

TRAVEL PLAN ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2019 – 2020

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2. 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>

3. USAGE DATA FOR TRAVEL INITIATIVES

This section provides an update on the uptake and usage of travel initiatives over the 2019-20 year, where data is available. The first of these reports was produced for the 2016-17 academic year.

A. STAFF HR BENEFITS

The University offers several salary sacrifice schemes and travel benefits which are available for staff in order to encourage sustainable modes of travel.

The 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 Jul	
		2018/2019	2019/2020
Mycar	Purchase a car through Salary Sacrifice (Only available for Ultra Low Emission Vehicles). Participation lasts 36 months.	18	4
Cycle2work	A discounted Salary Sacrifice scheme which lasts 12 months.	14	32
Season Ticket Loans	For rail travel (lasts 10 months)	7	3
Bus to work – annual and 90-day loans	Significantly discounted bus pass cost, deducted from net salary in equal instalments over 3 or 12 months.	246	186

B. BUS USAGE

Due to the unprecedented circumstances of the coronavirus pandemic, this year's data is incomparable with previous years. In general, there continued to be a good passenger uptake for both the 19 and 21/21a bus services up until April 2020.

Between August 2019 and March 2020, 283,838 journeys were made on the 19a/b/c bus services and 1,266,680 journeys were completed on the Claret 21/21a services.

Following the Government announcement which saw the UK-wide lockdown come into effect on Monday 23 March 2020, there was a significant drop in bus journeys made, particularly for the 21/21a service. During March 2020, 146,765 journeys in total were made on the Claret 21/21a whereas in April 2020, only 6,032 journeys were completed.

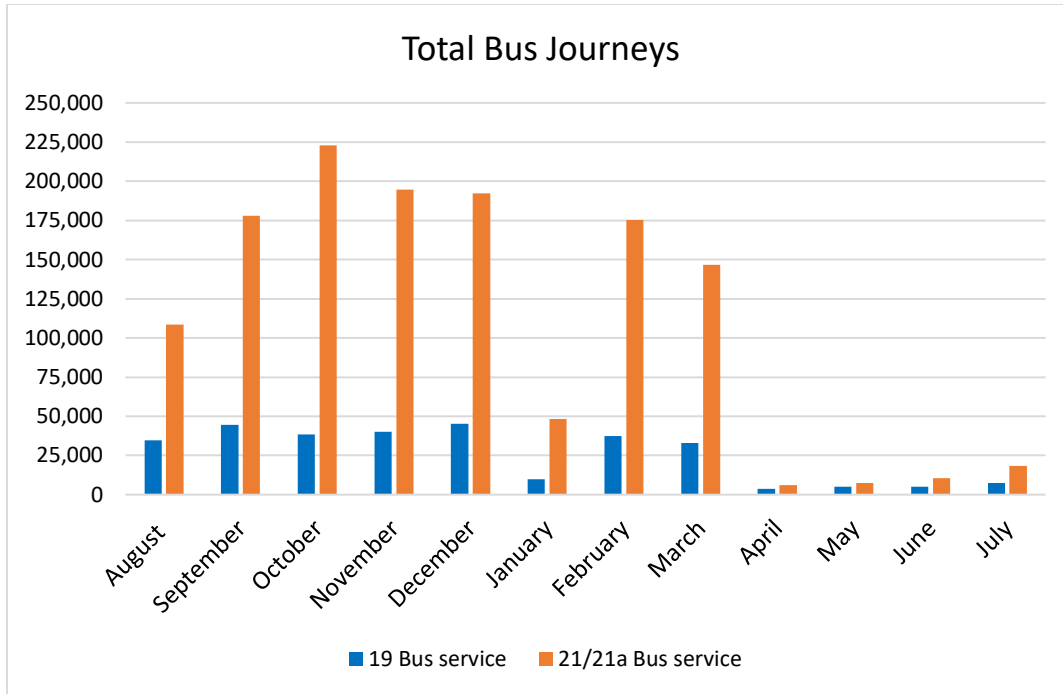


Figure 1 - Total bus journeys made over the 2019 - 2020 period.

C.CO-WHEELS CAR CLUB

There are now two Co-Wheels car club cars available for use. The first car remains at Dunsden Crescent in Park Group halls and the second car was installed at St Patricks Hall. There has been a marked increase in usage from previous years, with 514 annual bookings over the 2019-20 period (see Fig.2 below).

