

Richard Huish College

Community Travel Plan: Progress Report 2022



December 2022

Contents

Introduction	2
Progress to Date.....	3
Programmes.....	3
Physical Infrastructure	3
Engagement and Influence	3
Communicate and Promote.....	3
Plan, Deliver, Monitor, Manage	4
Appendix 1: Progress Monitor	5

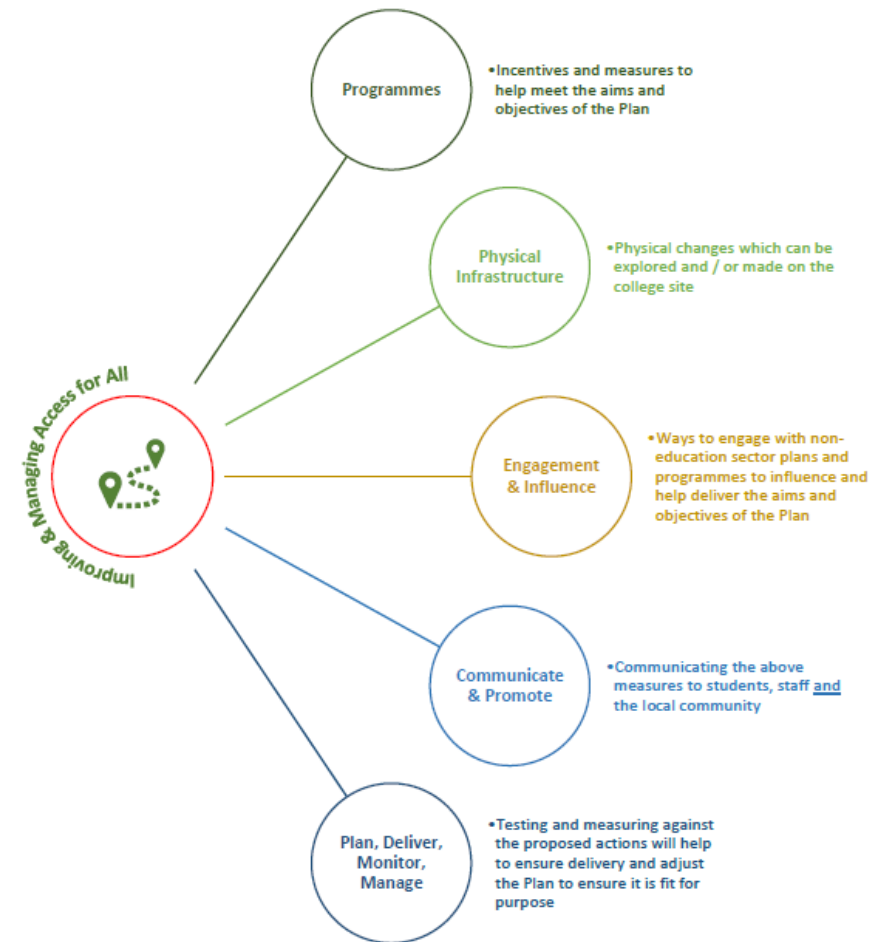
Introduction

In the Autumn of 2020, the College produced a Community Travel Plan, “Improving & Managing Access for All”¹.

This is a 5-year strategy which sets out the transport and travel challenges and opportunities for the College, its students and staff. It sets out a series of actions aimed at improving travel and access to and from the College and overcoming barriers to further education experienced by students. These actions, some of which require further investigation with regards to feasibility, viability and demand prior to implementation, focus on 5 key areas: programmes, physical infrastructure, engagement & influence, communication & promotion, and delivery.

The document represents a firm commitment by the College to respond positively and proactively to transport challenges for staff and students, to both the health and climate change agendas, and to support anticipated growth in student numbers in the future.

This report provides a brief summary of progress made to date on actions included both within and introduced since the Travel Plan was produced.



