

19. PILOT GREEN TRAVEL PLAN

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of work underway to implement a pilot travel plan for Council staff in 2003/04.

BACKGROUND

A staff travel plan has been developed for staff accommodated at the Civic Offices, Glassons Building and 210 Tuam Street (the Parking Unit) under the 'brand' name "Green Easy Travel", following participation in 2002 in a demonstration case study of employer travel plans, a Transfund project led by Wellington consultant Booz Allen Hamilton. Employer travel plans are now a common feature of business travel demand management initiatives in Australia, the United States of America and Europe. A report was produced comprising a site assessment (Civic Offices, Glassons Building and Parking Unit), staff travel survey and proposed travel policies. Organisations such as Environment Canterbury, Police, and the University of Canterbury have already successfully implemented staff travel plans.

These proposals outlined below have been supported by the CEO, Corporate and Management team, with a request that these be worked up to an appropriate level of detail for implementation this year.

This first year of the travel plan will be treated as a pilot and is being jointly funded from existing sustainability budgets (Sustainable Christchurch and City Streets Unit) and from EECA (the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority).

TRAVEL PLAN PROPOSALS

The current proposals for the pilot are as follows:

- A rideshare scheme that matches drivers and passengers by where they live and their route to work, provides parking close to the three buildings and a guaranteed ride home (by bus, or taxi after 8pm) if their rideshare lift has to be missed due to work.
- Journey planning advice and publicity of the improved metro system and the new metrocard during two green travel weeks including supplying a trial multi trip ticket.
- Cycle store discounts and offers, negotiated for staff to encourage increased cycle use.
- Investigate the provision of improved shower, changing and storage facilities, and cycle racks and tools.
- Publicity and advice to staff on alternative working arrangements (such as non-standard work hours, or teleworking).
- Travel information packs for new employees.
- Awareness raising through promotion and education about alternative travel modes for commuting and business travel with appropriate and timely use of posters in buildings, the internal website, competitions and articles in Sust and Chchchat.

Detailed information on these proposals will be made available to staff in 'Green Travel Week', displays which are planned in the Mayor's reception area for the week 15-19 September 2003. September is also 'Sustainable September' and the Green Travel Week has been timed to complement this and also to precede staff 'Car Free Day' on 22 September 2003.

The targets for the plan are to reduce commuter-driving trips by **15%** and reduce the percentage of people who travel on Council business alone by car at least once a week from **40% to 35%**.

An electronic staff travel survey will be undertaken in early June 2004 to measure the success of the plan. The results of this will feed into a report to an appropriate committee for funding provision in subsequent years, since EECA have only committed to assistance this year.

Councillors are encouraged to support the events and make use of buses where possible during their Council work. It is recognised that buses offer the most convenient alternative to car travel and to this end; Councillors will be given a travel pack at the next Council meeting, containing details of bus services appropriate to them. The Green Travel Plan team would welcome the opportunity to showcase Councillors who lead by example during this week and throughout the year.

CONCLUSIONS

A staff travel plan is being implemented for Council staff this year, to encourage a 15% reduction in commuter driver trips and a 5% reduction in single occupant business driver trips. The success of this will be measured in early June 2004 and fed into a report hopefully recommending continuance of the plan and the provision of funding to support this.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.