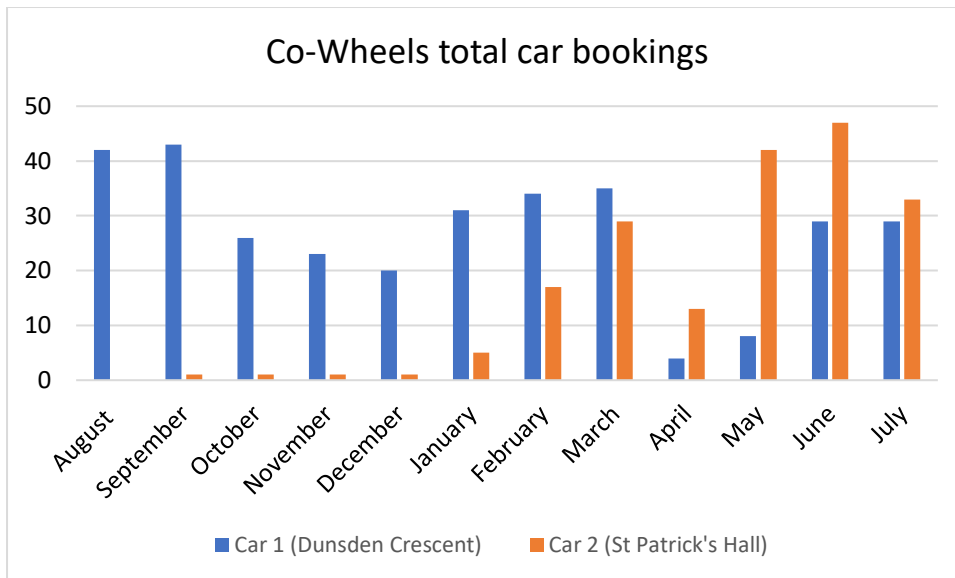


Figure 2 - Total annual bookings made from Aug 2019 - Jul 2020.

D. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGE POINTS (EVCP)

The University has 2 EVCP's installed at the Sports Park pay and display car park, able to charge up to four vehicles at once. They are managed via the Chargemaster Polar system.

In general, there has been a steady increase in EVCP usage over the course of the year. Unfortunately, the introduction of the UK-wide lockdown in March has impacted usage during the summer months. We expect usage to steadily increase with the phased return to working on campus.

New EVCP's are planned to be installed at Henley Business School Greenlands campus in 2020-21. The installation of new EVCP's at Earley Gate and London Road will also be considered, subject to available budget.

In the 2018-19 report, the EVCP data reported was incorrectly due to a small error in the data from the Chargemaster dashboard. This is corrected in Figure 3 below.

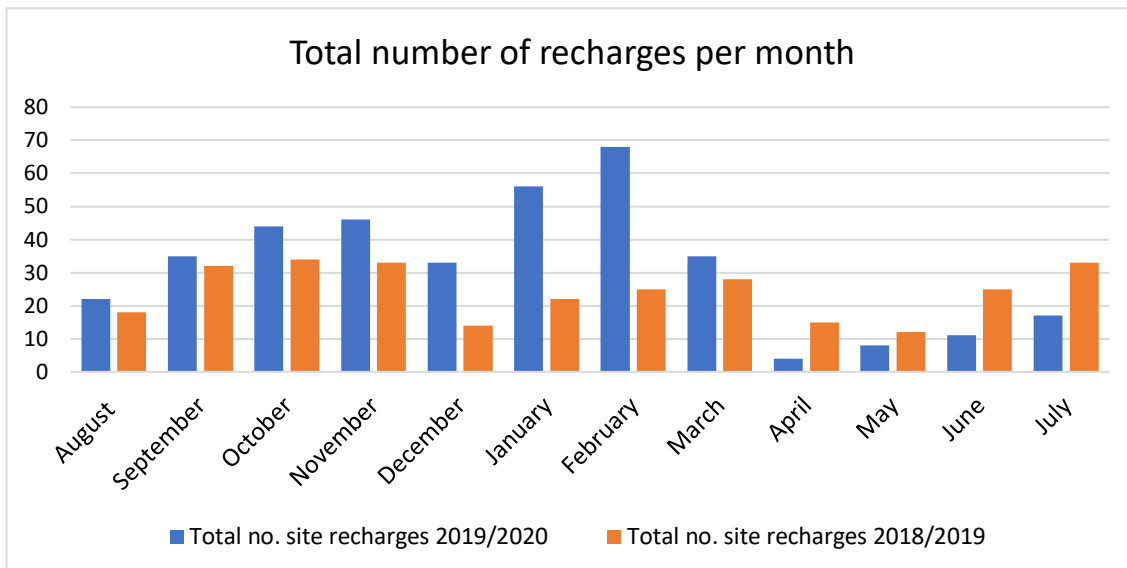


Figure 3 - Combined total monthly recharges at both EVCP's over the 2019-20 and 2018-19 period.

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.

There has been a drop in the number of Easitcard's purchased this year with 83 members of staff having an Easitcard, compared to 121 purchased during 2018-19. This was anticipated, as GWR took the controversial decision to withdraw their discount through Easit. The University, and many other organisations, appealed against this decision, but to no avail.

Nevertheless, the number of staff registered on the Easit website has increased from 470 staff in 2018-19 to 539 over the 2019-20 period. Registering on the website allows staff to take advantage of the other easitINITIATIVES such as the Halfords bicycle discount and discounted bus travel.

As well as introducing the option for Easit members to purchase season tickets online, Easit has recently introduced the option for members to purchase daily rail tickets on their website.

F. CYCLE SKILLS SESSIONS

A range of activities and initiatives promoting cycling were run throughout the year, coordinated by project provider Avanti Cycling (up to the week before the coronavirus lockdown occurred in March 2020). Throughout 2019-20 we continued to build on the momentum of previous years, resulting in a good uptake in overall activities to support cycling – despite one of the wettest winters on record!

