

TRAVEL PLAN ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2018- 19

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1. UPDATED TRAVEL PLAN ACTION PLAN

For the full Travel Plan Action Plan please see the following link: <https://sites.reading.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2019/01/UOR-Travel-Plan-2017-2022-amended-Jan-2019.pdf>

2. USAGE DATA FOR TRAVEL INITIATIVES

This section provides an update on uptake and usage of travel initiatives up to 2018-2019, where data is available. The first of these reports was produced for the 2016-17 academic year.

A. STAFF HR BENEFITS

The University runs a number of salary sacrifice schemes and travel benefits available to staff. Many of these encourage sustainable travel.

HMRC removed the eligibility of many of these salary sacrifice schemes from end of March 2017. Mycar car purchase scheme is now only available for ultra-low emission vehicles. We work with Reading Buses to provide a new discounted bus pass scheme (Bus to work).

	Scheme description and notes	No. of participants at 31 July	
		2017/18	2018/19
Mycar	Purchase a car through Salary Sacrifice (Only available on Ultra Low Emission Vehicles from 1 April 2017). Participation lasts 36 months.	14	18
Cycle2work	Salary sacrifice bicycle purchase	30	14
Season Ticket Loans	For rail travel (lasts for 10 months)	9	7
Bus to work –annual and 90 day scheme	Replacement scheme for Bus+ salary sacrifice. Bus pass cost is significantly discounted and is deducted from net salary in equal instalments over 3 or 12 months.	147	246

B. BUS USAGE

The 21/21a services are the main bus routes coming onto Whiteknights campus, from the station via the London Road campus, and travelling on to Lower Earley. This currently runs every 7.5 minutes during the day in term time, and every 30 minutes at night.

Passenger figures for these services are for the whole route, not just University traffic. As **Error! Reference source not found.** shows, they are almost identical to the 2017/18 figures.

Bus route 19 runs through Woodley along the north edge of Whiteknights Campus and into town. Historically some of this route was run by route number 20 which formerly (2013) ran through campus as part of the clarets, so their passenger figures were combined. Passenger figures have recovered after a dip in 2017/18.

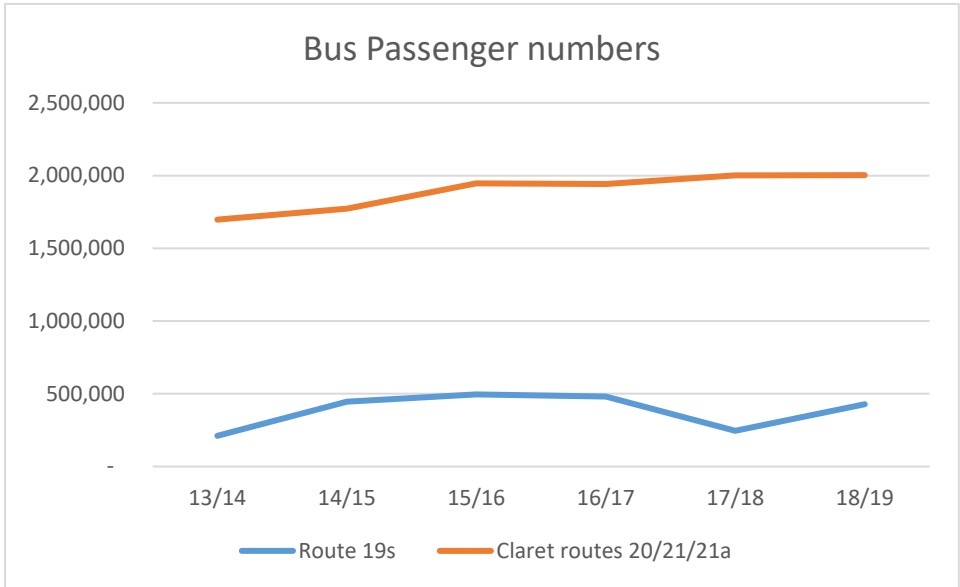
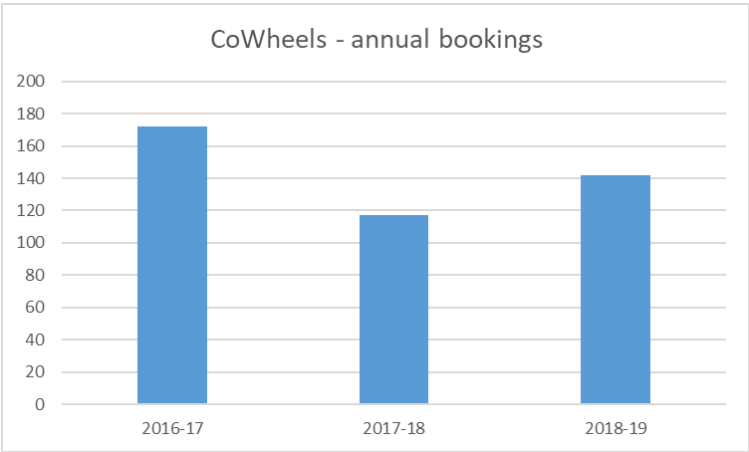