¹ This can be seen here - <https://www.huish.ac.uk/about-huish/community-travel-plan/>

Progress to Date

Appendix 1 of this report sets out details of progress made against actions identified in the Travel Plan. However, since January 2021, despite the impact of Covid-19 restrictions during 2021 and 2022, highlights include:

Programmes

- Introduced a successful free shuttle minibus service for students and staff from the train station to the College and return with an average of around 40 passengers on weekday mornings and 50 on weekday afternoons.
- Student bursary to support bus travel to College increased. There are now 212 students travelling by bus or train who are in receipt of a travel bursary.
- Explored bike servicing options for staff and students with a local provider, to be introduced in 2022-23 academic year.
- Explored possible routing of park and ride services to and from the College at the start and end of the College day during term-time and options around running a College minibus shuttle to and from the park and ride sites.
- Explored options for leasing e-bikes to students and staff as a pilot scheme.
- Explored options for improvements to provision for staff and students cycling to work.
- Explored possible additional bus services to determine cost and viability of the College providing such services in areas of the College's catchment where public transport options are not direct or convenient.

Physical Infrastructure

- Installed additional and improved cycle stands including ducting for provision of e-bike charging stands.
- Explored funding opportunities to support sustainable and active travel.

Engagement and Influence

- Established and maintained a continuing dialogue with those responsible for policy and strategy on strategic transport and sustainable travel matters (Somerset County Council Transport policy team, County Public Health team, Public Transport (Buses) team and Somerset West and Taunton Council Sustainable Travel, Planning and Climate Change officers). This has built on existing close liaison on operational bus matters.
- Provided input into the local authority Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Taunton, Somerset E-bike Strategy and Connecting our Garden Town Taunton Strategy.
- Engaged with Somerset County Council Councillors regarding bus services for students.
- College has a seat on the Somerset County Council Bus Stakeholders Group.

Communicate and Promote

- Held successful Campus "Bike Days" in September 2021 and 2022, attended by On Your Bike (offering Dr. Bike servicing), Somerset County Council Road Safety team, Avon and Somerset Police Bike Security Tagging team and Taunton Area Cycling Campaign. Local authorities also present in 2022.
- The Travel Plan has been uploaded to the College website, as have survey results, action plan progress and various additional links on travel options.

Plan, Deliver, Monitor, Manage

- Student and staff travel surveys undertaken in March and June 2021 and May 2022. Summary reports of each uploaded to the College website. Additional survey undertaken in December 2022 with results available online in 2023.

Appendix 1: Progress Monitor

PROGRAMMES

Ref.	Action	Timing / frequency	Progress	
			Progress key = Complete / Underway / Ongoing / Not Started	
PR1	Continue to support Cycle to Work scheme.	Ongoing	Support / offer continues.	O
PR2	Continue to run the car parking management scheme on-site.	Ongoing	Management continues.	O
PR3	Continue to work with Somerset Road Safety to promote safe practices amongst new drivers and moped riders.	Ongoing	Engagement continues with road safety promoted in College to students and through the Road Safety team presence at the College Bike Day. Road safety team also comes into College periodically to do presentations on various aspects of road safety.	O
PR4	Continue to support County Ticket Scheme (including student financial support packages).	Ongoing	The County Council did not run the scheme in the 2020-21 or 2021-22 academic years but it should be supported if / when re-introduced. Student bursaries continue to be offered with increasing support provided to a greater number of students via the scheme (see PR12)	O
PR5	Continue to operate the staff College cycle scheme for local business trips and meetings in Taunton.	Ongoing	Establishing current position with scheme. Staff survey to help determine future details of scheme. Links to exploration of pool / lease e-bike scheme (see PR10).	O
PR6	Across several actions, where relevant, explore opportunities for closer links with local business, authorities and organisations to lever in sponsorship or time to help fund or deliver actions.	Ongoing	Contact established and meetings held with the following to explore links and partnership working across a wide range of transport projects and initiatives: Councillors at local authorities to discuss matters including bus services and cycle infrastructure. Planning delivery officer, SWTC Climate Change team, SWTC Environmental Health officers, SWTC Buses and park and ride officers, SCC	O

