



North West Campuses

Sustainable Travel Plan

2019/20 to 2023/24





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Foreword

At Ulster University, we are clear about our civic responsibility to do all in our power to have a positive impact on the environment and the communities around us.

Key to this is our commitment to reducing the environmental impact of our business activity and to improving health and wellbeing across the University.

With this in mind, the sustainable travel plan for our North-West campuses aims to reduce the impact of our transport on local communities and the wider environment. At the same time, it provides opportunities for staff and students to build exercise into their daily routine, to embrace public transport and reduce commuting stress.

The plan, which has been shaped through consultation with internal stakeholders, community and external partners, is clearly aligned with our Five & Fifty Strategic Plan, as well as the Greater Belfast Development travel plan.

The central objective is to achieve a tangible shift in our modes of travel, towards the use of public transport, walking, cycling and car sharing, and away from single occupancy car use.

I am confident that this change will lead to an improved environment on and around our campuses, as well as contributing to less stressful, more productive journeys for our students and staff.

As a keen public transport user, I very much welcome the exciting targets outlined in this North-West Travel Plan and support the challenging measures set out to achieve them. I also welcome a regular review of the plan to ensure that it delivers effective and positive change.

I am pleased to endorse the North-West Campus Travel Plan and encourage all of our staff and students to engage with it.

Niamh Lamond
Chief Operating Officer



Introduction

Ulster University's North West Campuses are located in Coleraine and Derry-Londonderry (Magee Campus)

Our coastal and riverside campus at Coleraine focuses on science and health education and is home to the Riverside Theatre and a state-of-the-art sports complex. Given its geographical location, it is very much a destination campus with a wealth of natural assets on the doorstep.

Magee campus has a friendly village atmosphere offering an intimate learning environment in the heart of Northern Ireland's second city, Derry-Londonderry. Its areas of academic excellence include intelligent systems, creative arts, peace and conflict, business, and healthy living.

The travel plan builds on the transformative measures under the University's 2012-17 travel plan including the developments by Estates Services of first class cycle facilities, cycle to work scheme, promotion of car sharing, installation of electric vehicle charging, investment in world class immersive video conferencing and offering comprehensive sustainable travel information on the University website.

By continuing to adopt a strategic approach to sustainable travel planning, the University will reduce the need to travel for business and maximise benefits for staff and students in relation to improved travel options. The Plan complements:

- The travel plans for Belfast and Jordanstown campuses
- The Carbon Management Plan and
- Ongoing sustainable travel and health and wellbeing awareness and communication

The Travel Plan sets out measures that the University will take to fully engage students, staff and visitors with the following broad aims:

- Reducing Single Occupancy Car Travel
- Increasing Car Sharing
- Increasing Travel by Public Transport and
- Increasing Active Travel (Walking and Cycling)

Finally, this Travel Plan is a 'live' document and as such will be monitored, reviewed and updated as necessary to ensure the measures continue to target the relevant issues so that the aims, objectives and targets of the Plan remain realistic and current.





7%

of staff
walk
or cycle.

9%

of students
walk
or cycle.



