

# Workstream

## School Travel Planning

### Background

Records of School Travel Plans (STP) in the borough go back to 2003 where a handful of schools were engaged in developing and implementing their travel plans.

The key objective of the Smarter Travel Richmond upon Thames (STR) school travel planning programme was to bring about a change in attitudes and travel behaviour of the whole school community (including staff, pupils and staff). Prior to STR in April 2009, while all 76 schools in the borough had a travel plan, for 31 of these schools the travel plan had either lapsed or become inactive. And by September 2009, this figure was reduced to two by the STP team. By the end of December 2009, the STP team had achieved the Mayors target of 100% schools having a travel plan.

With the introduction of a STR target relating to the TfL Sustainable Travel Accredited and Recognised (STAR) scheme, the team were able to help schools better understand their current travel related performance and identify areas for future improvement.

In year two, STR adapted how STPs were promoted to schools with more focus on the benefits package. Schools achieving higher levels of STAR accreditation were given priority for the benefits below:

- Theatre in Education
- Scooter training
- Cycle maintenance
- Small Grants
- Prioritised infrastructure

Other projects supplied/ supported by STR:

- UpGrade
- Young Families (pilot)
- WoW
- Step Pedal Jump (pilot)
- Annual Big WoW celebration



### Achievements

- 100% STPs by December 2009
- 66% increase in schools achieving accreditation (between 2009 and 2010)
- 51% increase in schools taking part in WoW (since Jan 2009)
- Over 700 hi-vis vests distributed to pupils and teachers
- 1,192 cycle parking spaces installed on school grounds
- Over 100 assemblies (WoW and Accreditation)
- Annual STP workshops
- Implementation of Safe Scooter training
- Implementation of Cycle maintenance workshops



### Benefits

The greatest benefit for schools lay in the realisation that travel planning complimented their existing activities such as Eco/Healthy Schools and Every Child Matters. STP was seen as a benefit in itself as opposed to an additional piece of work due to its resource efficiency.

- Increased school engagement
- Increased resources/provisions for engaged schools
- Reduced car usage for the school journey
- Increased number of pupils cycling

### Challenges

- Helping schools to understand the benefits of travel plan – instead of seeing it as a chore
- Being able to support all schools in their requests (esp. Engineering)