

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21 NOVEMBER 2012

SUBJECT:	WIRRAL UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITALS (WUTH) NHS FOUNDATION TRUST - TRAVEL PLAN REVIEW 2012
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	INTERIM DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents the Wirral University Teaching Hospital (WUTH) NHS Foundation Trust's Travel Plan Review 2012. This is the sixth annual review since the original Travel Plan was implemented as part of the Planning Approval for car parking provision at Arrowe Park Hospital in March 2006. The Travel Plan Review is currently reported on an annual basis to the Council and bi-annually reported to Members, as agreed by this Committee in November 2010. The review details progress to date to encourage staff to adopt sustainable transport habits and an action plan for the coming year.
- 1.2 The Travel Plan Review includes the results of the bi-annual surveys and this shows a reduction in single occupancy vehicles (9%) driven to work by staff in comparison to the 2010 survey. There have been increases in the number of staff walking, getting the bus and car sharing to work. The survey also showed a decrease in the number of staff cycling to work.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 WUTH originally submitted a Travel Plan in support of its planning application to increase the on-site car parking provision at Arrowe Park Hospital in 2005. This eventually became an integral part of the overall scheme through a Section 106 Agreement. According to the NHS Carbon Strategy report, only half of all NHS organisations have Board approved and corporately implemented sustainable travel plans.
- 2.2 The original Travel Plan was developed following negotiation and coordination with WUTH, by the Council's Sustainable Transport Co-ordinator and Merseyside TravelWise who both continue to provide on-going support and advice. The Plan covers both Arrowe Park Hospital and Clatterbridge Hospital and aims to reduce the amount of travel generated by the hospitals and sets out the Trust's aspirations for reducing the use of single occupancy private cars as the mode of choice when travelling to the hospitals by staff, visitors and patients.
- 2.3 WUTH, as one of the largest employers in Wirral, can make a major contribution to Wirral's commitment to developing and implementing a sustainable transport strategy, and indeed to the delivery of the objectives set out in the third Merseyside Local

Transport Plan (LTP3). The Travel Plan also supports other national and local policies such as encouraging healthy lifestyles and the reduction in obesity through increased exercise.

- 2.4 There is a requirement through the Section 106 Agreement for Arrowe Park Hospital that WUTH undertake an annual review of the Travel Plan and propose new targets for the site. This is currently reported on an annual basis to the Council and bi-annually reported to members.

TRAVEL PLAN REVIEW 2012

- 2.5 The main aims of the review of the Travel Plan are:
- To provide an update on the Travel Plan implementation
 - To demonstrate what has been achieved since the last review
 - To identify and make changes to the plan
 - To review future actions and target dates
- 2.6 WUTH commissioned Mott MacDonald Consultants to undertake a review of the Travel Plan, this review has been undertaken in consultation with the Council's Sustainable Transport Coordinator.
- 2.7 In summary the review includes:
- The results of a staff and patient / visitor travel survey. There has been an increase in the response to the staff travel survey by 2%.
 - The surveys show that travel to Arrowe Park has met the majority of targets set for 2010-12. Car sharing, bus use and sustainable modes have both exceeded the targets that were set. The target for an increase in the mode share of cycling was not met.
 - A breakdown of the costs of maintaining the car parks is included along with a proposal by the Trust to conduct a car parking review.
 - The measures implemented by WUTH over 2011-12 to support the travel plan.
- 2.8 The review remains subject to approval by the WUTH Trust's Board and should there be any significant changes to the review this will be reported to Members.
- 2.9 The results of the staff survey in August 2012 demonstrate that there has been significant change in the mode share of staff travelling to work. There has been an increase in staff walking, catching the bus and car sharing to work, whilst the number of staff cycling to work has decreased.