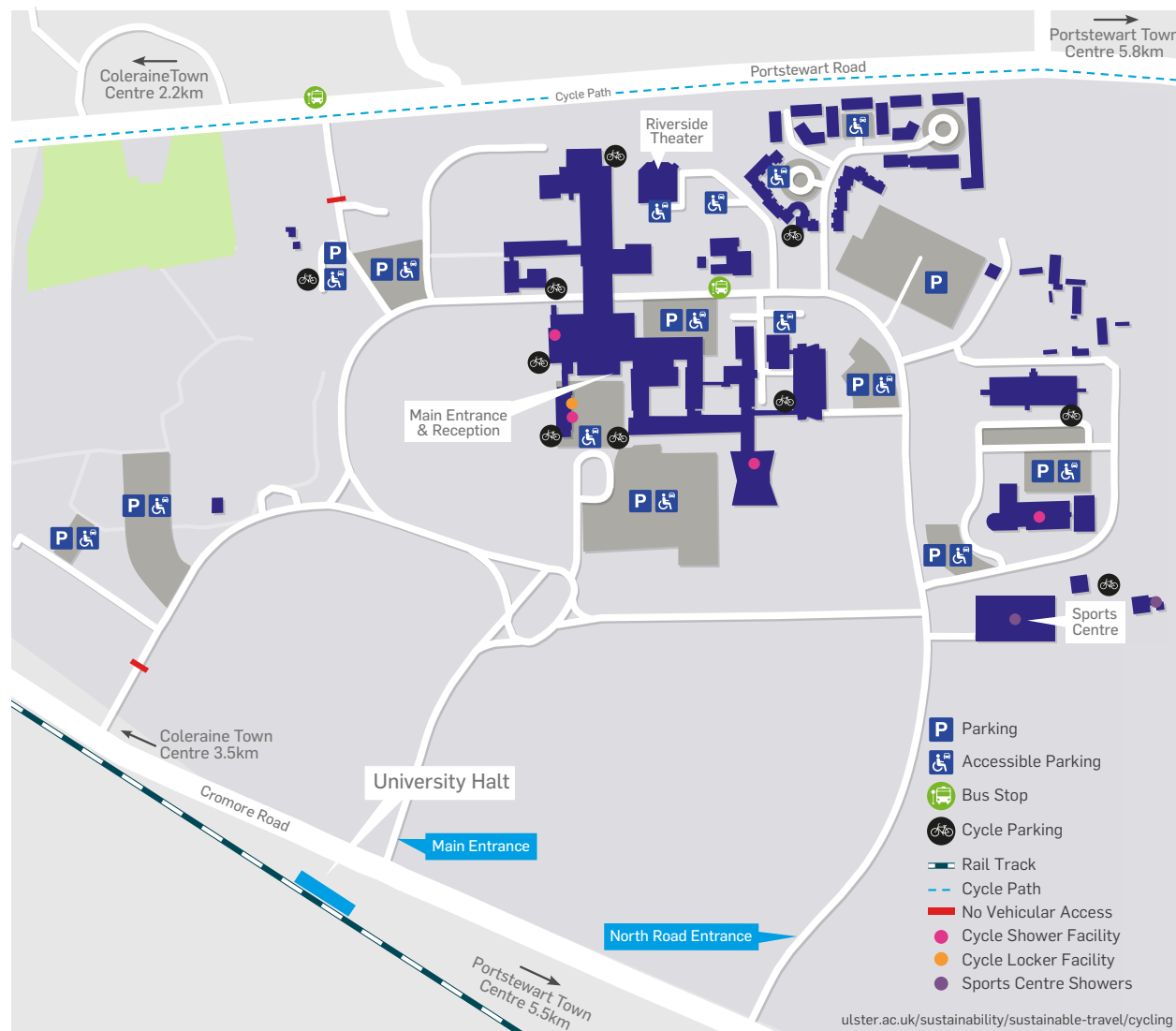
Active and Sustainable Travel to Our Campuses

Coleraine

Our Coleraine campus has an enviable location overlooking the River Bann, less than a mile from Coleraine, only three miles from the seaside towns of Portrush and Portstewart and with excellent access to road and rail networks. The on-campus residences provide an ideal home for students to relax and study. The students' union, catering and sports facilities make for a vibrant extra-curricular life.

The campus provides a range of outstanding cycling facilities, including showers, lockers and a secure cycle hub and parking for over 190 bikes across 10 cycle parking stations. There are cycle lanes and shared use footways along Atlantic Road, Portstewart Road and Millburn Road making the campus accessible from Coleraine Town Centre (10 min cycle) and Portstewart (20 minute cycle) and linking to the National Cycling Network, Causeway Coast Cycle Route and surrounding area.

Within a five-minute walk from the campus, there are 6 bus stops served by excellent public transport provision such as regular services between Coleraine and Portstewart and to Derry / Londonderry, Ballymena, Belfast and Newry. The train services to the University from Derry / Londonderry, Belfast, Coleraine and Portrush operate hourly.



Magee

Our beautiful Magee campus overlooks the River Foyle and is within walking distance of the centre of Derry/Londonderry along the Strand Road one of the city's main thoroughfares.