Ref.	Action	Timing / frequency	Progress	
			Progress key = <u>Complete</u> / <u>Underway</u> / <u>Ongoing</u> / <u>Not Started</u>	
			<p>Sustainable Transport Policy team, SCC Public Health team, SCC Active Travel Lead, SWTC Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership</p> <p>Others contacted and connections established: On Your Bike Road Safety Team, SCC Avon and Somerset Police, Bike Security Tagging Team Sustrans Life Cycle UK Taunton Area Cycling Campaign E-bike providers / retailers WSP Consultants (who are drafting the SCC E-bike strategy)</p> <p>Contact continues to ensure regular liaison on a variety of transport matters.</p>	
PR7	Explore setting up and facilitating a car share scheme for staff and for students if insurance issues can be overcome.	2021	Insurance / liability issues difficult to overcome to run a formal College endorsed scheme at the current time. Will revisit periodically to reassess potential.	C
PR8	Take the positives from the temporary 2020-21 approach to timetabling and the measures used for more remote learning and apply in the longer-term	2021	College continues to keep options under review and take learning from the covid restrictions forward. Remote learning utilised where necessary. Face-to-face learning remains the preferred method of teaching students.	C
PR9	Explore a pilot "park and walk" scheme (for one or more weekdays)	2021-22	<p>Other options using existing park and ride facilities being explored and pursued further, for e.g., arranging for existing services to loop into College at the start and end of the day and once or twice during the College day or for a College minibuss shuttle service to call in to park and ride sites.</p> <p>Park and bike also an option, with bike storage facilities for pool bikes in a car park, but discount parking cost would be a significant carrot for students to utilise such a scheme. This can be explored further under a wider Taunton community bike share scheme if run commercially or by the local authority.</p>	U
PR10	Subject to potential demand (if identified in staff and student survey), explore feasibility (including cost and funding sources) of a short-term	2021-22	Options being explored for both pedal and e-bike options. Viability being tested.	U

Ref.	Action	Timing / frequency	Progress	
			Progress key = <u>Complete</u> / <u>Underway</u> / <u>Ongoing</u> / <u>Not Started</u>	
	College bicycles “bank”, loan or hire scheme.			
PR11	Explore the viability of installation of an electric car charging point to facilitate investment in or lease of a small electric or plug-in hybrid car for local business trips and meetings in and around Taunton.	2023	Being explored but the main trigger to install likely to be availability of external funding in whole or in part and / or staff demand in the medium to long term. Will keep under review.	U
PR12 (new action)	Explore increases in financial support offered to students to access bus services (and other sustainable transport modes)	Annual (at budget setting)	Bursary increased to enable a greater number of students to benefit from financial support to pay for travel to and from College. There are now 212 students travelling by bus or train who are in receipt of a travel bursary.	O
PR13 (new action)	Explore feasibility of College e-bikes for students and staff.	2022	Feasibility explored and tested. Costs understood. Barriers to student scheme include liabilities, equity of any voucher scheme, value for money against channelling additional equivalent investment into bursary scheme. SCC e-bike strategy may help to bring forward a Taunton-wide pool / community e-bike scheme in time and this would likely be more appropriate. College could support this initiative. Pool e-bikes for staff more likely to be viable in the shorter term. Demand to be tested through a staff survey.	U
PR14 (new action)	Bike servicing provided free to students and staff	Ongoing, termly	College to provide bike servicing free to students and staff, perhaps on a half termly basis in addition to the free Dr Bike maintenance checks provided on Bike Day.	U
PR15 (new action)	Introduce shuttle minibus service from train station to the College.	2022	Minibus shuttle service provided for staff and students from train station to the College at the start and end of the day. An average of around 40 passengers on weekday mornings and 50 on weekday afternoons using the service.	C

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Ref.	Action	Timing / frequency	Progress	
			Progress key = Complete / Underway / Ongoing / Not Started	
PI1	Continue to replace older single bicycle stands and those not covered with covered Sheffield or similar style stands to increase security and the capacity for cycle storage / parking. Subject to potential demand (if identified in staff and student survey) explore feasibility (including cost and funding sources) and possible locations on-site to install additional covered and secure cycle stands.	Ongoing	Improvements to Beech building in summer 2022 to trigger improvements with additional covered stands being put in place and e-bike charging capability introduced. Additional 90 covered bicycle stands introduced in Autumn term.	O
PI2	Continue to invest in IT to enable and maximise opportunities for remote working and learning, where practical and feasible for both staff and students and course material and content.	Ongoing	Ongoing.	O
PI3	<i>Subject to potential demand (if identified in staff and student survey) explore feasibility (including cost and funding sources) and possible locations on-site to install additional covered and secure cycle stands.</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Merged with PI1.</i>	-
PI4	Seek to resolve any issues relating to security and safety of student and staff use of the foot / cyclepaths to Mountway and the informal route across the “green wedge”.	Ongoing	Engaged with development of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) being produced by SCC. Contributed survey data to evidence base behind priority routes in the Plan. “Red” route which runs behind College to Vivary Park is one of the priority improvement schemes. Footpath to Ask Meadows playing field made more secure. Also see EN1 and EN4.	O
PI5 (new action)	Explore provision of EV charge points for cars	2022-23	Potential explored. Staff survey in 2021 suggested some interest but subject to when staff likely to change cars. EV charge points in the rear car park could be at risk from vandalism and so a better option would be for charge points in the front staff car park. A small number of charge points could be installed initially. Spaces would have to be reserved for EV and PHEV vehicles. Charge points can also serve next generation College vehicles.	U

