



Travel Plan

Rutland House Veterinary Hospital

Introduction

Transport makes up over 25% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions (2019 figures) and it is one of the key areas being targeted by government strategy to ensure the UK meets its carbon reduction targets. It can have a significant adverse impact on the environment, increasing resource use, causing water and air pollution as well as contributing to carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions. By adopting this travel plan Rutland House Veterinary Hospital is demonstrating a commitment reducing our environmental impact by prioritising sustainable modes of transport and minimising the use of fossil fuelled cars and fleet. Our travel plan aims to deliver a range of social, environmental, economic and health benefits and adoption by all staff is encouraged.

The Travel Plan and associated Action Plan aims to measure, monitor and manage the use of:

- ✔ Business related travel, including the use of sustainable transport, fleet and grey fleet
- ✔ Commuter travel – to and from work.

It will also aim to engage stakeholders in considering how they travel to our premises.

1. Summary Of Current Activity

We have circa 50 members of staff at the hospital all doing different shifts, we are based at the main hospital in St. Helens located on the corner of a small industrial estate. Whilst we have a small fleet of vehicles (3) for the hospital the main scope of travel is relating to staff commuting and visitors travelling to us within business hours

The staff survey showed us the majority of people use their own cars to travel to and from work and this is their preferred method of transportation for several reasons to include, distance, family responsibilities and shift times.

We have a bike to work policy and a few people have taken this on board. Car sharing is encouraged and is undertaken by some but due to other commitments such as family outside of work this can be tricky to manage.

We have reduced the amount of usage of our fleet cars but reducing the number of times we visit practices in the vehicle and the use of online formats such as teams instead of meeting in person for some regular meetings.

We have cycle parking/storage, staff showers and lockers and have , improved online meeting technology already.

We encourage and are supportive of the Cycle to Work scheme.

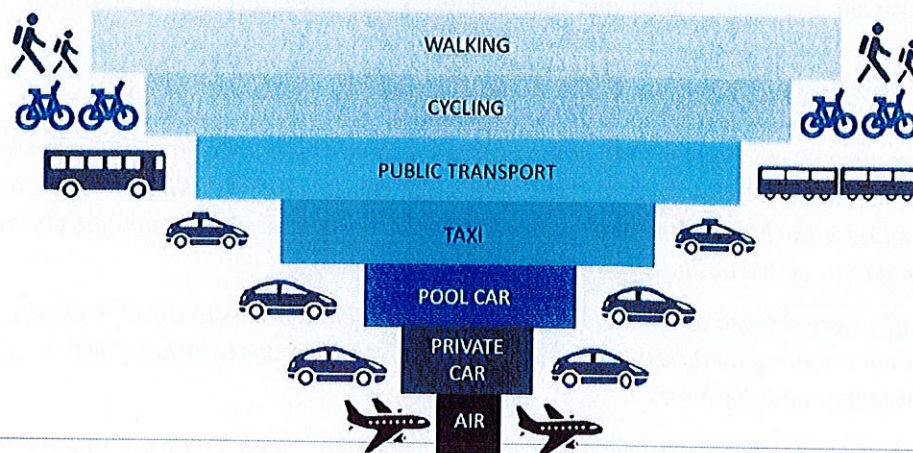
2. The Purpose Of This Plan

This travel plan's purpose is to:

- ✓ Reduce transport related carbon emissions
- ✓ Demonstrate the organisation's commitment to sustainability
- ✓ Promote health and wellbeing within the workplace
- ✓ Increase members of staff using an active form of transport/saving money on transport
- ✓ Reduce environmental and social impact of work related travel
- ✓ Reduce the number of single occupancy vehicle journeys
- ✓ Increase the efficiency of vehicle use
- ✓ Minimise site congestion
- ✓ Influence the procurement of fleet vehicles, business travel and accommodation
- ✓ Minimise the impact of fleet vehicle use through better management, planned investment and efficient use
- ✓ Show leadership in and consideration for our immediate community

3. Prioritising Sustainable Transport

In order to manage business transport, *Rutland House* will adopt a transport hierarchy and travel planning strategy. Travel will only be used where necessary and via the most sustainable means possible, as demonstrated in the diagram below:



Rutland House's premises can be reached using sustainable forms of transport as follows:

Walking

Good access if local

Cycling

St. Helens council committed to more cycle paths in the last few years

Public Transport

We have 2 very close train stations as well as being on a bus route

Add links to where to find timetable information to the Appendix,

4. Minimising The Impact Of Vehicle Use

Optional: When travel by car unavoidable, other strategies will also be adopted, including:

- ✔ Monitoring mileage and fuel consumption to track usage and identify possible reduction strategies of fleet vehicles.
- ✔ Planning trips in order to maximise time use efficiency and reduce mileage, ensuring that one round trip is used rather than many individual ones
- ✔ Training drivers in fuel efficient driving techniques, for example accelerating slowly, driving at lower speeds, braking less heavily, changing up gears sooner etc.
- ✔ Maintaining vehicles, including reducing excess loads and checking tyre pressures
- ✔ Ensuring that decisions about the procurement or lease of any fleet vehicles prioritise consideration of their environmental impact, from acquisition, through usage to disposal

5. Plan Delivery

To deliver on the travel plan we will do the following:

- ✔ Appoint Travel Plan Lead
- ✔ Secure and demonstrate full Management Team support
- ✔ Produce baseline data and track and share results with staff
- ✔ Set goals to reduce the impact of business related travel
- ✔ Take actions that provide incentives and disincentives to achieve the goal
- ✔ Ensure all staff are informed of the content of this plan and are regularly reminded of its content
- ✔ Promote the plan to key stakeholders through the website and when arranging visits
- ✔ Monitor progress by *keeping track of mileage and usage of fleet vehicles.*

6. Targets

Targets for 2026/2027 have been set using a baseline of the staff travel survey undertaken in 2025/2026

Rutland House will aim to :

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- ✔ Reduce fleet fuel use/mileage by 10%
 - ✔ Reduce grey fleet mileage by 10%
 - ✔ Ensure 10% of business travel accommodation providers used demonstrate sustainability standards which reflect that of our own.

7. Communicating The Travel Plan

We will share this information in the weekly updates and compare with another questionnaire in 12mths, in the meant time we will actively work to encourage forms of transport such as train usage to conferences instead of driving. We will also advise our clients via social media of our plans and updates.

8. Links to other policies and strategies

This Travel Plan has direct links with Rutland House's following policies and strategies which can be found on our website : [Rutland House Vets | Trusted 24-Hour Vets in North West England](#)

Environmental Policy
Green Procurement Policy

9. Review

The Travel Plan will be reviewed every (two) year(s) (adjust as appropriate) by XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX and will include employee feedback.

Signed.....*Janelle*.....

Name.....*JANIE CLARE*.....

Position.....*PRACTICE MANAGER + CLINICAL DIRECTOR*.....

Date.....*14/11/20*.....

Date of next review.....*APRIL 2022*.....

Appendices

Include (as appropriate):

1. Results of recent staff surveys
2. Details of/links to sites which give up to date information on local travel links
3. Links to local cycle route information
4. FAQs
5. Links to/copies of related company policies