The campus comprises the main Aberfoyle grounds, which are home to the academic buildings, Students' Union, sports centre and catering facilities as well as neighbouring student residences and sports pitches at Duncreggan Student Village and further residences at Coppin House on Strand Road.

The campus boasts a range of outstanding cycling facilities, including parking for over 70 bikes across 6 cycle parking stations along with showers and lockers. Recent significant investment by Estates Services has provided a modern cycle hub with showering and locker facilities and the new teaching block also hosts showering and locker facilities.

There is a cycle lane along Strand Road making the campus accessible by bike from Derry/Londonderry linking to National Cycling Network and Foyle Valley Cycle Route and the surrounding area. Pedestrian crossings on Strand Road and Northland Road facilitate connection to the Foyle Embankment and to Derry/Londonderry City Centre (a 15-minute walk).

Within five minutes' walk from campus, there are 17 bus stops served by excellent public transport provision with twice-hourly local services including to Foyle Street Bus Station.

Derry/Londonderry Train station is a 25-minute walk from campus or alternatively can be accessed by link bus from the Foyle Street bus station.

Connections from the bus station are available to towns across the province and Republic of Ireland including Omagh, Strabane, Coleraine, Belfast and Dublin. There is an hourly train service from Derry/Londonderry to Belfast.



Current Travel Trends

At Ulster, staff and student travel surveys, conducted every two years, provide an indication of the travel modal split for journeys to the University campuses.

The surveys have informed the targets to reduce the reliance on car travel and in particular single occupancy car usage. The 2017 travel surveys, conducted every two years by Estates Services, highlighted a high dependence on single occupancy car trips to campus for both staff and students. The surveys also provide an indication of how receptive staff and students are to using alternative modes of transport. An analysis of staff and student postcodes has identified catchment areas with sustainable travel opportunities.

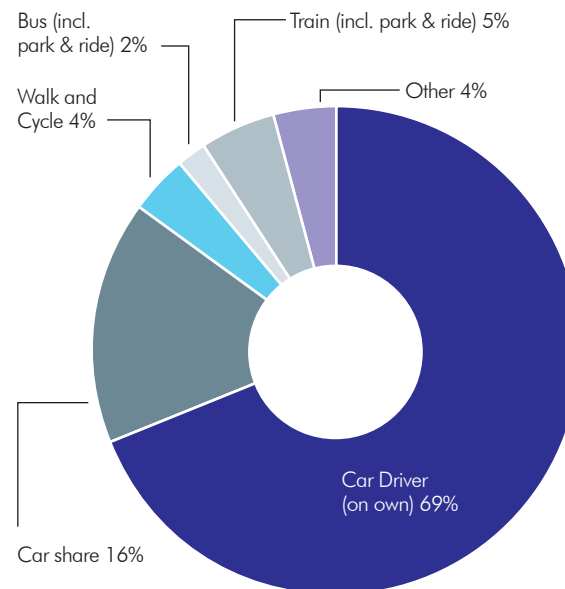
Staff Travel Surveys

The survey asked a number of questions to assess the potential for staff to move to more sustainable travel modes.

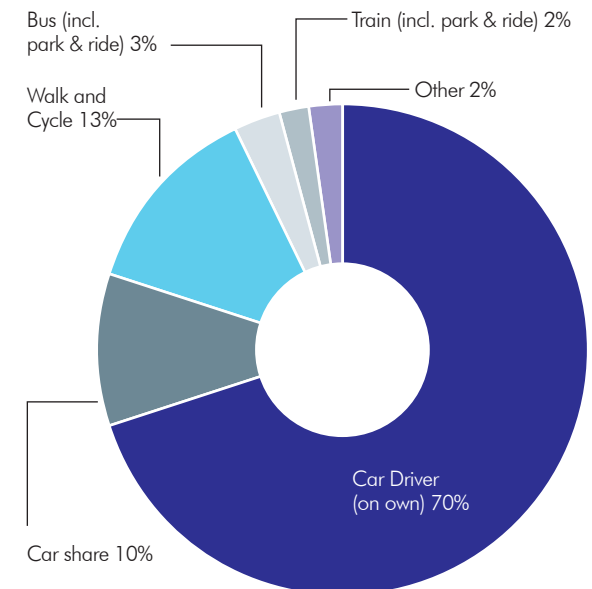
The key positive points extracted from survey responses were:

- **17%** of Coleraine staff and **13%** of Magee staff would consider using the train;
- **18%** of Coleraine staff and **21%** of Magee staff would consider using the bus;
- **Health benefits** was a main reason to change to walking and cycling to work;
- Staff are keen to consider **sustainable modes of travel** for business as well as alternatives to travelling including video conferencing.

