Estates and BCC	Daily rate encourages adoption of alternative more sustainable modes of travel where possible Nov 2020: PAYG and annual subs are only parking methods	Ongoing provision
			Continue to increase the number of electric car charging bays available.	Estates and STC	6 new 'smart' charging points have been installed on campus. Monitor usage to determine future demand.	Installed October 2018.
Car Parking			Stricter enforcement of car parks including the employment of x4 University Security Traffic Control Officers (TCOs), financial penalties are now levied on offenders if they contravene the University's Traffic Regulations.	STPSG, STC, HAS	Completed	Parking team will be 4 members by March 2019.
			Increase the number of priority car parking spaces for staff who car share.	STC	Further 7 bays painted in February 2019 bringing total to 57.	Ongoing provision

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					Feb 2021: Reassess car sharing when the pandemic restrictions allow	
			Commit to not increasing car parking levels across campus	Estates	Newly opened car parks have replaced others lost to capital projects such as the Green Heart.	Ongoing commitment