

Report to: Lead Member for Transport & Environment

Date of meeting: 17 February 2020

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Travel Plan Guidance for Development

Purpose: To seek approval for the “Travel Plans for Development” as adopted guidance for use in the consideration of development proposals.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Lead Member is recommended to approve the use of the “Travel Plans for Development”, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report, as a guidance document of the Highway Authority, to be used in consideration of development proposals and their subsequent implementation.

1 Background Information

1.1. Government policy within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and policies within the Planning Authorities’ Local Plans seek to reduce the need to travel, especially by car, from new developments with the aim of reducing congestion, increasing accessibility, reducing the impact of new development on the environment (including contributing to a reduction in carbon emissions), increasing social inclusion and improving health. As part of planning applications, applicants are expected to demonstrate the transport impact of their development proposals, incorporate sustainable travel measures and mitigate the impact/ increase in traffic on the highway network. Travel Plans form an important part of mitigation works as they set out proposals for how the development, once implemented, will encourage trips to be made in a sustainable manner and minimise the need to travel.

1.2. The County Council’s current Travel Plan Guidance for Development dates back to 2008. This updated guidance reflects the changes to planning policy since 2008 and seeks to be more concise. It will assist the County Council in securing appropriate Travel Plans in new developments, as well as assisting applicants in meeting planning application requirements.

2 Supporting information

2.1 Para 111 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2019) states that:
“All development that will generate significant amounts of movement should be required to provide a Travel Plan and the application should be supported by a Transport Statement or Transport Assessment so that likely impacts of the proposal can be assessed”

The requirement for Transport Assessments and Travel Plans as part of applications are included as policy in the Local Planning Authorities’ Local Plans (where they exist).

2.2 Furthermore, Better Planning, Better Transport, Better Places by the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT) (August 2019) and TRICS¹ Guidance Note - Changes in Travel Behaviour (July 2019) recommend a new way of determining transport mitigation for development, saying that incorporation of sustainable transport should be an integral part of the development, further justifying the need for Travel Plans.

2.3 The County Council has declared a climate emergency, which in turn includes a commitment to work with partners to reduce carbon emissions across East Sussex. The effective use of Travel Plans will contribute to the management of travel demand, thereby reducing the potential negative effect new development can have on the environment through reduced traffic emissions and improvements to air quality. Managing travel demand through travel plans and changing travel behaviour will also assist in improving the health of a development's users/occupiers etc. by increasing activity levels.

2.4 The proposed thresholds for the requirement of a travel plan have not changed since 2008, nor have the Travel Plan Audit fees (that cover the County Council's costs in reviewing and ensuring development compliance with the travel plan). These are;

<u>Travel Plan</u>	over 120 dwellings (or equivalent) - £6,000 Between 80 and 119 dwellings - £4,500 <i>(A Full travel plan that sets targets for reduced car use and includes a commitment to monitor the plan's performance over a 5 year period)</i>
<u>Travel Plan Statement</u>	50 to 80 dwellings (or equivalent) – No fee <i>(A statement detailing measures to be put in place before or at occupation of the development)</i>

Applications below the above thresholds are still expected to consider and implement measures that reduce the need to travel and/or encourage trips to be made by sustainable modes in order to satisfy the County Council as Highway Authority. All travel plan measures are commensurate with the scale of development.

2.5 The Travel Plan Guidance sets out the County Council's requirements and expectations for a Travel Plan, which includes guidance on how the Plans should be set out and what they should contain. The Guidance also strongly encourages the need for pre-application discussions with highway officers to help in the formulation of a Travel Plan. The objective is to have clear, concise and effective Travel Plans that are consistent across the county (albeit with site specific travel plan measures as appropriate) and monitored over time to allow clear understanding of their performance and benefits.

2.6 Travel Plans will be secured as part of a planning permission for a particular site through a section 106 agreement, or through appropriate planning conditions.

2.7 Local Planning Authorities have been consulted on the revised guidance document. Any comments have been reviewed and the document amended to reflect these.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 Travel Plans are an integral part of transport assessments, planning applications and the management of new development traffic. This guidance fits with national and local policy and its use by developers/applicants in formulating their applications will allow a consistent and effective

¹ TRICS was founded and is owned by 6 County Councils in the south of England (including ESCC), collectively the TRICS Consortium. It is the UK and Ireland's national system of trip generation analysis, containing over 7150 directional transport surveys at over 110 types of development.

approach to be taken in the preparation, consideration and implementation of Travel Plans. In turn, this will help to reduce unnecessary car use from new development in East Sussex.

RUPERT CLUBB

Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Contact Officer: Claire Warwick

Tel. No. 01273 482239

Email: Claire.warwick@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- National Planning Policy Framework
- Report by the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport to the Place Scrutiny Committee (18 September 2019)