Figure 2.1 Results of the 2012 staff survey in comparison with the 2010 survey

Mode	2012 survey mode share (%)	2012 target	2010 survey mode share (%)
Walk	6	6	4
Bicycle	3	4	4
Bus	15	-	11
SOV	56	-	65
Car share	18	14	14
Other	2	-	2

- 2.10 The travel plan surveys have seen a significant reduction in staff travelling to work in single occupancy car journeys since the 2010 survey (9% reduction). The Travel Plan has used a number of incentives and disincentives to encourage the shift to more sustainable modes. They include:
- Promotion of the 'how to get to' guides
 - Public transport trial tickets giveaway
 - Staff parking restrictions within free public car park at Arrowe Park
 - Bicycle salary sacrifice scheme
 - Staff parking permit scheme
 - Bike maintenance sessions
 - National Bike week event
 - Promotion of sport and exercise to staff
- 2.11 The report includes a breakdown of the costs of maintaining the car parks and a proposal from WUTH to conduct a car parking review. This would include a review of car parking charges, parking permit allocation, existing car park capacity and circulation, parking demand and provision at Arrowe Park. Any increase in patient/visitor parking charges would be in line with Wirral Council's borough-wide increases in public parking charges.
- 2.12 Between the 2010 and 2012 staff surveys the Quality Bus Network, developed in partnership between Merseytravel, Wirral Council, Arriva and First, has helped to re-align the bus timetable in July 2012 to deliver buses at more regular intervals and interoperable daily and weekly ticketing.
- 2.13 As part of a successful bid to the Department for Transport's 'Better Bus Fund' by Merseytravel: upgrades to the bus stops at Arrowe Park are due to be undertaken within 2012/13. The improvements include two new shelters to improve the waiting area for patients, visitors and staff and a real time information screen to provide on-demand, real time travel information.
- 2.14 WUTH Trust has previously held discussions with Merseytravel over the relocation of the bus stops to outside Accident and Emergency however this would create traffic flow problems in the area and restrict the access of emergency vehicles. It has been agreed between Merseytravel and WUTH Trust that the relocation of the bus stops to this location would be impracticable.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 The principal risks for the Council if the Travel Plan is not endorsed and supported would be that it would demonstrate a lack of commitment to sustainable transport modes which may result in increased numbers of staff, patients and visitors driving to the hospital which would result in significant increases in congestion.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 No other options have been considered as it is a requirement of the Planning Condition that the Travel Plan is reviewed and reported on an annual basis.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 There is no requirement for consultation by the Council from this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 There are no implications for the Council from this report.

6.2 There are opportunities for the voluntary and community sector to have an input into the travel plan through the PALS office (Patient Advice and Liaison Service) at the hospital.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

7.1 There are no financial or staffing implications arising directly from this report.

7.2 Staff from the Technical Services Department and Merseyside TravelWise, as part of the Local Transport Plan Strategy, will continue to provide support to WUTH Trust in the development and implementation of their Travel Plan.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Yes and impact review is attached - <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/technical-services-0>

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The development of the Travel Plan and the reduction of staff driving to work on their own and using more sustainable modes of transport will help to reduce carbon emissions.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The Travel Plan is delivered through a S106 agreement through the planning process. There are no community safety implications.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 It is recommended that Members note the positive progress made by the Trust in reducing single occupancy car travel to the hospital, and endorse the contents of the WUTH NHS Foundation Trust's Travel Plan Review 2012.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 The WUTH NHS Trust have made significant reductions in the levels of staff accessing Arrowe Park hospital, this positive progress is a good indicator that the Travel Plan is having a positive influence to reduce single occupancy car journeys. The success of the Travel Plan towards the achievement of its aims is the reason for recommendation to endorse the review.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – WUTH Travel Plan Review 2012

The document can be viewed in the Members Room and on the Library Section of the online committee agendas.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

NHS Carbon Strategy: <http://www.sdu.nhs.uk/publications-resources/3/NHS-Carbon-Reduction-Strategy/>

Good Practice Guidelines: Delivering Travel Plans through the Planning Process
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090510210711/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/travelplans/tpp/>

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	17 Nov 2010
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	21 Sept 2009