Coleraine



Magee

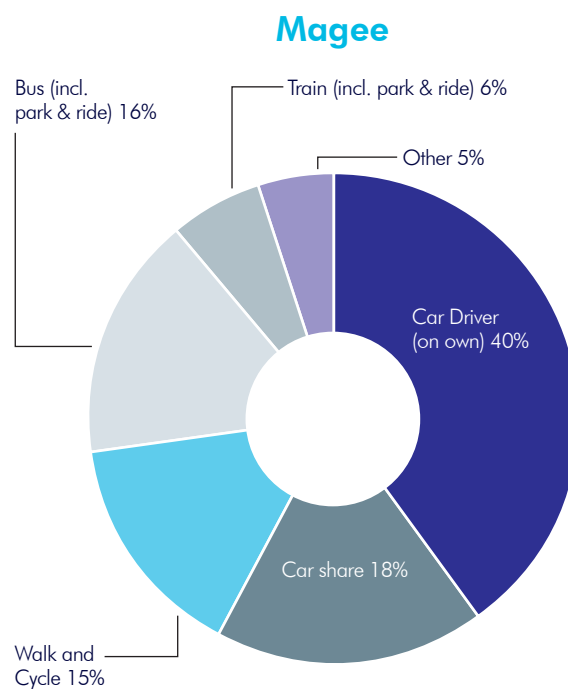
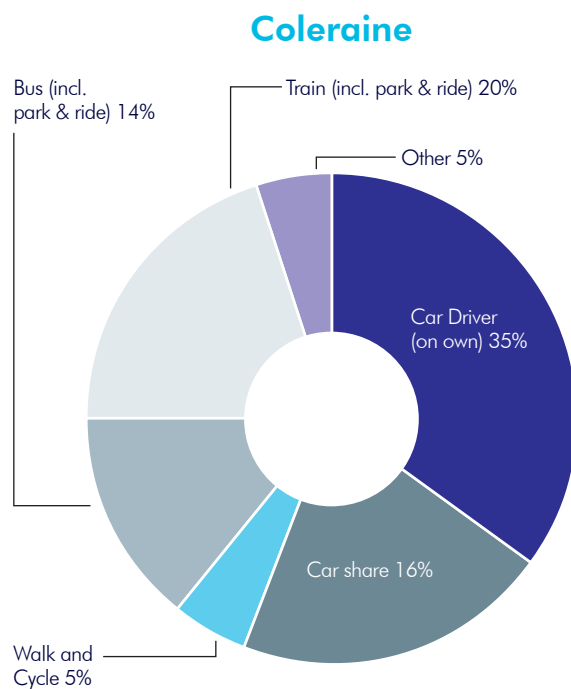


Student Travel Surveys

The survey asked a number of questions to assess the potential for students to move to more sustainable travel modes.

The key positive points extracted from survey responses were:

- **17%** of Magee students and **18%** of Coleraine students would consider using the bus;
- **8%** of Magee Students and **17%** of Coleraine students would consider using the train;
- **23%** of Magee students and **19%** of Coleraine students would consider car sharing;
- Students consider **discounted travel cards** as the main reason to change to public transport.



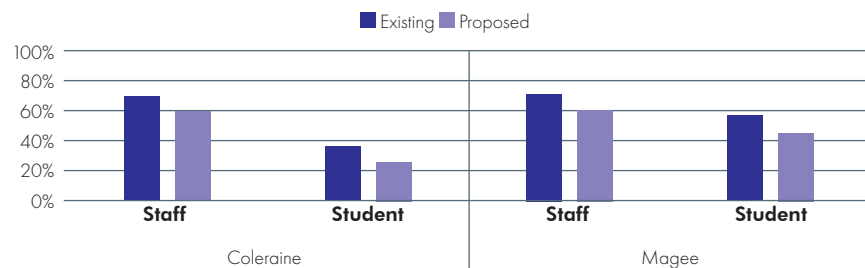
Sustainable Travel Objectives and Targets

Staff and Students

The overarching aim of this Travel Plan is to reduce single occupancy car travel by staff and students and reduce the environmental impact arising from commuter and business travel. Targets are based on current travel demand and existing travel and transport infrastructure and allows for the proposed measures outlined in this travel plan.

