

## Transforming Cities Fund Workplace Travel Grants Year One Report

April 2021



### 1.0 Programme summary

£750,000 is being made available to local businesses to invest in capital schemes which help employees travel sustainably to, from and whilst at work.

As part of the Council's Productive Plymouth Transforming Cities Fund programme, funded by the Department for Transport, the Council is providing workplace travel grants of up to £25,000 to local businesses to help them introduce measures to enable more trips to be made by sustainable transport.

The grants are match-funded grants with the Council investing up to £25,000, per business, in a scheme. The Council's contribution is a maximum of 75% of the pre-VAT scheme cost.

Projects which can be funded through the grants include secure cycle parking, pool bikes, workplace shower facilities and electric vehicle charging points. However, bids aren't limited to these ideas and the Council is keen to hear innovative proposals to tackle issues specific to a company

### 2.0 2020/21 Workplace Travel Grants - summary

Businesses were able to apply for a WPTG between 26 October 2020 and 15 January 2021, with projects funded by the grants needing to be delivered by 25 March 2021.

During the application window 45 enquiries about the scheme were made resulting in 30 applications being submitted.

Of the 30 applications

- 16 were approved
  - o 13 delivered with 3 deferred to 2021/22 due to exceptional circumstances
- 3 were withdrawn
- 14 were deferred to 2021/22 (of which three were approved in 2020/21)<sup>1</sup>

Applications were received from a number of business sectors covering a range of employers from community organisations to major manufacturing companies. Details of all the businesses which applied, the grant awarded, the companies match funding contribution and the scheme which are being delivered through the grants is set out in Table I.

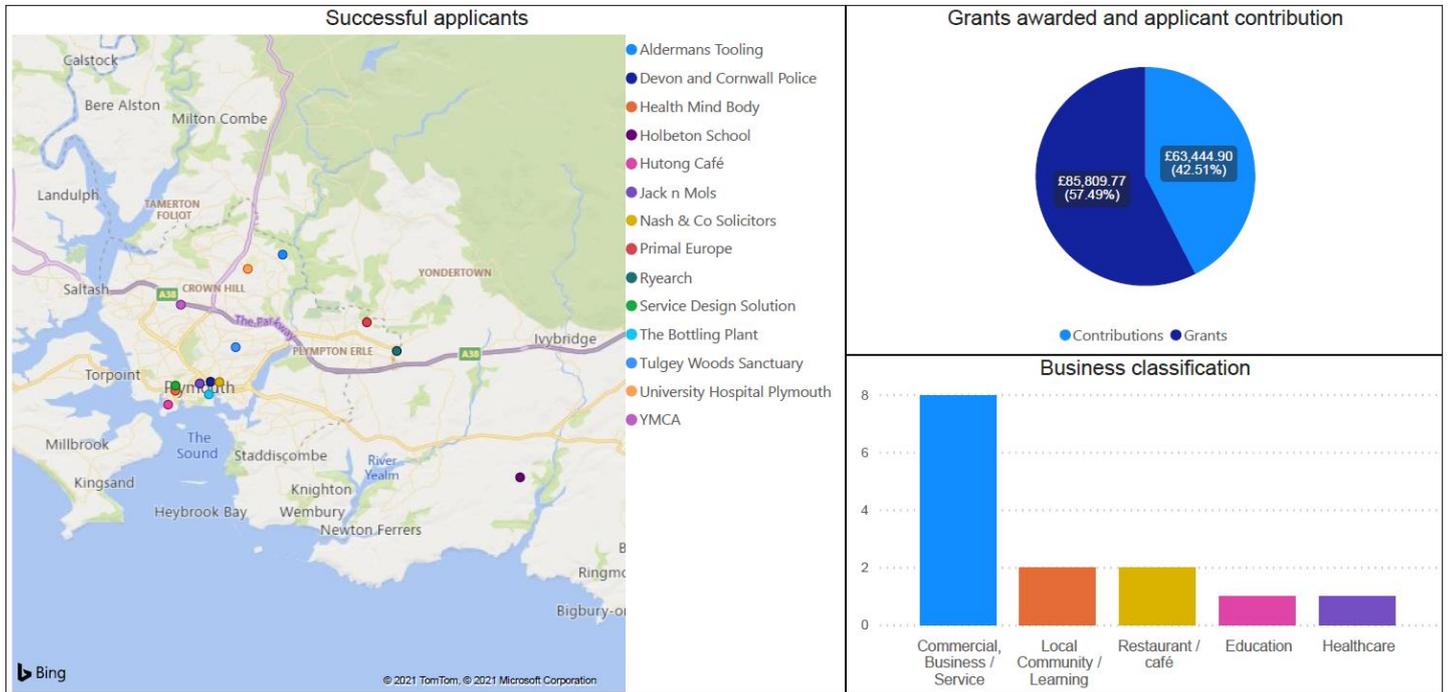
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<sup>1</sup> The applicants who were allowed to defer their delivery to 2021/22 were allowed to do so due to a contractor being unable to undertake the works due to a bereavement and the impact of the pandemic on businesses resulting in delivery delays.

