



**FOR PUBLICATION**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CLIMATE CHANGE,  
BIODIVERSITY AND CARBON REDUCTION**

**MONDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**Report of the Executive Director - Place**

**Reducing the Environmental Impact of Business Travel**

## **1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Provide an update on activities within the Council that seek to reduce the environmental impact of travel, including work being undertaken to reduce the Council's 'grey fleet' mileage, electrify its fleet vehicles and promote/raise awareness of public transport and active travel initiatives for staff.
- b) Invite discussion and consideration of the progress that has been made and any related issues

## **2. Information and Analysis**

2.1 Both the Sustainable Travel and Climate Change Teams work across a number of workstreams that contribute towards the goals of net zero travel and carbon reduction.

2.2 Work includes:

- Strategic-level charge point network development required to facilitate the transition to electric vehicles for the Authority, for residents and for visitors.
- Developing car share and cycle to work schemes.
- Discounted bus and rail ticket offerings.
- Advocacy and awareness campaigns through support of national campaigns, such as Cycle To Work day and Travel Wise week.

2.2 All initiatives detailed in this report are live, ongoing and delivered across the Sustainable Travel and Climate Teams existing budgets.

### **Estates Electric Vehicle Charging network**

2.3 The Council is committed to becoming net carbon zero in its own estate by 2032, or sooner. To achieve this, the electrification of its own vehicle fleet will be a priority, as will encouraging employees to switch to electric vehicles. Five charge points are currently available for use at County Hall, but it is acknowledged that further electrification of the Council's fleet can only be achieved through provision of, and more widely available, charging options.

2.4 In order to achieve this, a proposal was taken to the Climate Change and Environment Programme Board for endorsement (June 2023) to provide appropriate infrastructure i.e. electric vehicle charge points (EVCPs) on Council premises for use by employee's private vehicles and the Council fleet, including the fleet of electric pool cars for employees to use whilst on Council business.

2.5 The proposal advocated takes a two-stage approach of 1) delivering pilot sites followed by 2) development of a wider strategic roll out plan. The proposal also set out Terms of Reference, including roles and responsibilities and high-level project plans to take forward both the pilot and wider strategic projects.

2.6 Progress has been made on both fronts, with the information below providing a brief update on where the Council is to date.

### **Pilot Sites**

2.7 The pilot phase will deliver up to 12 EVCPs across six sites, focusing initially on the urgent need to provide this service to the Adult Social Care and Health and Childrens Services. Taking this phased approach will allow the Council to evaluate the model, test reporting mechanisms (including energy offsetting and cost recouping), as well as provide an opportunity for testing operating systems away from County Hall, such as vehicle booking, vehicle management, fault and issue reporting, and vehicle performance.

2.8 Capacity and feasibility assessments are complete, confirming that installations are feasible. Quotes to carry out the enabling works have been requested, following receipt of which the Council will be clear in what it is seeking to deliver and will go out to market to procure the required infrastructure.

### **Strategic Roll Out**

- 2.9 For further development of a comprehensive charging network (strategic roll out), where multiple sites, users and vehicles are involved, more detailed investigation will be required. This will include, but is not limited to, detailing both existing and forecast demand, site feasibility, electric capacity assessments, and engaging with suppliers to further understand the options available and the cost and energy implications of a large-scale installation.
- 2.10 Recognising the strain on existing resources, and in order to maintain momentum, the Sustainable Travel Team is seeking support from framework consultants, Amey, to assist with developing the strategy, particularly the early-stage evidence gathering and options development.
- 2.11 The proposal will be broken down by project stage, so that the Council can assess which elements support is needed for and which may be able to be carried out in house (e.g. capacity and feasibility assessments or property and energy implications, which may be best conducted by officers).

### **Fleet Transition**

- 2.12 There are currently eight full electric vehicles (cars) in the core fleet with a further five vans awaiting delivery.
- 2.13 The remaining core fleet is predominantly diesel with the type of vehicles being car, van, 4x4, minibus and HGV. Discussion is ongoing with the Library Service which is keen to look at options for Electric Vehicle (EV) pool cars and to replace their current HGVs with electric vans.
- 2.14 Additionally, in total there are around 150 vehicles due for replacement in 2024-25 (cars and LCV's). Switching these vehicles to fully electric is largely dependent on the success of the estates charging network rollout as described above.

### **Smarter Travel**

- 2.15 Smarter Travel describes the initiatives undertaken to encourage sustainable and active journeys for work purposes. This centres upon a travel hierarchy, ranging from (i) The necessity of the journey, i.e. can the task be undertaken remotely or by another means, through a range of travel options, including (ii) walking, (iii) cycling, (iv) public transport, (v) use of ev pool car, (vi) use of personal transport, to (vii) use of a hire car.
- 2.16 Full details can be found on the [Travel for work – travelling smarter](#) pages.

### **Miles Better - Travel To Work**

- 2.17 Miles Better is the Council's employee travel campaign, showing how travelling to work differently can bring financial and health benefits, as well as helping to reduce congestion and carbon emissions.
- 2.18 Full details of the scheme can be found at [Miles better – travel to work](#). All these projects are live, ongoing and delivered by the Sustainable Travel team using existing budgets. Benefits include:

### **Cycle to Work Scheme**

- 2.19 Eligible employees can take advantage of the cycle to work scheme provided by Cyclescheme. This is a tax efficient means of purchasing a bicycle (and accessories) for the journey to work, with deductions taken direct from gross salary. At the time of writing, employees are able to purchase a bicycle – including an electric bicycle - up to the value of £3,000.

