

travel plans

A Travel Plan, or Green Travel Plan as they are often referred to, is an integrated 'tool' that provides a package of measures and initiatives that aims to reduce the number of journeys made by car. Travel Plans may be operated either by individual businesses and public organisations, or groups of businesses and residential developments. A Travel Plan should be viewed as a 'living document'; capable of being updated to suit changing travel patterns and the way we live.

Travel Plans are now an essential element of planning applications for any significant residential, industrial, retail, recreational or mixed-use development. Government guidance states that they should be submitted alongside a Transport Assessment as a way of demonstrating the mitigation of any potential impacts arising from the development upon the surrounding highway network.

Travel Plans are site or area specific and are about giving people a greater travel choice. They should set tangible objectives and realistic targets, so that 'real' change in transport behaviour can be achieved. The overall targets should seek to reduce single occupancy car use and increase walking, cycling and public transport to a site. A Travel Plan describes how progress will be monitored and sets out the measures and initiatives to promote sustainable travel to a site.

Travel Plans can provide many benefits and these include:

- Reducing the cost of commuting for employees and visitors;
- Reducing congestion and improved access to a site, with the further benefit of reducing the environmental impact in terms of noise and vehicle emissions;

- Improved public transport services;
- Improved health through promoting activities such as walking and cycling;
- A robust and comprehensive Travel Plan can, in certain circumstances, justify a reduction in the provision of on-site parking, which has the benefit of reducing costs and allowing developers to make the most efficient use of the land.

DLP Transportation has a wealth of experience in producing and implementing Travel Plans and has prepared successful Travel Plans for a wide variety of different land uses including residential developments, colleges, employment uses and leisure facilities.

In the preparation of a Travel Plan we are always mindful that any measures included must relate to the end users of the development and also be economically viable for the developer and operator of the site. Our experience has shown that appropriately tailored Travel Plans are well received by local authorities and that they are also able to provide operational benefits to the end user.

