

## Sustainable Travel Team – Core Activity

The sustainable travel team provide a range of interventions using behaviour change techniques to encourage and enable more people to commute using sustainable modes to education, employment and other journeys. We also optimise opportunities to provide more bespoke activities when external funding is available to help meet national objectives. The following sets out current activity:

### Cycle Training

- **Dr Bike in Schools:** Delivery of Dr Bike (maintenance checks) sessions. This scheme services up to 200 bikes in Solihull Schools per term. This initiative aims to support young people to have safe, roadworthy bikes to commute to school.
- **Frame Academy:** Frame Academy offers accredited bike maintenance training helping young people to acquire transferable skills, increase their self-confidence and re-engage with learning. A proven vocational learning package focused on young people and encouraging them to continue in mainstream education, whilst providing inspiration for a potential career pathway in manufacturing, engineering, or the low carbon sector.
- **Bikeability Training for Schools and Holiday Courses:** Developing cycling skills for children and young people, modules are delivered in schools and within the community starting at age 4 right through to Secondary Age young people.
- **Family Training:** Bikeability Family is a training package to help people living in the same household to cycle together. The training will enable families to plan enjoyable group rides, switch from driving to cycling the school run, help other family members to develop their cycling skills and grow their confidence.
- **Adult Cycle Training:** Solihull Council offer a range of adult courses including new rider, confidence on road and more advanced commuter training.

### Sustainable Travel Education

- **New Roads - Solihull Transition Programme** - A transition course for year 6, 7 and 8 pupils which addresses road safety and promotes sustainable travel. The course aims to support children transitioning from Primary to Secondary school, at a point in their lives when most children make the step towards becoming independent travellers for the first time. This change is important because it has been identified as a key moment in a child's life for influencing their travel behaviour in relation to both their safety and their mode of travel. In particular, the Year 6 programme focuses on Air Quality and explores how clean our air really is.
- **Child Scooter Training Sessions** – Training sessions to Year 1 and Year 2 pupils. Sessions focus on teaching pupils the skills and knowledge they need to build safer scooting habits in a fun and engaging way and promote behaviour change by highlighting the benefits of scooting in terms of increased wellbeing, fitness and how it is so much quicker and greener than sitting in a traffic jam.
- **Clean Air Campaign:** Pupils in Year 2 and Year 3 will receive clean air bookmarks and clean air workbooks respectively, promoting clean air and sustainable travel. Their parents would receive a 'Be a breath of fresh air' parent information leaflets. The resources cover the issues relating to clean air in a way which is both positive and fun. The leaflet for parents promotes greener travel awareness for the school run.
- **Engines Off – Young Lungs at Work** is an initiative that aims to educate parents on the potential pollution that leaving a car's engine idling whilst parked outside school causes. Pupils are provided with facts and information and are

then encouraged to write persuasive letters or design posters which are then displayed around the school, used in newsletters, websites etc to heighten awareness. Participating schools are also provided with railing banners and lamppost signs can also be attached in neighbouring streets. Secondary school pupils could also be engaged by taking part in a competition to design their own banners.

- **School Streets** prohibits cars from moving into, out of or around roads surrounding a school for 40 minutes in the morning and an hour at home time. The aim is to create a cleaner, safer, more pleasant and predominantly traffic free environment outside school which in turn will encourage more families to travel sustainably.
- **Walking Bus** – Solihull schools currently operate a variety of Walking Busses. A Walking Bus is where a group of children are escorted to school from agreed meeting points therefore removing the need to drive to school.
- **Park and Stride** is provided where suitable alternative parking areas are identified away from school. Parents who live too far away to walk the whole distance are encouraged to park in these designated areas and walk the remaining journey.
- **Independent Travel Training (ITT)** The Independent Travel Training team enable SEN children and young adults to travel more sustainably via public transport and on foot across the borough (Year 7 upwards). The team also provide training for schools, as well as those not in education, employment or training (NEETS) aged 15-29. The training ensures that all vulnerable young people and adults are given the opportunity to learn how to travel confidently, sustainably, safely and independently from home to school, college or a place of work.

### **Sustainable Travel Business and Community**

- **National Delivery Centre - Solihull MBC** is a Recognised Delivery Centre (RDC) for 1st4Sport, delivering Level 2 and 3 Cycle Instructor and Tutor awards to learners from all parts of England, enhancing delivery of Bikeability in schools and communities. The centre was set up in August 2019 and just as we were ramping up delivery the Coronavirus pandemic hit. However, the centre through adapted delivery methods has maintained operation over the last 2 years. The RDC also delivers E-Cargo train the trainer awards for authorities and partners who are trialling E Cargo bikes and trikes as part of their 'Last Mile Delivery' commitments to carbon reduction and improving air quality.
- **Community Events** A number of engagement events aimed at the general public, businesses and the wider community could be run to raise the profile of our cycle infrastructure and offer a package of support measures including route planning, adult cycle training and bike demonstrations.
- **Business Support** - Many more people have been cycling and walking during the pandemic and the team continue to support businesses in maintaining the changes in travel behaviour. A new series of maps are being produced to show new dedicated cycle infrastructure and how it connects homes and workplaces.

- **Cycle Hire** - Several large businesses have expressed an interest in bringing the West Midlands Cycle Hire scheme to the north of the borough and the team are liaising with WMCA to investigate this.