

**ACT  
TRAVELWISE®**

**National Autumn Conference,  
Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony**  
**A Healthy Approach to Travel Options:  
helping organisations and individuals  
to thrive** 23 and 24 November 2009  
Newcastle-Gateshead **Call for Papers**



Picture: Graeme Peacock



Main Sponsor of This Event



# National Autumn Conference, Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony

## A Healthy Approach to Travel Options: helping organisations and individuals to thrive 23 and 24 November 2009

### Newcastle-Gateshead **Call for Papers**

ACT TravelWise is the UK's premier network for all organisations working to promote sustainable travel.

#### Our vision:

A society in which people and organisations can meet their travel needs in ways that protect and enhance the environment, improve public health and support community well-being.

#### Our mission:

To support our members in their work to promote sustainable travel through provision of first-class learning opportunities, partnership working, marketing support and networking events, all with a specific focus on building expertise and experience in travel planning and other cost-effective demand management measures.

#### A Healthy Approach to Travel Options: helping organisations and individuals to thrive.

Travel planning for both workplace and schools, has increasingly been a factor in tackling congestion for over a decade. It is growing up ... indeed it has learnt to walk ... and cycle. Travel Planning may have been around a few years, but still has time to grow and mature. The world is changing at a rapid pace ... travel planning is no longer the awkward teenager establishing its purpose in life. So what direction does it take? How does it avoid its role becoming tedious and inactive? How can it continue to benefit people? How does it remain fit and healthy?

The Newcastle/Gateshead area, along with the remaining Tyne and Wear districts have the highest projected regional increase in car ownership in England over the next 30 years. This, coupled with an increase in commercial traffic over the last decade, will lead to an increase in traffic levels, congestion and poorer air quality in the near future - making travel planning a highly relevant issue to the region. With excellent sustainable transport systems already in place, such as the regional wide light rail system Metro and accessible bus links, travel planning has every opportunity to play an important part in improving the traffic conditions for the region and its inhabitants.

#### Introduction

The ACT TravelWise Association National Autumn Conference held in Birmingham in October 2008, attracted nearly 300 travel plan professionals from UK and Ireland. The feedback from delegates was excellent. This year's conference will again encourage, through the Call for Papers, an extremely varied programme of presentations of key interest to all transport practitioners.

#### Conference - Key Features

The ACT TravelWise National Autumn Conference will pursue a clear agenda with a focus on attracting outstanding key note speakers on issues of national policy importance and multi streamed sessions, which will demonstrate how key policy instruments are turned into healthy travel plan measures. The conference is one of the few events which also provide transport practitioners the opportunity to offer a paper. The outline of the event is structured to offer delegates maximum opportunity to network with additional activities such as site visits, drink reception and Gala Dinner.

#### Conference - Audience

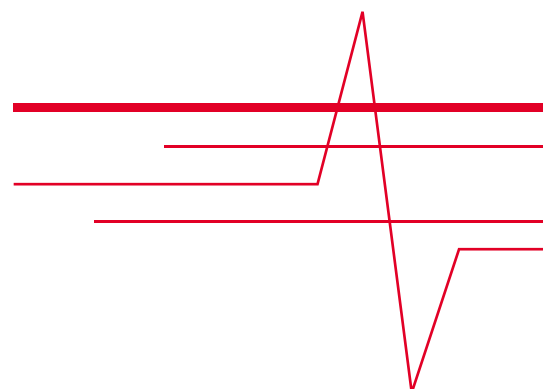
The event is aimed at travel planners, policy makers, transport planner, providers of technical advice and consultancy, health authorities, businesses interested in sustainable development and anyone involved in sustainable travel development and delivery of transport services from both the public and private sector. It is designed to continue building the body of work which already exists in the travel planning and sustainable transport profession.

#### Presenting a Paper

It is important that abstracts contain sufficient information about the content of the proposed paper and the conclusions or results likely to be reached when the abstract is submitted by 29th May and presented (Monday 23rd or Tuesday 24th November). Abstracts which identify actual or anticipated outcomes are always particularly welcomed. If your abstract is selected you will be notified by the end of August and at that time you will be asked to confirm that you can:

#### Submit the full paper by 30th October.

Attend the conference and present your paper twice in the "surgery sessions". Presenters will be asked to speak for approximately 10 - 15 minutes followed by questions and discussions.



## Surgery Sessions

The feedback from the ACT TravelWise Autumn 08 conference indicated that many delegates would like to have attended several workshops on matters of current interest, but were restricted to do so by the timetable. The Programme Committee have therefore decided on the following set up to ensure delegates have the workshops repeated on both days.

The association particularly welcomes papers which support the five surgery session subject pillars:

### 1) Business

Within the current discourse of 'credit crunch' and 'recession', where does travel planning fit in? Is it an unnecessary burden upon already stretched sections of management? Or does it have the potential to improve the health of companies - through improving accessibility for potential customers as well as staff? Moreover, can such measures actually save companies money in the medium to long term

### 2) School

Is where the travellers and indeed travel planners of the future are based. But schools and colleges have a complicated dual role, that of a destination of travel and that as body as to which help influence the travel behaviour of the future. Where does this leave school travel planning? Do we do enough to involve the influential 14- 19 group? What about our future, what will happen after 2011, what role will sustainable modes of travel strategy play in school travel?

### 3) Public Sector

Can the public sector effectively lead on disseminating good travel planning practice? Are the tools that local government have in place to encourage organisations to have effective travel plans healthy?

### 4) Innovation

Alternative ways of working, once championed as the future have diminished from the headlines. Would it be healthy to reinvigorate these ideas? To what extent can we, as suggested by 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport System', manage the demand for travel? Are technological innovations the way forward to prevent both congestion and worsening air quality?

### 5) Evaluation

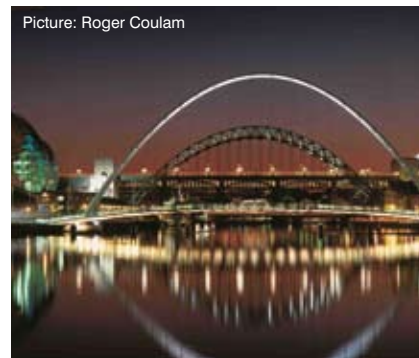
Are we doing enough to monitor the impact that travel planning tools have? Should we be looking to learn more from experience? How do exogenous factors impact upon measures employed in travel planning, and moreover, do travel planners get the credit deserved? Are nationally set targets the future, what's the schools perspective on this? Do they give a true reflection on the impact travel planning tools have?

## How to Submit an Abstract

You may submit one or more abstracts by filling in the form attached to this document.

If there is more than one author, please supply full contact details of the co-author/s.

Abstracts should not include additional material, for example, photographs and appendices. Abstracts should be sent by email to [Rhian@acttravelwise.org](mailto:Rhian@acttravelwise.org). **The deadline for the receipt of abstracts is Friday 29th May 2009.**



## The Selection Process

The Programme Committee will aim to select papers which will make for lively and fruitful debate and will be of interest and value to travel planners.

The Committee would also welcome abstracts on an initiative or measure which may not have gone as well as planned with reasons why.

## Sponsorship and Exhibition Opportunities

There are opportunities to sponsor all or parts of the event such as a surgery session or an award. There are also places for exhibitors. We were delighted that all exhibition and sponsorship opportunities were taken at the ACT TravelWise Autumn National Conference 2008. A detailed schedule of sponsorship and exhibition opportunities is available from Rhian Davies ([Rhian@acttravelwise.org](mailto:Rhian@acttravelwise.org)).