**Table I: 2020/21 Workplace Travel Grants**

<b>Company</b>	<b>Grant Awarded</b>	<b>Contribution from Applicant</b>	<b>Scheme</b>
Tulgey Woods Sanctuary CIC	75%	25%	Secure cycle parking
Jack n Mols	75%	25%	Staff pool bikes
YMCA	34%	66%	Improved shower facilities
Primal Europe	75%	25%	Staff pool bike
Aldermans Tooling Ltd	57%	43%	Shower facilities, secure cycle parking, electric charge points, electric bicycle
Nash & Co Solicitors LLP	75%	25%	Shower facilities, EV Charge point and cycle parking
Ryearch Ltd	75%	25%	EV Charge point
Service Design Solution	73%	27%	Shower facilities, EV Charge point, Pool Bike
Health Mind Body Ltd	75%	25%	Staff pool ebikes
Plessey Semiconductors Ltd	29%	71%	Improved shower facilities (Deferred to 2021/22)
University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust	75%	25%	Increase number of staff pool bikes
Fotonow CIC	23%	77%	Staff pool bike (Deferred to 2021/22)
The Bottling Plant Ltd	64%	36%	Shower facilities
Holbeton School	75%	25%	Secure lockers for staff
Devon and Cornwall Police	75%	25%	Improve cycle parking at Charles Cross Police Station
Hutong Café	73%	27%	Cargo Bikes, Cycle parking, eBike charging points, showers for staff, lockers, cycle equipment (Deferred to 2021/22)
<b>TOTAL (Excluding deferred applications)</b>	<b>£74,476.77</b>	<b>£63,444.90</b>	

Details on the location and business sector of successful applicants are shown below along with a comparison of total grants awarded to the total funding applicants are contributing to the scheme.



### Grant supported schemes underway

Ryearch Limited secured funding for the installation of an EV charging point at their office in Langage.

Grant awarded: 75%



Nash and Co Solicitors received grant funding to provide EV charging points, cycle parking and new shower facilities at their offices on Beaumont Road.

Grant awarded: 75%



Tulgey Woods Sanctuary were awarded funding to build a secure cycle parking compound.

Grant awarded: 75%



Primal Europe secured funding for a staff pool bike for employees to trial cycling to work.

Grant awarded: 75%



Health Mind Body Limited, based at the HQ Building on Union Street, received grant support for pool bikes for their staff to use for commuting to and whilst at work.

Grant awarded: 75%



## 2.1 Grant impacts

As part of the application process businesses were asked about:-

**Environmental impacts** with businesses being asked how the proposed scheme, if awarded grant funding, would change staff travel behaviour.

**Economic impacts** – with businesses being asked to:-

- estimate the likely financial impacts or benefits to their business from a successful funding application to the grant scheme
- comment on whether the business expected to see increased economic activity following the installation of the funded scheme and
- set out whether the funding would result in the expansion of their business, securing employment and / or creating new employment opportunities

**Social impacts** with businesses being asked who would benefit from the intervention

The results are as follows:-

### - **Environmental impacts** –

All of the successful applicants identified that their scheme could encourage changes in travel behaviour with the following providing more detail on what the impact could be.

- **Tulgey Woods Sanctuary CIC:** It is expected that 50% of staff and volunteers who work at the sanctuary would make use of the new secure cycle parking facility. Currently 16 of the 20 staff and volunteers at the sanctuary drive to work so the new facility could reduce this to 10 or less driving to the site.
- **Jack n Mols:** The applicant indicated that currently the majority of employees either drive or get a lift for 90% of their journeys to and from work. This means 6 or more return journeys into the city centre every day, 7 days each week. The availability of the pool bikes would help to encourage a shift away from car based journeys amongst staff.
- **YMCA:** Currently 83% out of 45 employees drive to work but 86.7% indicated that they would either cycle or walk to work if there were better shower and changing facilities on site.
- **Primal Europe:** At present three of the four employees at the company drive to work and it is anticipated that by being able to trial cycling to work that most if not all of these employees would switch to cycling to work.
- **Aldermans Tooling Ltd:** The applicant envisions that there will be a reduction in the number of staff and apprentices who drive to and from their site. A Staff Travel Survey conducted in November 2020 had a 62% response rate from across the business and indicated that of 85% respondents travelled to work by car. The applicant believes that providing enhanced facilities would lead to 54% of respondents to the survey to switch to cycling as many have taken this up as a mode of transport during the recent lockdowns.
- **Nash & Co Solicitors LLP:** Being able to provide the facilities would lead to a reduction of the number of staff driving to work (23 driving instead of 38) with those staff changing switching to either walking, running or cycling. The availability of the on-site EV Charger would actively encourage both staff, clients and visitors to switch to either hybrid or full electric vehicles helping to reduce the company's transport related carbon footprint.