Figure 1 - Total annual bus passengers

C. CO-WHEELS CAR CLUB

The first Co-wheels car club car was installed on Whiteknights Campus in September 2016, sited at Dunsden Crescent in Park Group halls. This location was selected as providing easy vehicular access to off campus and close proximity to student halls. Usage has been steady if unspectacular. An additional car is due to be added at Northcourt Halls in September 2019.

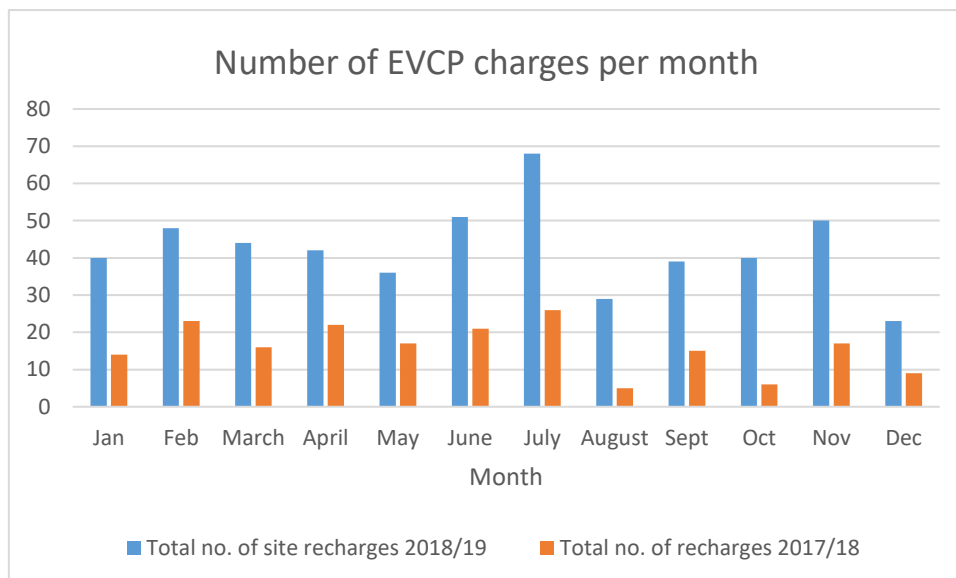


D. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS (EVCPS)

The University's first EVCP's were installed in the Sports Park pay and display car park in April 2017. There are 2 charge points with the possibility to charge four vehicles at once. They are managed via the Chargemaster Polar system.



The figure shows a significant increase in the number of charges per month between 2017/18 and 2018/19.



While there is a level of demand for EVCPs at other locations at the University and we would support their installation, this is not currently a priority for funding from the Travel Plan, as electric vehicles continue to contribute to congestion. However, as demand is increasing, this will need careful monitoring. In 2019/20, charge points will be considered for the Henley Business School, Greenlands campus, which is a remote site with reasonably regular requests for charge points from visitors.

E. EASIT DISCOUNT CARD

The Easit network provides a number of travel-related discounts. Some of which are available through registering online, and others require the purchase of an Easit card at £5 per year. Currently, 121 members of staff have an easitCARD and a further 470 have registered on the website in order to take advantage of other easitINITIATIVES such as the Halfords discount and discounted bus travel. The most popular discount is 15% off for rail travel for commuters into Reading (this requires the card to have been purchased). These discounts are available for staff only. Easit have recently become the first non-rail operator to secure a licence to sell season tickets online, and discussions are underway on the potential benefits this may offer for staff.

F. CYCLE SKILLS SESSIONS

A range of activities and initiatives promoting cycling are run throughout the year. Throughout 2018-19 we continued to build on the momentum of previous year resulting in a great uptake in overall activities to support cycling. Awareness and promotion have been key to the success of engaging people to attend.

