Environment and Sustainability Committee

13/19 A meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Committee was held on Friday 14 June 2013 in Committee Room 2, Whiteknights House.

There were present:

Professor R.H. Ellis (Chair)
Mr I.J.T. Cruickshank
Dr A. Elmulaim
Mr D. Fernbank
Miss C. Jones
Miss L. Kane
Dr S. Musson
Mrs J.L. Pich
Mrs M. Simpson
Dr K. Stanbridge
Mr A. Tooley
Ms L.V. Sharman (secretary)

Apologies were received from Dr Billingsley, Mr Robbins, Mr Beck, Mr Brand, Ms Prior and Mr White.

13/20 Minutes of the last meeting

The Committee approved minutes 13/01 to 13/18 of the last meeting held on 20 February 2013.

13/21 Matters Arising

13/03 Cycle to Work Scheme
It was reported that Procurement had identified a cycle to work salary sacrifice scheme run by the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation. Details on the scheme had been submitted to Human Resources who had responded that they thought the salary sacrifice scheme for bus passes would be of greater benefit to staff than cycle to work.

It was agreed that the Sustainable Travel Co-ordinator should continue to monitor requests for the scheme.
13/03 Rate for Cycle Travel
It was reported that the rate for cycle was not approved by Senior Management Board.

13/07 Environmental Policy
It was noted that the Environmental Policy had been approved by the Vice-Chancellor.

13/08 Annual Environment and Sustainability Report 2011/12
It was noted that the report had been submitted to Estates and Facilities Committee.

13/11 Escalation Procedures
The Committee received a tabled copy of the Escalation Procedures. It was noted that these had been updated to replace Senior Management Board with the Estates and Facilities Committee. It was agreed that the revised version would be submitted to Estates and Facilities Committee for information.

Action: Ms Sharman

13/22 Travel Plan Fund
The Committee received and noted the financial report for the Travel Plan Fund to the end of April 2013. It was reported that there were still some costs to come out of the fund.

13/23 Student Travel Survey 2013 - results
The Committee received a report setting out the results of the 2013 Student Travel Survey.

Over 1300 students completed the survey. Most students (65%) travelled onto campus at least five days a week, with a further 23% travelling at least three days a week. It was noted that the most popular method of getting to campus was walking (78%). This was an increase of 10% over last year’s survey; it was suggested that this might be down to the closure of Sibly and Bulmershe halls.

Feedback on the survey had been made in the latest edition of Travel Wise. It was suggested that an article could also be put in Spark.

Action: Miss Jones

The survey had highlighted a number of areas to focus on:

- Promotion of security offers for cycling
- Hertz on demand needed more promotion
- Promotion of Travel Wise
- Improvements to the website consideration of whether RU car sharing met the needs of students
- Bus apps for smart phones
- Forwarding of comments about specific junctions for pedestrians and cyclists to local councils
13/24 Travel Plan – action updates

The Committee received an update to the Travel Plan Actions. It was suggested that available showers for cyclists should be advertised more widely. The Sustainable Travel Co-ordinator was asked to produce an updated list including details of how to gain access.

Action: Dr Stanbridge

In addition it was suggested that bus shelters and seats in each direction should be installed for staff at Greenlands. The Sustainable Travel Co-ordinator agreed to speak with the local authority.

Action: Dr Stanbridge

13/25 Sustainable Travel Updates

The Committee received an update on sustainable travel that had been incorporated into the Travel Plan actions. In particular it was noted, that:

- The University had participated in the Walk to Work Week and the Easy Cycle Challenge.
- A cycle security campaign had been launched, promoting the use of good locks, cycle labelling and the passport scheme.
- More cycle parking was planned for Hopkins, Park Eat and Chemistry.
- Consideration was being given to an expansion of the recycling bikes scheme run by RUSU; space was required for storage over the summer and this was the major limitation currently.
- The cycle maintenance course continued to be very popular.
- Work was continuing with UPP and Security to ensure all incoming students were aware of travel offers and bicycle security before they arrived at University.
- The Unisaver 10 ticket would launch in September (10 trips for £14).
- The annual bus ticket purchase by salary sacrifice had now launched.
- Bus ridership was up 10.9% on the same week last year.
- Reading Buses were considering enhancing the evening peak services on Sundays in response to demand, largely from students, returning after weekends away.
- The procurement process for the RBC cycle hire scheme was progressing with the intention to launch the scheme in Spring 2014.
- Sustrans were developing plans for a new National Cycle Network route between Windsor, Ascot, Bracknell, Wokingham and Reading. The proposal was for the route to pass Whiteknights campus and link through to Reading town centre.
- Pedestrian refuge islands were being proposed for Redlands Road and Upper Redlands Road.

