

## Transport Action Plan

In October 2007, Aston University adopted a Transport Action Plan. This action plan proposed a series of measures to enable sustainable travel; a summary of these actions, along with progress to date, is detailed below.

Actions from Transport Plan	Progress in 2008
Annual review of parking permit charges - with a view to eliminating incentives to park on campus – with strict enforcement and a move to commercial links.	In July 2008, following consultation with the Joint Unions and Human Resources an increase in car parking charges was announced. Prices were increased from a flat rate of £240 per annum to a sliding scale, linked to salary starting at £240 per annum for the lowest paid workers rising to £360 per annum for those earning spinal point 37 and above. These charges will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis.
Provision of designated parking spaces at a reduced charge for car sharers	The University signed up to the Birmingham Car Share Database in June 2008, <a href="http://www.carsharebirmingham.org.uk">www.carsharebirmingham.org.uk</a>  The database has been promoted through activities for World Environment Day, in Aston Aspects and at staff Public Transport Surgeries in June and September. To date uptake of the car share database has been low. Yet to make a case for dedicated car share parking spaces.
Segregation of on-campus staff and visitor parking	Dedicated visitor car parking is now provided on a pay and display basis, separate from staff car parking on campus in Car Park 3.
Provision of dedicated cycle and motorcycle parking, with equipment storage facilities and good lighting.	Following detailed consultation with Aston Bicycle Users Group (AstBUG) members and the wider University community a planning application was been submitted to Birmingham City Council for 6 new secure and highly visible cycle and motorcycle shelters. If successful this will provide 120 covered cycle parking spaces and 15 dedicated motorcycle spaces around the Main Building, Guild and Library.  Estates and Facilities are also working on designs and costs for changing, drying and storage facilities for AstBUG members in the Main Building.
Dedicated travel section on website	A dedicated travel section was published on the University website in March 2008.

	<a href="http://www.aston.ac.uk/environment/transport/">www.aston.ac.uk/environment/transport/</a>
Marketing of alternatives to the car	<p>The webpage, <a href="http://www.aston.ac.uk/environment/transport/">www.aston.ac.uk/environment/transport/</a> is the reference point for all marketing of alternatives to the car. This webpage has been promoted to students during Welcome Week and in the Aston Times student newspaper, and to staff through Aston Aspects, public transport workshops and all staff e-mails.</p> <p>A Real Time Information display for public transport was also installed in the Main Building main reception in November 2008.</p>
Negotiate with providers to make improvements to local bus services, passenger security and waiting facilities	<p>Regular meetings have been held with Company Travelwise in Birmingham, the passenger transport authority Centro and the main bus operator National Express West Midlands.</p> <p>A planning application for a major Park and Ride scheme at the University Sports Ground at Shustoke has been submitted. If successful, this Park and Ride scheme would provide a strategic route into the campus from the north of the city.</p>
Develop public transport ticketing initiatives	<p>In partnership with Company Travelwise in Birmingham, the University offers discounted annual public transport season tickets to staff on an interest free loan basis. This popular scheme was taken up by 27% of staff in 2007/8 and work is underway through the University's "Flexible Benefits Project Group" to increase the desirability of this scheme in the future.</p>
Work with City authorities to provide and sign safe walking and cycling routes	<p>The University, through the work of AstBUG and the Environment and Sustainability Team have been proactive in promoting and distributing the Birmingham Cycling and Walking Map to staff and students.</p> <p>Working in partnership with the City Council, the University is developing a campus cycling and walking map, which will identify cycle parking on campus, cycle and pedestrian routes through the campus, links to city wide cycle routes and public transport nodes.</p>

To measure progress with the Transport Action Plan, a series of targets for changing staff and student travel behaviour have been set. These targets measure modal shift between 2005 and 2012, and repeat travel surveys will be carried out in 2009 and 2012.