The cycle sessions offered deliver the entire range of training levels; from complete beginners learning to ride; confidence and development skills for returning or nervous cyclists to more advanced road based sessions focussing on safe cycling; Highway Code and rules for cyclists to developing commuting techniques and route planning.

In total about 285 trainee attended sessions took place; comprising 88 individual participants (i.e. an average of 3.2 sessions per individual). The breakdown being:

- A total of 42 'Back on bike' sessions, with 90 attendees
- A total of 64 'Urban Commuting' sessions, with 195 attendees
- In addition over 20 students and staff came to Learn to Ride lessons. Many of these moved through the different levels of training to now cycle regularly for study; work or leisure
- A handful of leisure rides were run as part of larger promotional events (e.g. Student Wellbeing week)

Three factors helped drive the significant increase in volumes over previous years:

- More pre-term activity with many of the PSS students benefitting from training over the summer vacation period
- Inclusion of cycle training in the conditions of hire for Unicycle bikes
- Continued momentum in communication and spreading of word by attendees

G. BIKE MAINTENANCE SESSIONS

Dr Bike free maintenance

Dr Bike visited the campus on 13 occasions for a total of 36 hours, providing free at point of use cycle checks; basic maintenance and advice on further repairs needed for over 200 staff and students.

Reading Bike Kitchen (RBK)

RBK held 16 pop-up workshops typically running for 3 hours (including some all-day workshops) providing safety checks; basic repairs and maintenance guidance / support for roughly 140 staff and students.

These bike sessions continue to be extremely popular and are generally run over lunchtime or towards end of the day to maximise potential for those working and studying to attend. The engagement with Reading Bike Kitchen has been a new development this year but vastly increased the reach of people who can be supported and started to drive more self-sufficiency across the user base.

The other new development was the purchase of basic maintenance tools from some separate award money won by the University in the previous year's "Love to Ride" cycle initiative. The kits include good track pumps / sets of other basic tools/ puncture kits / lubricant stored in locations at Whiteknights and London Road security; and the chaplaincy.

H. CYCLE EVENTS

- Engaging our project provider, Avanti-cycling, from early on, meant we were able to increase the number of pre-term and welcome week activities this year.
- More than 70 attendees visited the Cycle Project Team stand at the RUSU activities fayre during Welcome Week, which provided an opportunity to promote the Unicycle Hire Scheme, training options and bicycle maintenance.
- We held a 'Cycle to Work' day in September; targeted mainly at staff with over 60 attendees. We offered free maintenance, support on routes and endurance training.
- An 'On Your Bike' day took place in October, offering 2nd hand bike sales as well as promoting the entire range of cycle activities and facilities available. In total over 300 people participated in one or more events. A key part of this success was the improved recycling of abandoned campus bicycles, which we aim to develop further in 2019-2020.
- Two further On Your Bike days with a similar range of facilities were held at the start term in January and another after Easter and were equally popular.
- During the Green Festival, we held a number of Light Up promotions and events.
- Leisure rides were held to mark specific occasions including Mental Health awareness day; Bike week and Women's' festival of cycling in July.

A key enabler is the continued investment in communications and this year we have moved to using Mailchimp to allow people to manage their engagement. The mailing list now has over 700 members as of 31 July 2019

I. UNICYCLE BIKE HIRE

This scheme allows for staff and students to hire a recycled bicycle, from as low as £10/term. The hire includes reflective security lights and a high quality lock each payable with a small deposit.

There has been a steady increase in participation over the years, however, this year, the numbers grew exponentially. This is due to a high level of support from Cycle Safety Project & Training lead, as well as the influx of new and recycled bicycles. RUSU purchased 36 Raleigh bikes and Reading Bike Kitchen helped refurbish 40 previously abandoned bikes. The Cycle Project lead provided extensive promotion ahead of term and at all subsequent events. They provided additional support by fitting students and staff to appropriate bicycles, going over safety tips and information as well as providing basic riding training. Their support has been instrumental in the overall success of the cycle project this year.

