

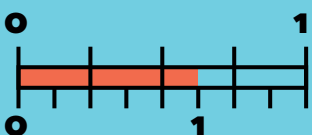


TRAVEL PLAN

2019-2021



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



WHAT IS A TRAVEL PLAN?



The University of Leeds travel plan is a strategic document that outlines the university's commitments to changing behaviour, operations and infrastructural developments towards more sustainable modes of travel, by staff, students and visitors to the university.

Sustainable travel definition:

“The provision of services and infrastructure for the mobility of people and goods – advancing economic and social development to benefit today’s and future generations – in a manner that is safe, affordable, accessible, efficient, and resilient, while minimizing carbon and other emissions and environmental impacts.”

UN Independent High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport.

Areas of the University where travel is a key component include:

Staff and student commuter travel

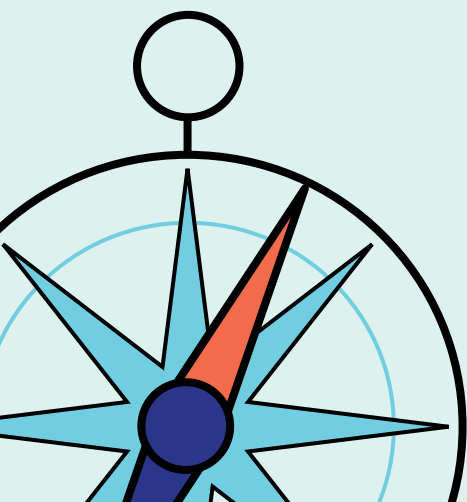
Business travel

University fleet vehicles

Visitors to the University

This travel plan will help us to achieve our strategic aim **to foster a student and staff body where sustainable travel is the norm** enhancing the connectivity of our institution while reducing the associated negative impacts of travel such as congestion, carbon emissions and air pollution.

Decarbonising transport is an important part of the UK's commitment to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050, which the government has committed to after recommendations from the Committee on Climate Change (www.theccc.org.uk). The University recognises that it can support this trajectory by decarbonising its travel impacts and influencing change in the wider city. Although University net zero carbon targets are beyond the scope of this plan, the travel plan actions will set the foundations for this transition.



WHY DO WE NEED ONE?

“Transport is not an end in itself but rather a means allowing people to access what they need: jobs, markets and goods, social interaction, education, and a full range of other services contributing to healthy and fulfilled lives.”

High-Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport – Mobilizing Sustainable Transport for Development.

The University of Leeds is one of the largest universities in the UK, with over 35,000 students. It is a member of the Russell Group of research-intensive universities and is the 3rd largest employer in Leeds, with 8,000 members of staff. The campus, located on the edge of the city centre, provides world-class facilities, innovative global research and a wide range of employment opportunities for the local community.

Travel is essential to the everyday activities of the University’s staff and students, as well as connecting local research with the global academic community. However, transport inevitably contributes to total carbon emissions, puts pressure on transport networks and impacts on air quality.

It is therefore vital to have a structured plan in place, which sets out future targets and actions in order to ensure travel is accessible, efficient, and resilient, while minimising the negative environmental impacts.

BIGGER PICTURE

CLIMATE CHANGE

Amongst the growing awareness of climate change, the IPCC’s Special Report* in 2018 identified the additional risks in allowing temperature to increase beyond 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. In order to support global efforts to achieve this the Committee for Climate Change** have outlined that we need to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Transport currently accounts for one third of the UKs greenhouse gas emissions and has seen minimal reduction since 1990 levels. As a result it is a UK priority to reduce emissions if we are to meet future net zero carbon plans. Essential changes will be required in order to achieve this, including decarbonisation of transport, major infrastructural changes and significant increases in active travel.

