

Green Workplace Travel Plans: Free advice and support available to businesses in Waltham Forest, Enfield and Barnet

A travel plan is a package of measures, tailored to the needs of individual businesses, aiming to cut congestion and pollution by promoting greener, healthier travel choices and reducing reliance on solo car journeys.

The Confederation of British Industry has estimated that road congestion costs UK businesses around £20 billion per year in lost time and efficiency, so providing travel options for employees and customers that reduce car use makes good business sense. There are also proven health benefits associated with active commuting such as walking and cycling.

North London Travel Plans (NLTP) has been established by Transport for London to promote travel plans to businesses in Waltham Forest, Barnet and Enfield. NLTP's Business Travel Plan Advisor, Charlotte May (Tel: 020 8496 6784 – Charlotte.May@walthamforest.gov.uk), is based at Waltham Forest Town Hall.

As well as reducing congestion, travel plans have a range of other benefits to businesses and their staff. They can:

- encourage active, healthy travel - improving staff wellbeing and reducing absenteeism
- improve staff retention by making staff journeys to work easier and cheaper
- save money on the cost of providing and maintaining parking spaces
- save staff time
- improve customer access
- ease delays to deliveries and movements of goods
- free up space currently used for parking for more productive use
- cut carbon emissions and improve local air quality
- improve your image to both customers and neighbours, building a reputation as a 'good neighbour' and responsible business partner
- enhance your organisation's environmental and corporate social responsibility credentials (increasingly important when competing for tenders)
- contribute to achieving environmental accreditation (eg Acorn/BS8555, ISO 14001)

North London Travel Plans and its partner, Enterprise, can provide free advice to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Waltham Forest, Barnet and Enfield, helping you write and market to staff a straightforward, flexible travel plan focussing on the "quick win" measures most relevant to your organisation.

We can assist SMEs to develop a business case for the plan for presentation to the Board/senior management. We can also provide ongoing help with implementing the plan, provide a survey and audit tool to gather data on your organisation's current travel patterns and needs, and suggest relevant measures.

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Once a travel plan is agreed upon, specially developed incentive packages will promote a particular element of your workplace travel plan to employees (such as cycling, walking, car sharing or flexible working). Those elements that have the greatest potential for your organisation will be targeted first.

SMEs employing 20 or more employees may also be eligible for free cycle stands, free merchandise (such as cycling jackets, pedometers, rucksacks – to help them market the travel plan to staff), and financial support, on a matched funding basis, to introduce other measures associated with a travel plan.

If you would like further information on travel plans, please do not hesitate to call Charlotte May, Business Travel Plan Advisor, on 020 8496 6784 (Charlotte.May@walthamforest.gov.uk).