The volume and availability of Hire Bikes for 2019/20 is still under consideration by RUSU as the scheme requires considerable time and effort to administer. Based on the project's success and benefits, we remain confident that this will continue in full scale.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Number of Unicycle hires	18	11	78

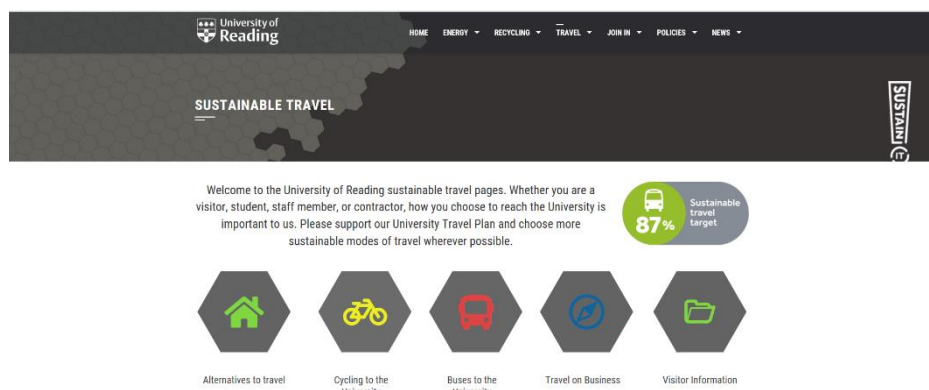
J. READYBIKE

Unfortunately, due to the poor uptake of this scheme across Reading, it was terminated last year for lack of commercial viability. University staff and students were amongst the highest users of the scheme and suffered as a result. However, through schemes like Unicycle Bike Hire, many have now been able to acquire an alternative 2nd hand bike from the University.

Reading Borough Council to intend to appoint a replacement provider for a bike share service, however no further announcement has currently been made in this regard.

K. WEBSITE HITS

The cycle webpages had over 2,700 hits in 2018-19, a significant increase from the year before (38.6%). Additionally, we saw more traffic on our staff travel incentive pages as well as those relating to bus travel. The website has undergone a massive transformation to update and simplify the user interface, and is now regularly updated with news, articles and key information.



L. PERMIT DATA REPORTING

Following improvements made to the WREN storage system, we are now better able to monitor and collect data on parking permits issued. This will help improve our understanding of who drives to campus, as well as the basis of the funds which are used to support the sustainable travel programme.

M. BUSINESS TRAVEL

Business travel is discussed with the monitoring of the University's Carbon Management Programme.

3.COMPLETED TRAVEL PLAN PROJECTS 18-19

Project	Impact	Travel Plan Budget Cost
Cycle skills sessions, safety promotion & maintenance	Approx. 105 training sessions were held. Over 300 staff and students participated	£14,620
Cycle parking at Miller (part of the Library project)	Significantly improved/expanded cycle parking for Miller building (<i>moved from Library</i>)	£0
Cycle parking maintenance and cleaning	Annual clean completed of all cycle shelters, plus ad hoc repairs	£2,588
Promotional material	New ABC travel info leaflet, cycle training flyer, 'do you need a car' promotion	£1,742
Contribution to JUMP behaviour change programme	Contribution for travel module of new JUMP staff behaviour change platform	£3,085
Route improvements	Feasibility for widening RUSU to Black Bridge path (works postponed due to budget cuts)	£1,427
Widening of path from CP3 past Childs Hall	Widened to improved 'shared space' for cyclists and pedestrians	Maintenance funded
Pathway improvements from Eat @ Square to Chemistry	Path widening and improved pedestrian crossings	Maintenance funded
Liftshare, CoWheels fees	Liftshare extended for further year	£3,624
Easit scheme membership	Travel discount scheme	£2,700
Cycle shelter at JJT	Dropped due to budget cuts	£0
Shower review	Dropped due to budget cuts	£0
Car parking administration and car park maintenance	Parking administration and maintenance by Campus Services	£30,000

Total Spend: £59,786

4.PLANNED PROJECTS 2019-20

Project	Budget Cost 2019-20
Travel survey 2020	£5,000
Widening of path from RUSU to Black Bridge	£47,211
Additional path improvement works	£15,947
Cycle skills sessions and cycle safety promotion including Dr Bike	£17,500
Gate cycle parking compound at London Rd	£15,000
Cycle parking/shower maintenance/cleaning	£2,500
Communication/behaviour change (inc. contribution to JUMP staff behaviour change programme)	£3,800
Easit scheme membership	£2,700
CoWheels fee and expansion to Northcourt	£2,800
Car parking administration and car park maintenance	£31,518
Total Spend:	£143,976