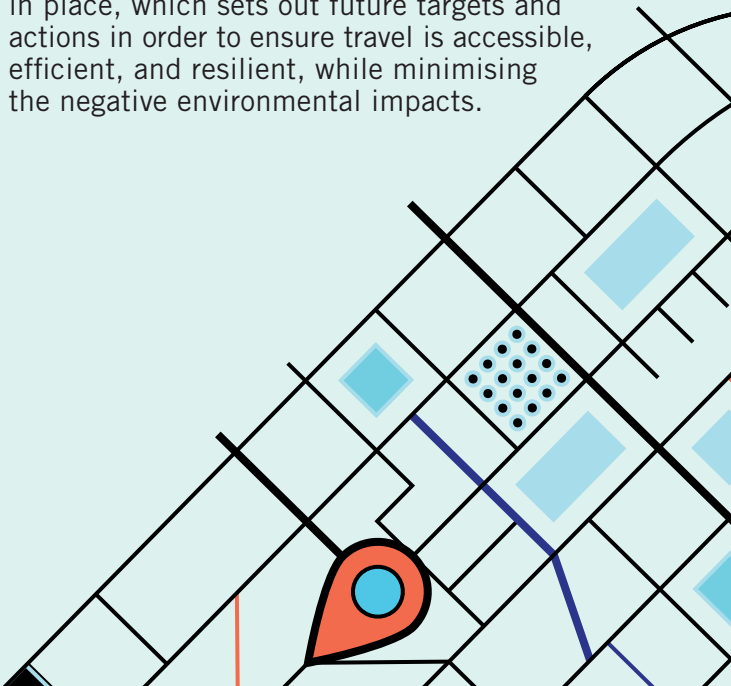
The University will support the national and regional transition towards becoming net zero carbon, through its operations and by leading the research and innovation that is required to achieve these targets.

*www.ipcc.ch/sr15/

**www.theccc.org.uk/

“Sustainable transport supports inclusive growth, job creation, poverty reduction, access to markets, the empowerment of women, and the well-being of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. It is also essential to our efforts to fight climate change, reduce air pollution and improve road safety.”

Ban Ki-moon, 2016.



BIGGER PICTURE

LEEDS CITY REGION

Efficient and accessible transport networks are one of the fundamental components of creating liveable, prosperous and sustainable cities. As one of the largest institutions in Leeds, the University has a responsibility to promote and operate using sustainable travel methods.

There are major developments taking place in the Leeds city region over the next few years that will transform the transport landscape. It is important that the University works collaboratively with the organisations delivering these changes to ensure that any campus developments are aligned as well as providing vital stakeholder consultation to influence the developments.

Climate Emergency

Leeds City Council declared a climate emergency in March 2019 and set a commitment to make Leeds carbon neutral by 2030.

Clean Air Charging Zone

Leeds City Council will introduce the city's Clean Air Charging Zone to reduce air pollution and protect the health of everyone in Leeds. The zone will aim to discourage the most polluting vehicles from entering the city and will be the largest of its kind in the country.

Connecting Leeds

This is Leeds City Council's ambition to transform travel in Leeds for people who live, work in and visit the city. This includes cleaner buses, park and ride hubs, highway improvements, cycling infrastructure and new train stations.

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Travel Plan will align with the University's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These are a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all.

The following SDGs have been linked to the University's Travel Plan to demonstrate how our approach to sustainable transport aligns with the wider set of global commitments:



SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

The Travel Plan aligns to the University of Leeds Sustainability Strategy* through all four of its pillars of strategic activity. The Travel Plan will facilitate:

Embedding sustainability through collaboration

By supporting collaborative networks across the University, ensuring a consistent approach to sustainable travel and sharing best practice throughout the organisation.

Building knowledge and capacity

Through supporting and promoting research that examines issues relating to sustainable travel. This will be encouraged through the availability of Living Lab funding and the Institute of Transport Studies, which is one of the UK's leading departments for transport teaching and research.

Being a positive partner in society

Leading by example on sustainable travel, sharing best practice and supporting wider initiatives across Leeds. As well as supporting our staff and students to be responsible citizens and to consider how their travel impacts the local community.

Making the most of resources

Reducing carbon emissions associated with travel activities in order to align with the national transition towards net zero carbon emissions.

*University of Leeds Sustainability Strategy 2014 – 2020

OVERVIEW

SCOPE OF THE TRAVEL PLAN

The Travel Plan covers the whole University organisation, including our facilities at Leeds Teaching Hospitals, sports facilities, University owned residences and our main campus.

Areas of the University where travel has a direct impact are:

Staff and student commuting

The modes of transport used by staff and students to access the University.

Business Travel

Travel undertaken for University business (e.g. research or educational purposes) can be local, national or global.

University Fleet

The University has its own fleet of vehicles to undertake research, educational or operational activity, including catering deliveries, security patrols, visiting residences and groundwork across the facilities.

Visitors

Visitors to the University include contractors, deliveries, conference delegates and potential students.

In line with Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, any new developments at the University, that require planning permission, are obligated to have their own building specific Travel Plan. These travel plans will refer back to this larger strategy document in order to ensure a consistent approach across the University facilities.

