

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	David Simper, Group Leader (Transport Projects)
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	27 September 2023

## STAFF TRAVEL PLAN – PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

### 1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 To update the Committee on progress in preparing and implementing a new Staff Travel Plan, in line with the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 That the Committee note the report and identify any areas for additional scrutiny as appropriate.

### 3.0 Reason for recommendation(s)

3.1 The plan's preparation is proceeding and a final version with the necessary accompanying action plan will be brought to a future Committee for further consideration.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

### 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered

4.1 No alternatives to a Staff Travel Plan in pursuit of corporate modal shift are available to be considered.

### 5.0 Council priority

5.1 The relevant Council priorities are:

- 'The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool'
- 'Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience'

5.2 A successful Plan will contribute to achieving both these priorities.

## **6.0 Background and key information**

- 6.1 The Climate Emergency Action Plan determined that a revised Staff Travel Plan be prepared with the principal objective of reducing the Council's Green House Gas (GHG) emissions by effecting modal shift from fossil fuel powered vehicles (ICE) for commuting and in work travel, to public transport, cycling and walking with their lower emission rates. This requires these latter modes to be promoted and incentivised to colleagues in order to facilitate them to shift modally from ICE vehicles to sustainable modes.
- 6.2 Following this commitment, a plan document has been drafted (Appendix 6(a)) addressing the issues and providing information on sustainable travel modes, including discount public transport fares, cycle to work scheme, public transport loan scheme that are available. The car lease scheme will include electric vehicle options and a charging strategy with funding from the Local Transport Plan has been established. A multi-departmental Staff Travel Plan Group has been established and has fed into the draft plan to enable the final draft to be prepared.
- 6.3 The Plan has been subjected to an Equalities Analysis (EA – Appendix 6(b)) and this will be finalised and the Plan adjusted as necessary. The Plan is advisory and has no proposed change of service conditions within it. With the EA and action plan in place, the Plan and its implementation can be discussed with the trade unions. Moving to sustainable modes offers expenditure savings and this can assist people during the current cost of living crisis.
- 6.4 The draft Plan was presented to the Staff Travel Plan Group at its meeting of 18 August 2023 and agreed by that group. At the time of writing, an action plan including short, medium and long-term tasks towards delivering a successful outcome is being prepared and performance indicators being determined. This work will be reported to the Staff Travel Plan Group's meeting on 3 November 2023 with a proposal that the Plan be brought to a final draft, following which it will be presented to this Committee for consideration.
- 6.5 Following consideration and input from the Committee the Plan will be presented to the Executive for approval.

6.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

## **7.0 List of appendices**

- 7.1 Appendix 6(a) - Staff Travel Plan 2023 draft  
7.2 Appendix 6(b) - Equality Analysis draft

## **8.0 Financial considerations**

8.1 The Plan builds on and promotes existing arrangements and will have no further financial consequences.

## **9.0 Legal considerations**

9.1 No change of service conditions are proposed and the plan is advisory therefore no legal considerations are anticipated.

## **10.0 Risk management considerations**

10.1 Building on existing arrangements, there are no further risk management considerations.

## **11.0 Equalities considerations and the impact of this decision for our children and young people**

11.1 The EA (Appendix 6(b)) carried out does not identify significant equalities considerations, particularly given its advisory nature. If the Plan's success can be demonstrated over future years, our children and young people will benefit from a safer and improved public realm due to reduced motor traffic, and from the Plan's contribution to addressing the Climate Emergency.

## **12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations**

12.1 A successful Plan can make a significant contribution to achieving the Council's objectives in this area, both by reducing GHG and other polluting emissions eg. Nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter.

## **13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken**

13.1 The Staff Travel Plan Group has been established to provide reference for the Plan. It is intended that this Plan form a template to enable private sector partner organisations to establish their own Plans.

## **14.0 Background papers**

14.1 Climate Emergency Action Plan