

Moving Somerset Forward

BUSINESS BULLETIN – National Work from Home Day Friday 15 May 2009

Businesses encouraged to reap the benefits of Home Working

Somerset County Council is encouraging businesses across the county to consider the savings they could make by working more flexibly on National Work from Home Day.

The event on Friday 15 May 2009 is a chance for businesses and employees to try out working at home arrangements for a day.

To tie in with National Work from Home Day, **the Council is inviting businesses to take part in an online survey** to find out what policies and facilities they have in place to support employees to work from home:

<http://www.movingsomersetforward.co.uk/shortest-commute-work>

The results will be used to shape the way in which the Council's Moving Forward Team supports Somerset's businesses to develop smarter, flexible and more efficient ways of travelling and working.

With the recession biting, the Council is promoting more flexible working because of the benefits of reducing the time, financial and environmental cost of travel, increasing staff productivity and improving an employee's work-life balance

The Council is taking the lead by encouraging its employees to try working from home for a day, where practical, during the week commencing 11 May 2009. A survey carried out in the Council's Environment Directorate last year found that staff who reported they sometimes worked from home saved an average of 38 miles and 8kg of travel-related CO₂ per person per week.

Businesses can find guidance and advice for reducing travel and smarter working and take part in the survey on Somerset County Council's Moving Forward website <http://www.movingsomersetforward.co.uk/reducing-travel/working>

Find out more

1. Moving Somerset Forward is a Somerset County Council initiative to reduce congestion and pollution in Somerset by helping people to explore sustainable transport options.
www.movingsomersetforward.co.uk provides practical advice to businesses, employees and members of the public about all forms of transport in Somerset and beyond, helping them understand their options, plan their journey and try something new.
2. Travel plans are a means for employers to manage the way their staff, visitors and customers travel. Travel plans commonly contain policies relating to HR, IT, facilities management and travel. They include measures to raise awareness of alternative travel choices and to engage with Somerset County Council to improve the travel options available. Travel plans are recommended for all businesses but also a compulsory part of most major new developments in Somerset.
3. Moving Somerset Forward provides free face-to-face or online advice to all businesses in Somerset of any size. It can take businesses through the processes of developing a travel plan and engaging with staff to deliver business-focussed rewards.
4. Moving Somerset Forward works alongside other initiatives supporting businesses in the County in the field of more flexible working. These include:
 - Connecting Somerset (www.connectingsomerset.co.uk)
 - Into Somerset (www.intosomerset.com)
 - Somerset Chamber of Commerce (www.somerset-chamber.co.uk).
5. Work from Home Day is a national initiative devised by WorkWise:
 - <http://www.workwiseuk.org/events/workwiseweek09.html>
6. For further information please contact Moving Forward:

Moving Forward Smarter Choices Team
Somerset County Council
County Hall
Taunton
TA1 4DY
movingforward@somerset.gov.uk
0845 345 9155