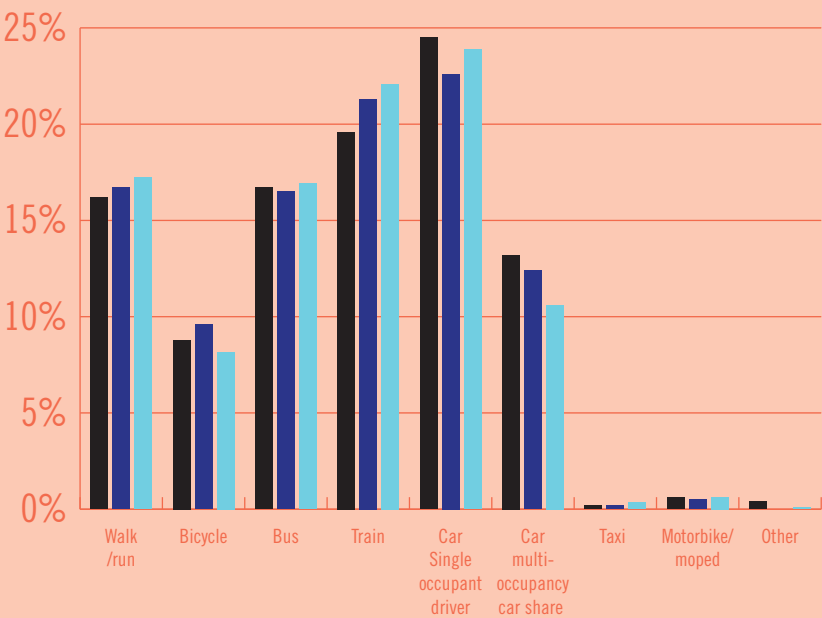
MONITORING TRAVEL

Travel activities at the University are monitored through a number of different sources, including an annual travel survey, travel providers, financial systems and the uptake of staff benefits.

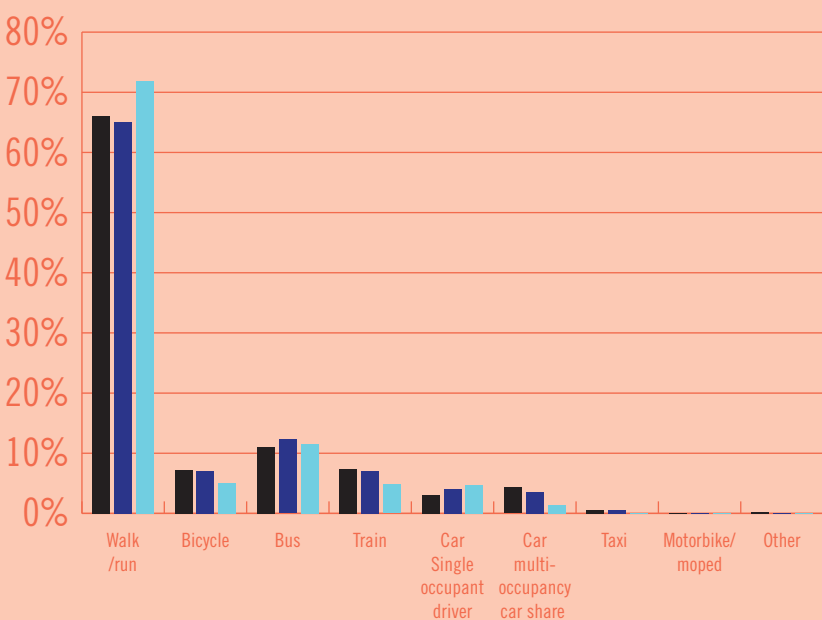
The data collected enables us to understand our travel impacts, as well as setting targets to make positive change and observing progress against these.



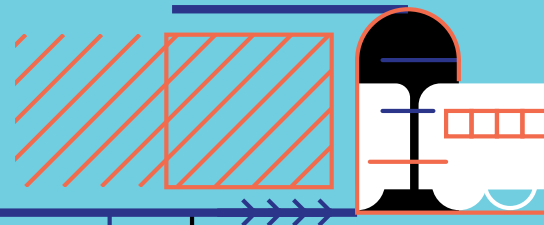
Staff commuter travel: 2015 - 2018



Student commuter travel: 2015 - 2018



PROGRESS SO FAR



GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Scope 3 travel data collected on an annual basis to inform planned activity towards reduction targets.

