

At West Berkshire...

we take our responsibility towards protecting the environment very seriously and part of this is to reduce the environmental impact of staff travel.

We have a Travel Plan Officer to ensure that staff have a choice when considering how they will commute to work. This booklet gives you information on how you could reduce your commuting costs financially and ease the pressure on the environment

Did you know?

- If you cycle regularly you have the general fitness and health of someone 10 years younger.
- Bus users breathe a third less pollution than car users.
- Walking briskly for half an hour can halve the risk of heart disease.
- The average car commute nationally is 19 miles. Cutting this in half by car sharing would save 648 kg of carbon dioxide over a year, the same as that absorbed by 216 trees.



Why not let your journey to work be a time to unwind or exercise, rather than sitting in a car on your own? Why not read the newspaper on the train or have a 30 mins (roughly 5 miles) cycle ride each way?



Journey 2 Share

We have a database which allows you to search for people to share your journey with. It's predominantly used for car sharing, but can also be used to find people to walk or cycle with.

Journey2share can be accessed through the Intranet site and is free and easy to use. By quickly entering a few details it shows you other people that live in your area who are keen to share their journey.

There's plenty of opportunity for Essential Users to give and receive lifts too.

It may surprise you how many colleagues live near you or on your way into work. Take a look and register with journey2share.

Car Sharing

By Car Sharing you can enjoy many benefits such as:

- Saving money on fuel.
- Priority Car Sharing spaces.
- A guaranteed ride home if your car share partner has to change plans due to an emergency.
- Reduces the wear and tear on your car, as well as the mileage that depreciates your car's value.
- Knowing that you are doing 'your bit'.

Public Transport

Most of the Council Offices are ideally situated in the town centre close to the Bus and Train Stations.

We work closely with Newbury Buses and West Berkshire employees can obtain a 30% discount off Travel Cards. These Travel Cards can be purchased at the Bus Station by showing your West Berkshire ID badge. A passport sized photo is required for the pass.

To access the bus timetable please log on to www.reading-buses.co.uk

To spread the cost of using public transport we provide interest free loans for bus or rail season tickets.



Cycling

Facilities

We actively encourage staff to cycle to work. The offices are equipped with covered bike storage, and many have shower and locker facilities, or the option to shower at the local leisure centre.

Cycle training

If you are unsure about getting on a bike having not cycled for a few years, or are unfamiliar with the area, contact the Travel Plan Officer. They will be able to advise on cycling

refresher courses or perhaps find you a 'bike buddy' for a couple of journeys, until you feel confident to do the journey on your own.



Cyclescheme

If you'd like a new bike we have partnered with Cyclescheme to offer you an opportunity to buy a bike Tax, NI and VAT free through the Governments' bike to work initiative. Before applying employees must aim to cycle to work 50% of the time. The salary sacrifice is over 12 months and then you will be given the opportunity to purchase the bike at a fair market value. Again full details are available on the Intranet.

Pool Bikes

There are pool bikes available to use for meetings or leisure in and around Newbury. They are particularly useful for those people not bringing their cars to work everyday.

Cycle maps are available on the Intranet or on request.

Walking and running

The shower and locker facilities are available to store shoes and waterproofs, making it easier for you to walk or run to work. In Newbury there are lovely car free routes along the canal and through the parks to really make this a pleasant experience. Maps specifically for walking are available on request.

Two-wheeled motoring

Most congestion is caused by cars during rush hour. So why not enjoy a quicker commute by taking a motorbike or scooter to work. They're also cheaper to run and insure than a car. There is motorbike parking at most locations where bikes can be locked up securely. Motorbike parking does not require a parking permit,

Car Parking

Parking spaces in Newbury are limited and cost the Council a lot of money to maintain. Therefore it's essential that we make the best possible use of the car parking we have and hence we now offer priority parking to staff car sharing.

To park in these priority spaces you will need to complete a car share permit form to obtain a new specific Car Share permit. If these priority spaces are not used by 9:30 then they are available for other staff with a valid permit.

Due to Car Parking pressure the council is unable to provide new staff a car park permit, unless they are an Essential Car User or are mobility impaired.



Home Working

The council supports home working and it's a great way to reduce your commuting miles. It's also very beneficial to you to achieve that work life balance. Talk to your line manager about this if you're interested and see how it can work for you.

Further information

By mixing and matching the ways you commute to work, by being flexible and investigating what's out there, will all help to make West Berkshire a better place to live, work and travel. So please take time to think about how you travel to work and it will hopefully be a rewarding and fulfilling experience. You may even save enough money to have an additional holiday each year.

Throughout the year the Council holds events to highlight the Travel Plan and offers competitions to help raise awareness and engage employees.



All the information in this booklet and more is available on the Intranet, or you can contact the Travel Plan Officer directly by:

emailing
travelplanofficer@westberks.gov.uk
or calling 01635 519 667,

This publication can be made available upon request in alternative formats.



Bus it.

Share it.

Cycle or

Walk ...

*... take the train,
motorbike ...
How will you
commute to work?*

