

What is a Travel Plan?

Travel Plans **identify opportunities** for the promotion and delivery of sustainable transport initiatives such as walking, cycling, public transport and tele-commuting. Travel Plans **provide solutions** to encourage the use of more sustainable travel which, in turn, support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reduce congestion and, in today's climate, this is becoming increasingly important.

Travel Plans are a very effective method of reducing the demand for travel by less sustainable transport modes for both existing and proposed developments. However, experience shows that Travel Plans are best considered in parallel to development proposals so that they are readily integrated into the design and occupation of the new site rather than retrofitted after occupation, particularly when travel habits have already been established.

When is a Travel Plan Required?

The National Planning Policy Framework does not provide a specific threshold but states that: *“All developments which generate significant amounts of movement should be required to provide a Travel Plan”*. Travel Plans therefore align with the NPPF's golden thread of sustainability.

Local Authorities have realised that Travel Plans and their Co-ordination will help to ensure development is sustainable and help manage the impacts on the local road network. Many Local Authorities set their own thresholds for when a Travel Plan is required and submitted as part of an application. For example, West Sussex County Council require a residential Travel Plan above 80 dwellings, similar to Oxford County Council, whilst Hampshire County Council set the threshold at developments over 100 units. As a benchmark, the following table indicates some of the thresholds at which a Travel Plan is required in accordance with Transport for London (TfL) guidance.

Class	Land Use	Threshold
A1	Food/Non-Food Retail	1,000m ² GFA
B1	Business	2,500m ² GFA
B2	Industrial	2,500m ² GFA
B8	Warehouse & Distribution	5,000m ² GFA
C1	Hotel	100 beds
C3	Residential	80 units
D1	Schools	All schools
D1	Higher & Further Education	2,500m ² GFA
D2	Assembly & Leisure	1,000m ² GFA
D2	Stadia	1,500 seats

Table 1: Transport for London Travel Plan Guidance (November 2013)

The Benefits

Travel Plans can and do deliver a wide range of benefits. For developers, Travel Plans can reduce development costs, make a site more accessible and support the objectives sought by local councils. Travel Plans can create additional site capacity by reducing the need for car parking spaces, for example through the introduction of car clubs or pool cars. Furthermore, the environmental image of the developer and site user is improved as the Travel Plan supports Corporate Social Responsibility and assists with BREEAM accreditation.

The benefits for Local Authorities include reduced congestion and improved air quality, managing demand across travel modes, increasing the viability of public transport and improved coordination of travel across the local community. A good example of this is through promotion of wider cycle routes linking into the Sustrans network.

Site users and the wider community will also benefit through improved accessibility and awareness of transport modes, a reduction in traffic, reduced transport emissions, and the potential for reduced commuting costs by introducing options such as car sharing.

Travel Plans also promote healthy lifestyles through encouraging more physical activity and the use of active travel modes.

The PBA Touch

Here at Paul Basham Associates, we pride ourselves on our ability to create Travel Plans that are **tailored to every site**. We have provided Travel Plans for schools, leisure centres, sports stadia, commercial and residential developments.

Once a Travel Plan has been approved by the Local Planning Authority, the Travel Plan Coordinator (TPC) will be appointed to oversee its delivery and operation. Our team have **extensive experience** as Travel Plan Coordinators having been involved in a number of large scale developments including:

- 784 residential units in Basingstoke for Persimmon Homes & Charles Church
- 200 residential units in Gloucester on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council
- 52,000m² of retail and office space in the City of London
- 423 residential units for A2Dominion across Surrey and West Sussex

PBA have established relationships with clients, local authorities and residents alike due to the tailored service we provide. We supply **regular newsletters** containing up-to-date travel information, provide financial incentives to encourage residents to travel sustainably and coordinate public engagement. We also create a **dedicated travel planning page on our website** for each development, a popular and valuable tool for communicating with residents: <https://pbatravelplan.com/>

Our Team

Our team has experience in writing and coordinating Travel Plans across a variety of land use sectors, as well as **Local Authority experience** of reviewing, monitoring and implementing residential, education and workplace Travel Plans. To this end, we have an excellent relationship with Local Authorities.

Our Travel Plans can provide a **long-term management strategy** tailored to the development which outlines local accessibility, indicates baseline travel patterns, establishes future targets and provides a personalised package of measures which will encourage more sustainable travel.

With an ever-increasing focus on **sustainable development**, our Travel Planning team keep up to date with local Travel Planning policies to ensure every Travel Plan is compliant, deliverable and enforceable.

Our team currently coordinate Travel Plans for **over 3,000 homes** across the UK, with each project lasting a minimum of 5 years.