Video-conferencing software and facilities made available throughout the University.

Engaged with 40 teams across the University through the Green Impact programme, which included promoting sustainable travel as a key component.

Provided alternatives to using personal cars for business miles, including low emitting vehicles through Enterprise Car Club and offering cycle mileage through expenses.

Sustainable Construction Standard have been developed and implemented for capital projects within two categories; those with a value of £100,000 - £2,000,000 and those over £2,000,000. These stipulate that suitable sustainable travel facilities are included in developments for example, ensuring that secure storage, showers and changing facilities are provided.

WELLBEING, SAFETY AND HEALTH

Annual cycle safety event undertaken in collaboration with security services, West Yorkshire Police and Leeds City Council.

Collaboration with Leeds City Council on sustainable travel developments in the city, including developments of a bike-docking system, Connecting Leeds Transport proposals and Clean Air Zone developments.

Achieved the Gold Bike Friendly Business Accreditation from CityConnect, this is the highest level of the accreditation, which recognises businesses for supporting their staff to cycle.

Expanded the operations of the Bike Hub by employing a full-time Bike Hub coordinator and working collaboratively with Leeds Beckett University to run the facility for both universities.

A baseline of 2,500 annual visitors established for the Bike Hub; hire bikes, training, route guidance and bike maintenance

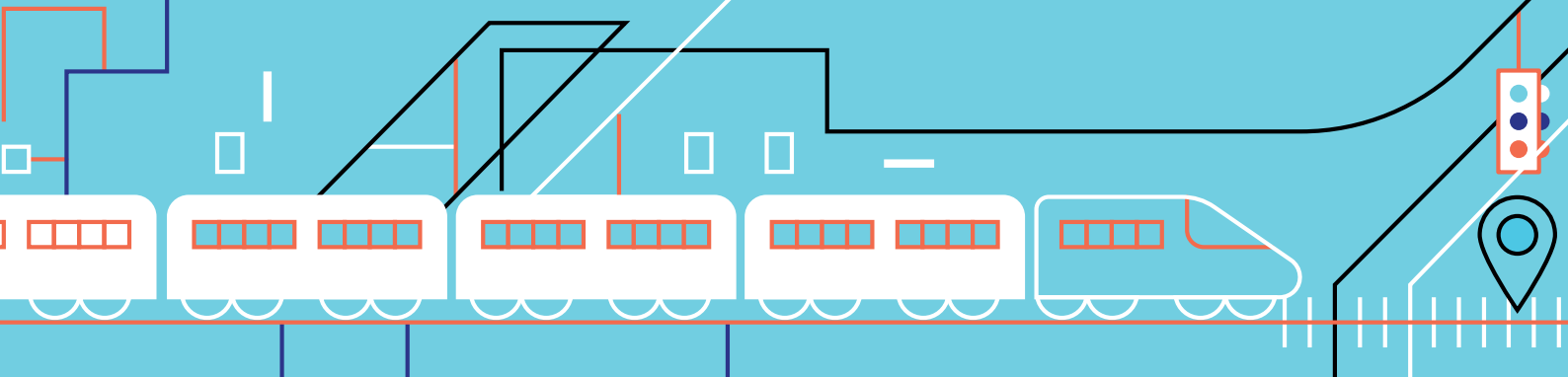
Expanded the fleet of hire bikes to include:

- Over 350 pedal bikes
- 6 electric bikes
- 3 Brompton folding bikes

Three cycle-maintenance standards have been installed across campus to ensure access to tools were available when the Bike Hub was closed.

Development of the Bodington Cycle Circuit and Brownlee Triathlon Centre, which provides a safe traffic free environment for cyclists to learn, train or race.

Achieved the Walk Friendly workplace accreditation from City Connect, highlighting the organisations emphasis on promoting and supporting walking to and around University facilities.



AIR POLLUTION

The Vice-Chancellor signed the Leeds Air Quality Pledge, committing the University to helping improve air quality across Leeds.

University research regarding Air Quality monitoring informed local policies regarding air pollution through the Living Lab programme.

Development of a vehicle purchasing policy that prioritises electric and low emitting vehicles for fleet replacements.

Increased the percentage of electric vehicles in the University fleet to be 8%.

Invested in electric vehicle infrastructure on campus, by increasing the number of charge points to 8, which allow 16 vehicles to be charging at any one time.