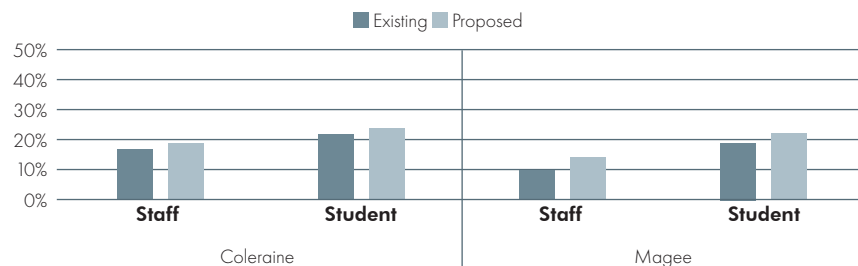
Single Occupancy Car Journeys

To **reduce the proportion of single-occupancy car journeys to campus by 10%** by July 2024 for staff and students.



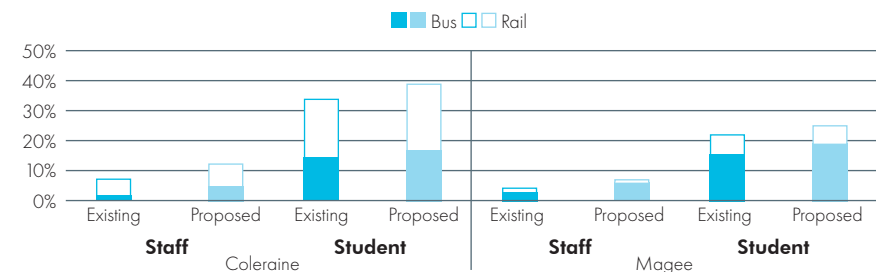
Car Share

To **increase the use of car share** as a means of travel to campus by **3% for staff and 2% for students** at both campuses by July 2024.



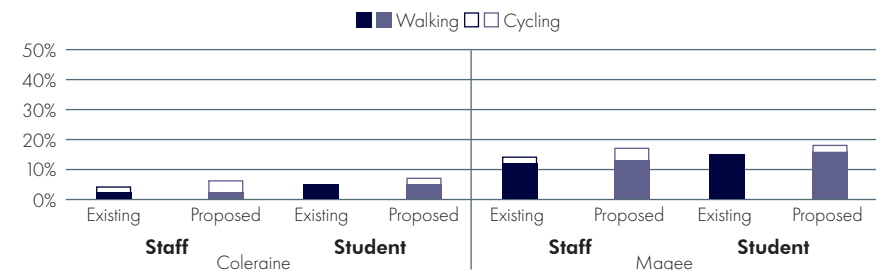
Public Transport

To increase the use of public transport as a means of travel to campus. **Increase bus travel by 3% for staff and 4% for students** at both campuses and **train travel by 2% for staff and 2% for students** at both campuses by July 2024.



Active Travel (Walking and Cycling)

To **increase the use of active travel by 2% for staff and 2% for students** by July 2024.

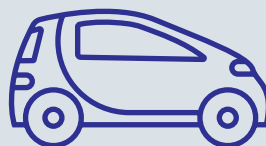


Measures

The University supports a range of ongoing measures to encourage sustainable travel at its North West Campuses such as cycle parking, showering and locker facilities, promotion of car sharing along with electric vehicle charging infrastructure and video conferencing facilities as an alternative to travelling. This Travel Plan will continue to support these measures as well as support the delivery of further measures to achieve the Travel Plan's objectives and targets.

1. Single Occupancy Car Trips

The University recognises that the car can provide accessibility where other transport modes are not feasible. However, the University is committed to reducing the impact car travel has on the environment and is keen to seek opportunities to transform the reliance on this mode of travel.



