

6 Mini Guide to: Smarter Travel Choices



'Most of the observed increase in global average temperature since the mid 20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in man-made greenhouse gas concentration. Detectable human influences now extend to other aspects of climate, including ocean warming, continental average temperatures, temperature extremes and wind patterns.'

IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007.

What has travel got to do with climate change?

Some forms of travel are a source of greenhouse gases, for example, motorised vehicles have internal combustion engines which burn diesel or petrol and emit greenhouse gases. Currently transport contributes approximately a third of all CO₂ emissions across Derbyshire.

Why do we need to think about how we travel?

As a Council, we produce greenhouse gases as part of our day to day operations, including travel in delivering our services and as part of our work. Each year we travel well over 20 million miles in fleet vehicles or our own cars, which generates over 6,700 tonnes of CO₂ and costs the Council millions of pounds. Staggeringly, this means that we at the County Council every year drive the equivalent of:

- More than 40 times to the moon (and back!)
- More than 800 times around the world.
- More than 1,900 trips to Melbourne, Australia.

If we added in the mileage done by taxi and bus companies who make journeys on the Council's behalf, then our business mileage and carbon emissions would be much more. Smarter Travel Choices is all about changing the way we think about travel and choosing the most efficient means of delivering a service or conducting our work to reduce both costs and carbon. Since different travel choices produce different amounts of CO₂, how we choose to travel and the distances travelled have a direct impact on the amount of CO₂ our journeys are creating.

What is the Council doing to reduce travel?

As part of the Smarter Travel and Miles Better Project, the Council is looking at both business travel and staff travel to work and introducing efficiencies where possible including:

- Reviewing all of the Council's **non-employee travel**, such as the procurement of travel and transport (bus and taxi), reviewing what travel arrangements we actually need to deliver services and how to procure these in the most efficient way.
- Assessing mileage generated by the County's core **vehicle fleet** and ensuring vehicles are fully utilised. Our vehicle fleet includes mobile libraries, lorries, minibuses, pickups and vans which travel more than 8.5 million miles every year.
- Assessing and reducing the travel that we do as employees in our own vehicles (known as **grey fleet**) whether visiting a site, meeting with a service user or attending a meeting. Our grey fleet does more than 12.5 million miles every year. One of the initiatives we are looking at, as part of this grey fleet review, is making more pool cars available to staff to do business mileage. Another is the use of hire vehicles for all journeys over 100 miles.
- **Encouraging staff to use alternative transport modes**, where appropriate including, for example, the use of bicycle, bus, rail travel or car sharing for business journeys.

- Assessing how employees **travel to and from work**, as part of the Miles Better Project, implementing a Council Travel Plan, promotion of the Derbyshire car share and cycle to work scheme, for example.
- **Alternatives to travelling** at all to carry out business, including the use of information technologies such as tele-conferencing and webinars.

Top tips

- Think about journeys in advance and think about whether the journey is **really necessary**.
- Could face-to-face meetings be replaced by a tele-conferencing or webinars?
- How do you intend to travel? Check Transport Direct or Traveline before travelling in order to plan your journey. Is it possible to walk, cycle, get the bus or train instead of using the car?
- There is a mileage rate for cycling (20p per mile) or car sharing to a meeting/event/appointment (5p per mile per passenger)?
- The Council has a corporate Cycle to Work Scheme? If you are able to travel to work by bicycle, perhaps you could also cycle to attend a meeting/event/appointment.
- There is also a pool bike scheme available to Environmental Services (see details below) with similar schemes being investigated for other Departments.
- When attending an event or meeting, ask the organiser for a delegate list. There may be others going from the Council with whom you could car share.
- If you are arranging a meeting, choose Council owned meeting venues that are easily accessible by public transport. Include travel information with the meeting details and start the meeting at a time that allows the delegates to arrive by public transport. Encourage other meeting organisers to do the same.
- Plan ahead. When travelling on site, think about booking several appointments in the same area on the same day to link journeys and reduce the mileage generated from returning to the office.

If everyone plays their part, positive behavioural change and good housekeeping will make a huge difference!

Further information

Smarter Travel Project:	Mags Young ext 38501
Miles Better Travel to Work project:	Richard Lovell ext 38192
Cycle to Work Scheme:	Sustainable Travel team ext 38156
Teleconferencing Guide:	http://dnet/working_for_us/default.asp
Travel Information:	Transport Direct: www.transportdirect.info , Car Share Derbyshire: www.carsharer Derbyshire.com , Traveline East Midlands: www.travelineeastmidlands.org.uk

- Visit www.derbyshire.gov.uk/climatechange for more general information on environmental sustainability and climate change.
- Visit http://dnet/working_for_us/default.asp for Mini Guides to Climate Change, Reducing Our CO₂ Emissions, Climate Change Adaptation, Energy Efficiency, Automatic Meter Readings, Water Reduction, Waste Reduction and Procurement.

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