Incentivised staff uptake of electric vehicles by providing electricity free of charge to users.

CONGESTION

1,872 cycle parking spaces recorded; including 3 new secure sheds for staff.

700 employees purchased a bicycle through the cycle-to-work scheme.

3,500 discounted MCard travel passes purchased by staff.

Over 400 discounted annual rail loans undertaken by staff.

New promotion for the city's Park & Ride scheme implemented.

Incentivised car sharing through the Liftshare platform by providing 100 parking permits to Liftshare users and dedicating 76 parking bays to car sharers.

Development of parking permit application process, which specifies a 2-mile exclusion zone, considers public transport availability and favours lower emitting vehicles.

Implemented a Flexible Working Policy that allows employees to apply for a variation in their working hours or the option of working from home. Moving working hours away from the traditional 9-5 can ease congestion on key routes towards the University.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

VISION

Prepare the University for a long-term target of net zero carbon emissions. Raise awareness of the impact of travel-related emissions and reduce the impact of within areas of direct control. Establish a plan as part of the climate change strategy for reducing indirect transport emissions.

ACTION PLAN

Increase awareness of the environmental impact of Business Travel, moving towards personal accountability in order to facilitate behaviour change.	2020
Provide viable and varied alternatives to promote more sustainable Business Travel.	2020
Complete the roll out of a sole travel provider for University bookings, which will enable greater control over the mode of travel undertaken and the monitoring of emissions generated.	2019
Increase the availability and promote video-conferencing capabilities across campus. Lead by example within the sector to encourage uptake within the academic community.	2020
Continue to collect data, monitor and review progress on Scope 3 emissions on business travel in order to drive activity towards reduction targets.	Annual
Explore options for establishing off-setting capabilities for unavoidable business travel, including a schedule of implementation starting with voluntary but leading to mandatory depending on uptake.	2020
Ensure that the Sustainable Construction Standard is implemented for all campus developments. This sets requirements for sustainable travel infrastructure and video-conferencing facilities within the enhancing connectivity and sustainable transport section.	2019
Establish an annual fleet review process, as part of current data monitoring, in order to capture timeframes for vehicle replacements.	2020
Enforce the vehicle purchasing policy that prioritises electric/ lower emitting vehicles and questions the requirement.	2020
Facilitate and support student research projects based on sustainable travel objectives at the University.	On-going
Increase the promotion of electric bikes, as a solution to reducing commuter transport emissions. This includes offering e-bikes as part of the try-cycling scheme and ensuring they can be purchased in the cycle-to-work scheme.	2020

WELLNESS, SAFETY AND HEALTH

VISION

To create a University where active travel is accessible to all and supporting facilities are available to all users. We will encourage safe travel beyond the University and will use our influence to support and improve active travel infrastructure across the City.

ACTION PLAN

Develop improvements around campus that focus on providing an accessible and safe campus. This includes ensuring pavements are accessible for all users, inputting barriers to block vehicle access and increasing pedestrian-only areas on campus.	Annual review
Work collaboratively with key stakeholders across the University and external organisations to develop and promote transport safety on campus. Key groups include the Cycle Action Group and the Transport Management Group.	Annual review
Provide an annual programme of safety events and a wider communications campaign to improve cycle safety on campus.	2019
Maintain Bike Hub facilities in order to increase participation in cycling amongst staff and students: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to offer maintenance, hire bikes, route guidance and cycle trainingIncrease annual Bike Hub engagement year-on-year, including both maintenance visits and hire bikesExpand the volunteer programme to include outreach eventsManage staff access to secure cycle storage on campus	On-going
Renew the cycle to work scheme tender, to ensure the offer reflects the current industry and appeals to employees requirements.	2019
Establish a staff-cycling network in order to create a social community on campus for engaging and encouraging cycling.	2019
Continue improvements of cycling infrastructure on campus to facilitate active travel. Increase the number of cycle parking spaces on campus to meet demand and improve cycle shelters as well as showers/changing facilities.	2021
Expand and promote the facilities at the Brownlee Cycle Track to provide cycle training, safety courses and events to staff, students and the local community.	On-going
Promote and encourage participation in city-wide active travel incentives through CityConnect and Living Streets.	2021
Influence transport infrastructure improvement across the City to ensure that active travel is prioritised in a safe manner.	2021

AIR POLLUTION

VISION

Reduce travel-related particulate emissions caused by University operations at facilities and around the wider Leeds area, ensuring that commitments detailed in the Clean Air Pledge are achieved.