13/26 Travel Wise

The Committee noted issue 10 of Travel Wise.
13/27 Eco Campus Audit Report

The Committee noted that the University had been audited as part of its submission for the EcoCampus Platinum Award. The University had been awarded Platinum status. The Committee agreed that this was a tremendous achievement, particularly given that the award applied to the whole of the Whiteknights campus.

It was noted that consideration was now being given to applying for ISO14001 accreditation. A gap analysis was to be undertaken in order to identify where further works were required.

13/28 Green League 2013

The Committee was pleased to note that the University had been awarded a First Class Award in the People & Planet Green League 2013. Reading’s position meant that it was the most improved amongst the UK’s greenest universities, rising 42 places to 17 out of 143.

The Committee noted that there were still two areas where the University scored zero – ethical investment and integrating sustainability into the curriculum. The Chair agreed to contact the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) to discuss integrating sustainability into the curriculum.

Action: Professor Ellis

13/29 Update on Site Waste Management Plans

The Committee noted that Site Waste Management Plans were no longer required from October 2013.

13/30 Legislation update and changes to the Legal Register

The Committee received and noted an update on legislation changes to the Legal Register. It was suggested that a digest of the legislation should be circulated to Heads of School to remind them of their responsibilities.

Action: Mr Cruickshank

13/31 Waste and Recycling Update

It was noted that Estates and Facilities Committee had approved a proposal that desk side bins would be removed from those buildings that already had a number of established recycling points. The programme was being rolled out across campus.

13/32 Report from the Environmental Management Review Group

The Committee received and noted the minutes from the Environmental Management Review Group held on 15 May 2013.
13/33 **Any other business**

*Cycle Paths*

The Committee discussed the need for cycle paths at particular pinch points around campus. It was suggested that the Sustainable Travel Co-ordinator should try and identify particular pinch points and see if there were any small works that could be undertaken quickly and within the limited travel fund resources available to improve the situation.

**Action: Dr Stanbridge**

*New Chair*

It was noted that it was likely that Professor Ellis would be standing down as Chair from next session. The Committee thanked Professor Ellis for all his hard work on the Committee’s behalf over the last five years.

13/34 **Provisional Dates of meeting 2013-14:**

- Tuesday 12 November 2013 at 9.30 am
- Wednesday 19 February 2014 at 9.30 am
- Friday 20 June 2014 at 9.30 am
**ACTION LIST: Environment and Travel Sub-Committee – 14 June 2013**

**Key:**

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<tr>
<th>RHE</th>
<th>Professor Ellis</th>
<th>JLP</th>
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<tr>
<td>RUSU</td>
<td>President Students’ Union</td>
<td>CD</td>
<td>Mrs Derham</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>Mr Robbins</td>
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<td>FB</td>
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<td>Mr Cruickshank</td>
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<td>LVS</td>
<td>Ms Sharman</td>
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<td>KS</td>
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<th>Minute</th>
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<tr>
<td>13/21</td>
<td>Escalation procedures to Estates and Facilities Committee</td>
<td>LVS</td>
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<td>13/23</td>
<td>Spark to include an article on the student travel survey</td>
<td>CJ</td>
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<td>13/24</td>
<td>KS to produce an updated list of showers for cyclists and to enquire re a bus shelter at Greenlands</td>
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<td>13/28</td>
<td>Chair to speak with PVC (T&amp;L) re sustainability in the curriculum</td>
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<td>13/29</td>
<td>Summary of legal register to be sent to Heads of School</td>
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<td>13/33</td>
<td>Consideration be given to whether any small works be undertaken to improve footpaths/cycle paths</td>
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