



Pool bikes to reduce impact of business travel

Cornerhouse is Manchester's international centre for contemporary visual arts and independent film. Located adjacent to Oxford Road station it is easily accessible by public transport, on foot or by bicycle. Because of this, and its own work championing sustainable travel, car commuting is at an extremely low level. However taxi use for business trips had increased by 12% since 2010, and represented a significant operating cost.

In Autumn 2013, Transport for Greater Manchester began working with Cornerhouse to complement its ongoing commitment to sustainability. This included advising on the re-design of elements of the website to facilitate visitor access by more sustainable methods, and the provision of loan bikes for staff to help encourage sustainable business travel.

Loan bikes from TfGM's Travel Choices proved to be very popular and the success prompted Cornerhouse to apply for a Travel Choices Sustainable Travel Grant in order to purchase its own pool of bikes for staff.

Dave Moutrey, CEO, commented "We have taken advantage of free training and advice given by Travel Choices and hope that having pool bikes will help us to achieve a reduction in taxi costs incurred during business hours; staff well-being will improve through increased use of bicycles and public transport; and carbon emissions from travel will be reduced. The Sustainable Travel Grant will help us to achieve these action plan goals."

With a fleet of three folding bikes and two hybrids to accommodate different types of journeys, riders and routes, Cornerhouse is setting the bar for behaviour change that will become common practice by the time they move into their new venue HOME in Spring 2015.

As a result of having readily available free-to-use bikes, Cornerhouse staff have made over 100 business journeys by bike. Two employees have been inspired to buy their own bikes and now cycle to and from work.