ENGAGEMENT & INFLUENCE

Ref.	Action	Timing / frequency	Progress	
Progress key = Complete / Underway / Ongoing / Not Started				
EN1	Engage in the local planning and transport planning process (with Somerset West and Taunton Council and Somerset County Council (Transport Planning Team)) with constructive and objective responses to consultations reflecting the transport, education and other aims and objectives of the College, and to influence future funding applications and spend.	Termly	Good connections being formed and all aware of College's positive approach to transport and active travel. Door remains open for continual communication but termly meetings at least are held with key officers at the local authorities until Unitary status introduced in 2023. Some meeting happening more frequent than once a term. Also see PR6.	O
EN2	Engage with local campaigns to improve pedestrian and cycle accessibility (for e.g. Taunton Area Cycling Campaign).	Annual	Links with TACC established and also with Lifecycleuk and Sustrans. Also see PR6.	O
EN3	Engage with the Somerset Public Health & Wellbeing Board and Public Health officers to connect to their health targets and outcomes in the Health & Wellbeing Strategy and explore access to funding via health sector.	Ongoing	Dialogue started and continues periodically.	O
EN4	Support and encourage any relevant scheme to provide and cycle and footpath across the "green wedge" to improve connectivity and accessibility to south Taunton.	When appropriate	See PI4.	U

COMMUNICATE AND PROMOTE

Ref.	Action	Timing / frequency	<div>Progress</div> <div>Progress key = Complete / Underway / Ongoing / Not Started</div>
CM1	Continue to share useful websites, apps, etc. on travel options and reducing car use with students and staff.	When published media produced and events held.	<p>College website has been improved with additional links to various transport information such as lifecycle uk voucher offers, cycle maps, Taunton Area Cycling Campaign, Sustrans link, rail, bus and shuttle bus updates, etc.</p> <p>Methods and timings of communication to students and staff of active travel measures continue to be discussed to ensure that new travel programmes, infrastructure and initiatives which are delivered have complementary coms and promotion at the right time and in alignment with the College's Marketing Strategy.</p> <p>Importance of ensuring effective communication of any new measures, projects or schemes to staff, students and community is recognised, as is the need to influence behaviour change amongst potential users.</p> <p>Modeshift Stars explored but considered more appropriate to schools at the current time. Position to be reviewed periodically.</p> <p>September 2021 and 2022 saw successful "Bike Days" at the College. These offered free bike maintenance checks from On Your Bike (through Dr Bike), the Police's bike security tagging team, Somerset Road Safety, Taunton Area Cycling Campaign and a presence (in 2022) from the local authorities to share plans for active travel.</p>
		Social media posts once or twice a month.	
		During scheduled focus weeks.	
CM2	Communicate to students the importance of locking their bicycles when parking on-site.	Ongoing	
CM3	Communicate travel plan and measures to students and staff to continue to educate all about greener and smarter travel choices and options.		<p>Travel Plan uploaded to website with intro text. Website updated as per CM1 and CM2.</p> <p>Projects, surveys, events, etc. continue to be updated as necessary and communicated with students and staff via email, posters, bulletins, Enrichment Fayre, etc.</p> <p>Also see PR6.</p>