ACTION PLAN

Support Leeds City Council on the implementation of the Clean Air Charging Zone and ensure University commitments associated with the Clean Air Pledge are achieved.	2021
Work with external organisations to extend the air quality monitoring projects around the city region. Using the results to support and inform policy and actions to improve air quality in the region.	2020
Use the air quality monitoring data currently collected on campus to drive infrastructure operational improvements.	2020
Continue to promote sustainable travel amongst staff and students, ensuring figures for those using sustainable modes of transport remain at a minimum of 75% and 95% respectively.	On-going
Increase electric vehicle infrastructure on campus and continue to provide incentives for users. Develop an electric vehicle strategy in order to plan for the increase in uptake of electric vehicle users around the region.	2020
Monitor engine idling on campus and develop a plan to reduce idling for fleet vehicles, contractors and visitors.	2020
Invest in low emitting vehicles for the University fleet, aiming to increase the % to at least 10%, with a larger target post 2021.	2021
Develop tender specifications that stipulate suppliers and contractors have a low emitting fleet for the delivery of goods, including smart routing systems and a driver-training programme focused on efficient driving techniques.	2020

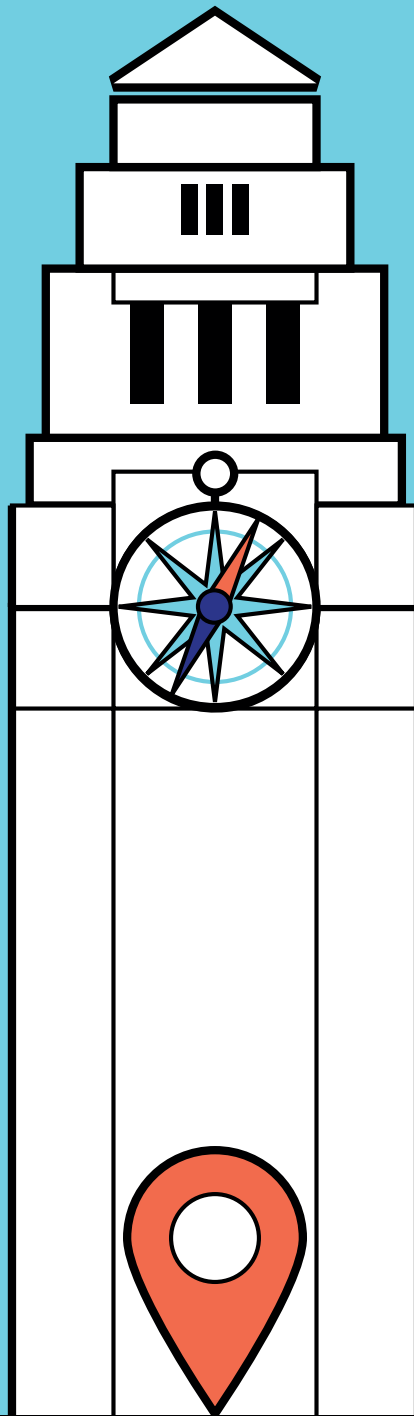
CONGESTION

VISION

Reduce the impact of University-related travel on local and regional transport networks. Positively change behaviour away from single-occupancy car use and work collaboratively with other organisations across the city to develop sustainable transport infrastructure.

ACTION PLAN

Roll out a new car-sharing platform to reduce single-occupancy car travel including the provision of incentives to encourage staff to participate.	2019
Establish a baseline of users, for the car-sharing platform, in the first year aiming to increase participation over subsequent years.	2020
Promote the use of mixed mode commuting amongst staff and students, for example rail and walk or park and cycle to alleviate congestion along key routes into the University.	2020
Continue membership in the WYCA Travel Plan Network to collaborate and share best practice with other organizations across the region.	On-going
Use membership with the Travel Plan Network to provide and promote discounted public transport season tickets for staff.	Ongoing
Improve guidance for visitors coming to the University regarding accessibility by travel; promoting the use of public and sustainable transport methods.	Ongoing
Support Leeds City Council in the Connecting Leeds transport proposals and continue to act as a key stakeholder, ensuring that any estates developments align with future transport strategies of the Council.	2021
Explore promotion of the Flexible Working Policy, which allows employees to apply for a variation in their working hours or working from home. This can help to reduce the impact of travel on key routes around the University during peak travel time.	2020



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