Car commuters are at least 13% more likely to feel constantly under strain or unable to concentrate than those who cycle or walk to work

Measures

Conduct a review of car parking policy to include consideration of parking charges, capacity, vehicle carbon emissions, local environmental impact, the economic and opportunity cost of parking provision and electric vehicle charging provision.

Explore potential to reinvest car parking revenue into delivering sustainable transport measures

Foster a sustainable travel culture with staff and students that encourages a varied mode of travel to campus

Raise awareness and encourage the use of video-conferencing

Further develop the travel survey to include question(s) relating to low and zero-carbon vehicles

Introduce a sustainable procurement procedure for the purchase and replacement of University fleet to ensure consideration of low or zero-carbon vehicles

Improve 'how to get here' travel information on University website

Measures

2. Car Share

Estates Services encourages car sharing for staff and students through provision of a bespoke online car sharing service operated by Liftshare, together with incentives for car sharing through the car park permit system.

Measures

Introduce measures to promote car sharing

Regularly promote commuter and business travel car sharing through communication channels

Encourage and promote registration to Liftshare car-sharing scheme and consider linking to car parking permit application process

Investigate opportunities for car share parking bays



Car Share

If all commuters carpooled with someone else just one day per week, weekday commute traffic would go down by **20%**

3. Public Transport

The University benefits from excellent bus and rail connections and many staff and students already use public transport as their principal mode of transport to campus.

It is important to increase awareness of the existing services available as well as looking at how to improve public transport accessibility through engagement with external partnerships, particularly with Translink.



Public Transport

has the potential to replace **21%** of car journeys around the UK

Measures

Continuously improve travel information and communications on the environmental sustainability webpages

Meet regularly with Translink service delivery and route managers to review and seek improvements to transport links including between public transport hubs, park and ride and campus

Continue to promote Translink Smartcard offers and Journey Planning services

Seek opportunities to secure travel discounts for staff and students

Engage with statutory authorities and agencies with responsibilities for and influence over travel and transport matters (e.g. local councils and Department for Infrastructure).



Public Transport

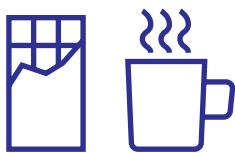
A full bus could take **50 cars** off the road

Measures

4. Active Travel (Walking and Cycling)

Estates Services has invested in excellent facilities to encourage cycling such as indoor cycle hubs providing secure, dry and well-lit bike storage, lockers and showers as well as an increase in the number and quality of convenient outdoor, covered and uncovered cycle stands.

The University will continue to cultivate measures and actions to increase the viability of this mode of travel to campus.



A 20-minute bike ride

can burn the same number of calories as a cappuccino or a bar of chocolate.

Active travel can reduce the risk of heart disease by up to



Measures

Enhance walking routes on campus and provide web based promotional information to encourage usage.

Update way finder signage to identify walking routes

Promote the environmental and health and wellbeing benefits of cycling and walking to campus

Further promotion of parking, showering and locker facilities for cyclists on campus

Hosting and promotion of cycle events, bike clinics and bike security marking

Co-operate with key external stakeholders in relation to improving cycle routes to campus

Review on-campus infrastructure with the view of prioritising safe and convenient routes for cycling

Continue to provide a salary sacrifice cycle purchase scheme (cycle to work)

Cooperate with key external stakeholders in relation to cycle and electric cycle hire schemes

Investigate discounts for staff and students at local bicycle suppliers

Conduct an annual review of cycle numbers on campus and monitor demand for additional storage



From the Sustainability Manager

// I am delighted to support the ambitious sustainable travel aims within the North West (NW) Travel Plan.

This Travel Plan outlines a mix of new and existing measures across a number of different travel options, with the aim of achieving the challenging targets outlined. The University in partnership with staff and students will proactively increase the number of trips made to campus by foot, cycle, bus, train and as a car passenger.