Ref.	Action	Timing / frequency	Progress	
			Progress key = Complete / Underway / Ongoing / Not Started	
CM4	Linked to the above action, promote existing public transport (e.g. County Ticket Scheme) and cycling incentives (e.g. Cycle to Work scheme) and offers to students and staff.		<p>Bike Days, website, emails and surveys have been the main conduit to students and staff as necessary. County ticket has not been running since the 2020/21 academic year.</p> <p>Also see CM1 and CM3.</p> <p>Tender prepared and published for additional bus services from areas of College catchment which are not well served by fast and direct buses. No tenders selected due to cost, value for money and equity of use of College funds across student body. Rising fuel costs also suggested a high risk of cost increases during the life of any contract let to a provider.</p>	O
CM5	Revise the College Development Plan to reflect existing College commitments to influence positively mitigation and adaptation to the impacts of climate change.	At next review of Development Plan (annually?)	College's development of Sustainable Development / Climate Change strategy and new College objective around climate change has superseded this action. College to develop a climate change / decarbonisation steering group including students, College staff and Trust staff to test and prioritise action across the climate change agenda, with sustainable travel being part of the wider discussion on prioritisation. This will help to set costed short, medium and longer-term actions for active and sustainable travel against other decarbonisation measures.	U
CM6	Ensure that travel plan or action plan (at least) is communicated with local residents.	When Board approves travel plan	Travel Plan published on the College website. This actions update also posted on the website.	C
CM7	Revise College campus map to add location of cycle stands, covered cycle stands, cycle paths walking routes and bus stops (and dd any future additional infrastructure provision such as electric charge points etc.). Make available on website as well as replacing in existing campus plan locations.	2021	Suggest making such changes when 3G delivered to make changes only once unless timing of facility is delayed further.	NS
CM8 (new action)	Bike Day	Annual in September	Two Bike Days held in September 2021 and 2022. These offered free bike maintenance checks from On Your Bike (through Dr Bike), the Police's bike security tagging team, Somerset Road Safety, Taunton Area Cycling Campaign and a presence (in 2022) from the local authorities to share plans for active travel.	O
CM9	Cycle wear	2022	Develop College branded hi-vis cycle wear for leisure / commuting cyclist and optional sportswear. Explore with existing College branded kit producer.	U

PLAN, DELIVER, MONITOR / MANAGE

Ref.	Action	Timing / frequency	Progress	
			Progress key = Complete / Underway / Ongoing / Not Started	
PL1	<i>Continue to deliver existing transport management schemes and incentives, monitoring their effectiveness.</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Continuing liaison with key members of staff responsible for schemes and incentives.</i>	O
PL2	“Appoint”, if not already in place, a member of staff in the Senior Management Team or other support officer to act as the responsible person to manage the implementation of the travel plan.	2020	Active and sustainable travel advisor appointed on part-time basis to help develop and deliver Plan actions.	C
PL3	Identify budget to deliver actions and any capital and revenue funding gaps which would need to be filled to fully implement actions.	Ongoing	Continuing for various projects as identified.	U
PL4	Explore the provision of a new changing facility with showers and lockers for staff located in a more convenient location adjacent to covered and secure cycle stands.	2021-22	Requirements broadly established. Exploring options for bike hub on campus and other options around improvements to staff changing facilities within existing buildings.	U
PL5	Annual students and staff survey to collect data on travel habits and modes, times of travel in and out of College, distances travelled, needs, blockages to using alternative travel modes and ideas for solutions to reduce travel by private car etc.	Annual	Student and staff surveys to be conducted annually in Spring with results published on the website. 2021 and 2022 survey results available on the website.	O
PL6	Monitor / request information on Borough and County Council use of s106 and Community Infrastructure Levy funds on transport solutions local to the College.	Annual	District and County Council (and forthcoming Unitary Council from March 2023) publish details of spend at the end of each calendar year. Killams s106 funding is already committed according to SCC.	C
PL7	Monitor (test and measure, check and challenge) the actions in this Plan to implement in a proactive way and monitor their effectiveness.	Termly	Progress monitoring tracked by Transport and Access Lead through this table. Annual Travel plan review of projects and actions suggested in Autumn/Winter of each year until full review of Travel Plan required / necessary (2025 latest).	U

Ref.	Action	Timing / frequency	Progress Progress key = Complete / Underway / Ongoing / Not Started	
PL8	Report on an annual basis to the College Governors the monitoring of the travel plan and adjust actions to continue to improve and enhance transport and accessibility to and from the College.	Annual (end of year)	Travel and Access Lead reports progress into Line Manager periodically with updates to Governors etc as necessary. This actions update is available on the website.	O