Running promotional events and investing time and energy into multi-platform communications have been key to the success of engaging people to attend.

The cycle sessions on offer delivered 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 132 trainee-attended sessions took place; comprising 32 individual participants (i.e. an average of 4 sessions per individual – this reflects a higher proportion of beginners and less throughput of more experienced cyclists who attend for a refresher).

The breakdown for 2019-20 being:

- A total of 30 'Back on bike' sessions, with 54 attendees
- A total of 36 'Urban Commuting' sessions, with 82 attendees
- In addition, at least 10 students and staff came to Learn to Ride lessons – a number of whom were complete beginners and others who had not cycled since childhood. It's very encouraging to watch them progress through the levels of training and 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)

G. BIKE MAINTENANCE SESSIONS

Dr Bike - free maintenance

Dr Bike visited the campus on 16 occasions for a total of 50 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 around 120 staff and students (some crossover between Dr Bike and RBK attendees).

These bike sessions continue to be extremely popular and are generally run over lunchtimes or towards the end of the day to maximise potential for those working and studying to attend. The engagement with Reading Bike Kitchen is helping to drive more self-sufficiency across the user base.

H. CYCLE EVENTS

- Engaging our project provider, Avanti Cycling, from the beginning of the academic year, enables us to offer good pre-term and welcome week activities.
- We held a 'Cycle to Work' day as part of staff "Well-being" week in September; targeted mainly at staff with over 30 attendees and provided free maintenance, support on routes and endurance training.
- More than 90 students visited the Cycle Project team's stand at one of several RUSU-organised events during 2019 Welcome Week - including the very popular Activities Fayre, which provided a great opportunity for promotion of the Unicycle Hire Scheme, training sessions and bicycle maintenance / other facilities
- An 'On Your Bike' day took place in October, offering second-hand bike sales, as well as promoting the entire range of cycle activities and facilities available. In total over 100 people participated in one or more events. A key part of this success was the improved recycling of abandoned campus bicycles, which was developed more fully in 2019-20.
- During the Green Festival in November, we worked with Avanti Cycling to set up and run a number of cycle-based events as part of the programme including 'Light Up' promotions and bike repair / recycle events.
- A further 'On Your Bike' day with a similar range of facilities was held at the start term in January and was almost as popular as that in October. Unfortunately, the Bike Week event and other Summer term activities had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus lockdown.

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 had over 500 members as of 1 March 2020.

I. UNICYCLE BIKE HIRE

This scheme allows for staff and students to hire a recycled bicycle at relatively low cost and much lower risk than buying. The hire and deposit fee includes reflective security lights and high-quality lock.

There has been a steady increase in participation over the years; however, during 2018-19 the numbers grew exponentially, which unfortunately didn't continue to the same extent in 2019-20. This was partly due to the cost of scheme increasing (to £30/term with £100 deposit), very poor weather in October, and less time available from the RUSU Activities Manager due to parental leave.

The Cycle Project leader continued to provide extensive promotion of the UniCycle scheme ahead of term and at all subsequent events. We provided additional support by fitting students and staff to appropriate bicycles, going over safety tips and information, as well as providing basic riding training. Our support is planned to continue into 2020-21, if the hire scheme is able to go ahead.

Aside from these restrictions, the volume and availability of Hire Bikes for 2020-21 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 hopeful that this will continue in full scale.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019/20
Number of Unicycle hires	18	11	78	20

J. WEBSITE HITS

The cycle web pages had over 2,000 hits in 2019 – 2020, this is a decrease on the previous years figure of over 2,700. The Sustainability Services website has recently been upgraded to improve user functionality and layout.

K. BUSINESS TRAVEL

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

3. COMPLETED TRAVEL PROJECTS

Project	Impact	Travel Plan budget cost
RUSU to Black Bridge path widening	Improve 'shared space' between cyclists and pedestrians	£53,430
Cycle skills sessions, safety promotion & maintenance	Improved cycled skills, confidence and safety	£12,600
Travel subscription licences	CoWheels, Easit, Chargemaster, JUMP	£7,828
Total Spend		£73,856

The 2019/20 travel budget spend was curtailed, due to the coronavirus outbreak impacting income from campus parking charges.

4. PLANNED TRAVEL PROJECTS 2020-21

Project	Budget Cost 2020-21
Installation of EV Charge Points at Greenlands	£21,000
Installation of EV Charge Points at either London Road campus or Earley Gate	£20,000
Allocate car sharing spaces in car parks	£7,000
CoWheels provision at Northcourt/London Road	£0
Prioritised refurbishment of shower facilities	£15,000
Cycle parking provision at tennis dome	£6,900
Prioritised additional cycle parking	£6,900
Cycle parking maintenance allowance	£3,000
Shower facility maintenance allowance	£1,000
Travel Plan consultancy allowance	£4,000
Cycle safety promotion, maintenance, and training	£17,500
Travel scheme licenses (Easit, CoWheels, Chargemaster, Jump)	£8,300
Communication/Behaviour change	£5,289
Total cost	£115,889