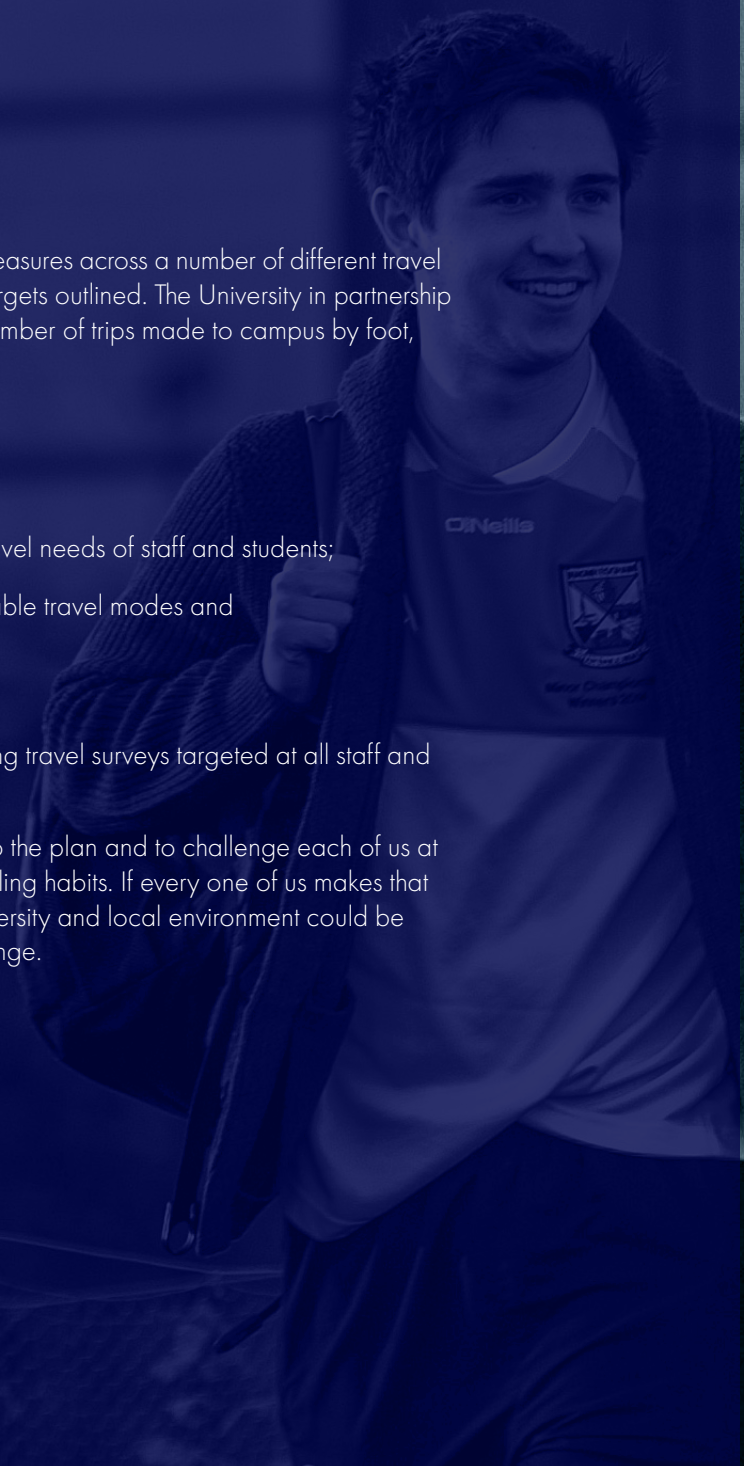
The University will regularly monitor the uptake of sustainable travel choices to seek opportunities to:

- gain a greater understanding of the changing travel needs of staff and students;
- observe the progress towards increased sustainable travel modes and
- focus future travel planning efforts to meet the targets set.

Recognising this, the University commits to undertaking travel surveys targeted at all staff and students every two years.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the plan and to challenge each of us at Ulster to make even just a small change to our travelling habits. If every one of us makes that personal pledge, the meaningful impact on the University and local environment could be remarkable – and I am proud to be part of that change.

Marie-Louise Gaile
Sustainability Manager





Further Information

For further information relating to the University's Sustainability commitments and other helpful travel links please, visit the University's Sustainable Travel webpage at:

<https://www.ulster.ac.uk/sustainability/sustainable-travel>