### **Bus and Rail Travel**

- 2.20 Interest free loans are available to Council staff for the purchase of annual season tickets on selected bus and rail journeys. An agreed payment is deducted direct from the monthly wage packet. For train travel, this includes season tickets on Northern and East Midlands Trains, and Annual Trent Barton Super Commuter tickets. For bus travel, Stagecoach and Arriva offer discounted weekly travel passes to Council staff.

### **Car Share Scheme**

- 2.21 The county-wide car share scheme, offered by [Kinto Join](#), provides a journey matching service, enabling shared journeys - and cost savings too. There are 39 priority car share places at County Hall (with two current car share permits needing to be displayed when using these spaces).
- 2.22 The Sustainable Travel Team is exploring the possibility of expanding the Car Share scheme to other sites within the Council estate.
- 2.23 As part of the partnership, Kinto holds regular demonstration sessions at County Hall to encourage uptake, with the most recent taking place in July 2023.

### **Awareness Campaigns and Advocacy**

- 2.24 The Sustainable Transport Team actively supports Bike Week, World Car Free Day and Cycle to Work Day, including organising activities, such as group commute rides to Matlock, cyclist breakfast and Doctor Bike sessions, offering free cycle repairs to staff and members of the public.

- 2.25 The “Journey to Net Zero Employee Engagement Day” (on Clean Air Day 2023), hosted by members of the Climate and Sustainable Travel Teams, highlighted the range of opportunities available to employees, including pool cars. Around 150 employees and members attended, and more were reached through the accompanying communications campaign.

### **Healthy Workplaces**

- 2.26 The Sustainable Travel Team is also working with [Derbyshire’s Healthy Workplace](#) Team to support employee wellbeing through the promotion and facilitation of active travel.
- 2.27 Active travel (for work and other journeys) can be linked to both physical and mental wellbeing, as well as supporting the positive impacts of non-active sustainable travel modes – such as public transport, car share etc, on mental wellbeing in terms of other positive action to alleviate possible climate anxiety.
- 2.28 Recent initiatives include promoting active travel with colleagues in Children’s Services for [Children’s Mental Health Week](#).

### **Grey Fleet Emissions Targets**

- 2.29 Targets for grey fleet emissions have been developed for each Department, starting from a baseline of 2021-22. It was assumed that the proportion of emissions for each Department remains the same with a linear trajectory to zero by 2031-32. Each Departmental Management Team is encouraged to incorporate these targets into Departmental and Divisional Service Plans with each Department taking responsibility for achieving the target.
- 2.30 Targets will be achieved through reduction in grey fleet mileage (e.g. through use of corporate vehicles) and through gradual improvement of vehicle emissions.

## **3. Consultation**

- 3.1 There is no consultation associated with this paper. As each workstream and project is developed and implemented, engagement with Council staff, senior officers and members is undertaken where necessary and appropriate.

## **4. Alternative Options Considered**

- 4.1 **No action:** Taking no action to reduce the environmental impact of business travel would not support the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to reach the Council’s target to achieve net zero emissions across the County by 2050.

4.2 Furthermore, officers will continue to consider, review, and explore all existing, new and alternative schemes and initiatives that can further reduce the environmental impact of travel for businesses purposes by Council staff.

## **5. Implications**

5.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

## **6. Background Papers**

6.1 None identified.

## **7. Appendices**

7.1 Appendix 1 – Implications.

## **8. Recommendations**

That the Committee:

- a) Notes the update on activity to reduce the environmental impact of travel, including work being undertaken to reduce the Council's 'grey fleet' milage, electrify its fleet vehicles and promote/raise awareness of public transport and active travel initiatives for staff.
- b) Discusses and considers the progress being made, sharing issues and raising questions as appropriate.

## **9. Reason for Recommendations**

9.1 To ensure appropriate information and understanding of the various work programmes to reduce carbon emissions and encourage more sustainable travel.

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### **Implications**

#### **Financial**

- 1.1 The Estates charging project has secured a Capital budget of £300,000 across 3 years (2022-2025) for the installation of electric vehicle charge points on Council premises to serve fleet and pool vehicles. This capital investment is being funded from borrowing and is currently projected to spend in full.
- 1.2 All projects detailed in this paper are live and ongoing and are being delivered by the Sustainable Travel team within existing approved budgets. There is no requirement for any further financial commitments from the Council at this time.
- 1.3 Where additional spend is required this will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and subject to relevant governance approvals.

#### **Legal**

- 2.1 The Director of Legal and Democratic Services will provide advice as necessary on a project by project basis.

#### **Human Resources**

- 3.1 It is expected that the current staffing arrangement within the Sustainable Travel, Climate and Fleet Management teams will be adequate to deliver on ambitions stated in this report.

#### **Information Technology**

- 4.1 Bookable services, such as car share schemes, EV charging points, rail ticketing, etc, require reliable digital connectivity. Such implications are considered at project development stage to ensure deliverability.

#### **Equalities Impact**

- 5.1 The delivery of specific actions within this paper may have Equalities Impact implications for the Council. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

#### **Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 6.1 The actions set out in this paper support the Council's commitments to tackling climate change and reduce vehicle borne emissions, as set out

in the Derbyshire County Council Climate Change Strategy (2021-2025) and Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy (2019-2029).

**Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental, Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)**

- 7.1 Environmental sustainability considerations are embedded in the overall programme of work described above and in the individual projects.