- **Ryearch Ltd:** The provision of EV Charging points would enable the company to encourage staff, clients and visitors to move to either full electric or hybrid vehicles which would help to reduce the amount of transport related carbon emissions.
  - **Hutong Café:** The applicant believes that as the bikes will be used in rotation by all staff members there is the potential for a 57% reduction in emissions from staff, as cars will be left at home by the 4 staff members using the eBikes. Additionally the bikes will give provide the company with energy efficient transport between sites, and across their delivery network further reducing the companies carbon footprint.
  - **Health Mind Body Ltd:** The applicant expects a gradual shift over the course of 3 months from 62.5% driving and 27.5% bus travel to 37.5% driving, 25% cycling and 37.5% bus as employees become more confident cycling and weather improves.
  - **University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust:** The increase in the number of pool bikes would allow more staff to trial cycling to work which would result in less vehicles on the road and improve air quality.
  - **Fotonow CIC:** The applicant envisions that providing the pool bike will lead to a reduction in their carbon footprint by encouraging more journeys to be made by bicycle rather than by car.
  - **The Bottling Plant Ltd:** Following a staff survey of 20 employees undertaken in January 2020 the applicant believes that the new shower facilities would lead to 3 full-time members of staff start[ing] to walk or cycle to work more regularly helping to reduce the number of car used for the journeys.
  - **Holbeton School:** The new facilities would support staff who already either walk or run to work while also enabling other staff to cycle to work. In a cycle to work survey 5% of respondents indicated that the provision of additional facilities at the workplace would encourage them to change to non-car modes of transport.
  - **Devon and Cornwall Police:** The current facilities are often insufficient for the number of staff wishing to cycle so the applicant believes that being able to increase the number of bicycle spaces on site from 40 to 60 would enable more staff to cycle to work, potentially replacing 44 cars and triple the number of cyclists if utilised at maximum capacity. This would bring health, fuel cost, cleaner air and sustainable travel benefits to the station and the wider city picture.
- **Economic impacts:**
- **Jack n Mols:** Delivering their scheme would secure the posts of all employees as would allow Covid-19 secure travel to work
  - **Primal Europe:** The funding would help to retain two posts
  - **Hutong Café:** By delivering their scheme the applicant indicated that this would lead to a minimum 20% increase in sales while allowing for the creation of two new jobs along and the retention of two more posts.
  - **Fotonow CIC:** Being able to deliver their scheme would lead to the creation of one new post at the company.

- **Health Mind Body Ltd:** The applicant believes that the scheme will help to support the creation of two new posts as the business starts to grow and activity increases.
- **Nash & Co Solicitors LLP:** The applicant indicated that they expected to see an increase in economic activity as a result of the funding but were unable to quantify the scale or nature of this increase.

- **Social impacts:**

Some of the applicants were able to identify that the new facilities that they would be able to provide with the grant support would have wider benefits than to just their employees. The following identified that either customers, visitors, the wider community or a combination of these would be able to make use of the new facilities:

- **Tulgey Woods Sanctuary CIC**
- **Aldermans Tooling Ltd**
- **Nash & Co Solicitors LLP**
- **Ryearch Ltd**
- **Service Design Solution**
- **Hutong Café**
- **Holbeton School**

### 3.0 SWOT Analysis of the 2020/21 grants

A SWOT analysis of the 2020/21 grants has been undertaken. This has shown that:-

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<p>A wide range of businesses enquired about the scheme</p> <p>Businesses who enquired about the scheme included companies who'd been directly notified and those who'd seen general comms</p> <p>Despite Covid impacts on businesses the business community does seem to welcome the grant opportunity</p>	<p>BCR requirement – the a BCR of 2 is impacting on schemes which aren't a package of measures</p> <p>The value of the grants sought is sub £25k for the majority of applicants</p>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<p>The press release about the scheme prompted a number of enquiries</p> <p>Business champions – Nash&amp;Co – who are happy / able to be advocates for the scheme</p>	<p>Uncertainty about Plymotion funding – impacts on delivering PaYW PTP and hence adding Vfm to the grant programme</p> <p>The need for planning permission to have been secured before grants can be awarded – potentially deterring larger bids</p> <p>Cash-flow challenges for businesses preventing applications due to companies not being able to fund schemes up-front</p> <p>Companies with multiple sites in the Productive Plymouth area only be able to apply for funding for three sites</p>