

Appendix 1

Summary Employee Travel Survey 2009

This report presents the results of the Herefordshire Council Employee Travel Survey 2009 and provide comparisons with the results of previous Employee Travel Surveys conducted in 2006 and 2003 and the 'Travel Patterns' section in the 2008 Employee Opinion Survey.

The survey was launched on 14th September 2009 and carried out over 3 weeks. A total of 753 responses were received from the 2194 non – school based employees of the council giving a response rate of 34%. Of the total responses received, 691 (92%) were submitted online while 62 (8%) were paper questionnaires.

Key findings:

Section A: Your journey to and from work

- **Work location**
Most of the respondents (89%) work in Hereford (Central Hereford and out skirts of Hereford) while 12% work in market towns. 30% of respondents indicate 'Plough Lane' as their main place of work which has doubled compared to 2006 (15%). Nearly two thirds of respondents (65%) work from a single location compared to 57% in 2006.
- **Flexitime**
Over three quarters of respondents (79%) work flexi time which is an increase compared to 2006 (71%).
62% of respondents take off full days as flexi days or as time off in lieu (TOIL) which has changed little over the years. The proportion of respondents taking 1 – 4 flexi or TOIL days per year rose from 31% in 2006 to 35% in 2009 while the proportion taking 9 – 12 days fell from 37% in 2006 to 29% in 2009.
- **Start and finish times**
Two thirds of respondents (65%) start work before 8.45 am (2006, 62% and 2003, 61%) and nearly a third of respondents (31%) finish work after 5.15 pm (2006, 32% and 2003, 29%).

With little variation 'Personal preference' and 'Avoiding traffic/congestion' remain the most commonly selected start time determinants over the years and 'Work load' and 'Personal preference' remain the most commonly selected finish time determinants.

- **Journeys to and from work**
The most common distance travelled to work is 11 – 25 miles which has not changed significantly over the years. Overall average distance travelled to work is 10.3 miles (one way) has changed little compared to 10.7 miles in 2006 and 10.3 miles in 2003. The overall estimated average journey time to work is around 27 minutes (2006, 28 minutes and 2003, 25 minutes).

Accounting for 52% of total potential journeys, single occupancy car journeys are the most common method of commuting to work in a typical working

week, though the proportion has decreased continuously since 2003 (2006, 61% and 2003, 65%). Walking is the next common method of travel to work accounting for 18% of total potential journeys which is higher than previous years (2006, 13% and 2003, 11%).

211 respondents (28%) do not drive to work at all in a typical working week. This proportion has increased continuously since 2003 (2006, 20% and 2003, 18%).

Section B: Driving a car to work

- 67% of respondents who drive to work normally park at the office car park.
- Though the proportion has changed over the years, “Need the car to travel to other locations during the day” remains as the most commonly cited reason (53%) for travelling by car.
- Over half of respondents (51%) use their cars at least weekly for Council business locally while 30% use their cars for Council business further afield. Nearly a third of respondents (32%) usually car share when going to meetings.

Section C: About different methods of transport

- Different methods of travel
The most commonly quoted three reasons for not driving to work are “Health/fitness reasons”, “Most practical method to travel” and “Environmental considerations”.

9% of respondents used a pool bicycle at least once during the last 12 months which is an increase since 2006 (5%).

42% of respondents are prepared to car share as a driver and 43% as a passenger. The proportion of respondents who registered on the TWOSHARE database has increased steadily over the years but remains low at 14%.

- Travel Plan developments
The facilities most commonly rated as *very important* are “Secure cycle parking” (17%), “Lockers at work” (15%), “Showers at work” (14%) and “Salary sacrifice bicycle scheme” (13%).
“Showers at work” and “Pool car available” were the most often cited facilities which would impact on commuting less by car, but the proportions were low at 9% and 8% respectively.
- Flexible working
Over a third of respondents (35%) indicated that their work could be undertaken from home on a *full time* or *part time* basis, which is slightly higher compared to 2006 (32%). Though there are slight variations over the years, the predominant reason for not working from home is “Type of work not suitable” (39%) closely followed by “IT provision not available” (36%).

The most commonly practised flexible working method is “Flexitime” (79%) which is an increase from 74% in 2006.

Although 47% respondents indicated that they are willing to try working a 9-day fortnight, only 4% already practise it. 57% of respondents are willing to try “Home working” while 21% already practising it.

- **Travel Choices section in intranet**
43% of respondents were aware of the Travel Choices section in the Council’s intranet, of those 59% rated it is “Helpful”.
- **Travel Groups**
Most respondents (52%) are aware of “Bicycle User Group” but there is little awareness of the “Treadlightly E-group for walkers,” BUZZ E-group for bus and train users” and “Lifted E-group for car sharers”. The proportion of respondents who would like to receive more information about these groups varies between 11% and 19%.
- 99% of respondents have access to the internet at work and 90% at home, both significant increases compared to previous years.

