

DRAFT VALE GREEN TRAVEL PLAN
CONSULTATION FEED BACK

- 1) Consultation on the Draft Green Travel Plan has been completed. The draft plan was sent, electronically, to all staff working at Abbey house (approx 300) and to elected members (51) on the 9 February 2005. In addition each elected member was sent a hard copy of the consultation document. The closing date for comments was 28 February 2005. Responses were:

- Staff 76 (25%)
- Members 5 (10%)

From a total of approx 350 consultees, 81 responses were received = 23%

Given the importance of this scheme and the possible impact that some of the measures may have on travel habits; the overall level of response was disappointing

The consultation questionnaire asked six specific questions. The results are set out below, and can be summarised as follows:

- 2) 64 from 81 agree that the Vale should have a Green Travel Plan, with 31 considering the need to *reducing unnecessary journeys made by private car*, as the most important objective. The need to *increase cycling and walking*, and the need to *increase the use of public transport*, were also well supported (18 and 16 respectively).
- 3) Asked which of the proposed measures would encourage people to change their travel habits, 47 from 81 answered "none" or gave no answer. This could lead the Project Board to conclude that there is no strong support for any of the individual measures. The measures which received the most support were *car sharing*, *subsidised bus passes* and *better cycle parking*.
- 4) Asked which of the proposed measures people most disagreed with, not surprisingly the overwhelming response relates to the issue of car parking. 45 staff complained at the prospect of having to pay for their parking, particularly at the higher commercial rate, with a large number using the argument that they are designated essential users. 15 staff complained about the relocation of parking with a further 9 staff concerned about the proposal to review car allowances (which was also one of the 2005/06 budget proposals).
- 5) Consultees were invited to identify other measures not in the draft plan which could form part of the proposals. There was only a small response to this question with extending/formalising the practice of home working, been the most popular comment.
- 6) Results from the questionnaire:

Q1 Do you agree that there is a need for the Council to introduce a Green Travel Plan?

Yes = 64
 No = 17

Q2 Do you support the Council's Aims and Objectives of the proposed Green Travel Plan?

Yes = 55
 No = 26

Q3 Which of the objectives do you consider to be most important?

- to reduce unnecessary journeys made by private car 31
- to increase walking and cycling 18
- to increase the use of public transport 16
- to increase the opportunity for home working 11
- to encourage linked trips 8
- to reduce the need to travel 8

- none or no answer 18
- protect our environment and reduce air pollution 6

Q4 From those proposed in this Green Travel Plan, which are the three measures that are most likely to encourage you to change the way you travel to, from and at work?

<u>Measure</u>	<u>1st choice</u>	<u>2nd choice</u>	<u>3rd choice</u>
Car share club	9	2	1
Subsidised bus passes	8	3	2
Improved cycle parking	7	3	1
Charging for parking	4	1	1
Web site/maps	3	1	-
Reviewing travel and subsistence	1	3	-
Free cycle loans	1	-	2
Increase cycle allowance	1	-	-
Provide lockers	-	2	1
Use of Council cycle	-	1	-
Relocate staff parking	-	-	1
Abingdon/Oxford bus travel	-	-	1
None or no answer	47		

Q5 Are there any measures proposed which you strongly disagree with, and if so, why?

Paying for car parking, when essential user, etc	45
Relocation of staff parking	15
Changing car allowances	9
No account take of insurance issues re equip in cars	3
Cost of member parking being lower than staff parking	3
Public transport adds time to day/poor service	3
Requiring use of public transport to go to Oxford	3
Home working	2
Car sharing	1
Allowing staff to park at Abbey House	1
Intruding into peoples lives re travelling	1
Walk and cycle should get equality with car sharing	1
Cycling is unsafe	1
Showers and cycle parking is a waste of money	1
Provision of locker	1
All measures	4
No carrots	3
No/support	4
No answer	6

Q6 Are there any measures not currently in the Plan, which we may have forgotten, which introduced would encourage you to change your travel habits?

Home working with good IT links		9
Improved bus services		7
Pool cars		5
Cash incentives		4
Free home/work bus passes		3
Council meetings – no evening/frequency/location	3	
Free cycle helmets and protective clothing		2
Repair footpaths		2
9 day working fortnight		1
Have area offices		1
Subsidised motor cycle purchase		1
Pay overtime for extra time taken to get to work		1
Change mileage claim to encourage home to site journeys	1	
Support purchase of greener cars		1
Stop parking permits for staff living < ½ mile from office	1	
Introduce Vale mini bus service		1
Improve flexi time scheme		1
Provide hair dryers		1
Build train station in Abingdon		1
Subsidise house purchase in Abingdon		1
Provide stable for horse		1

7) The Draft Plan was sent to UNISON and GMB on 9 February 2005 asking for comments by 7 March 2005.

A letter dated 23 March 2005 was received from UNISON, in which they raised a number of questions. Many of their points relate to operational issues which will only be resolved when individual measures are considered in more detail, pre implementation. There are however some points of principle that will need to be addressed.

GRW
16/03/05