

Staff Travel Survey 2020

Analysis

UoN



Analysis of the Staff Travel Survey 2020

1. Background

The annual Staff Travel Survey was available for completion from 23rd November to 6th December 2020. An email invitation was sent to each member of staff (university email address), inviting them to take part in the survey via Toluna on-line software, managed by Marketing; with reminders sent after 7 days via UNify and social media.

The survey was condensed in comparison to previous years, this was felt necessary due to COVID-19 and the impact on staff working arrangements - in terms of limited travel allowed, the survey was shortened and included questions around the effects of COVID-19 on travel and working from home arrangements.

478 staff members participated in the survey.

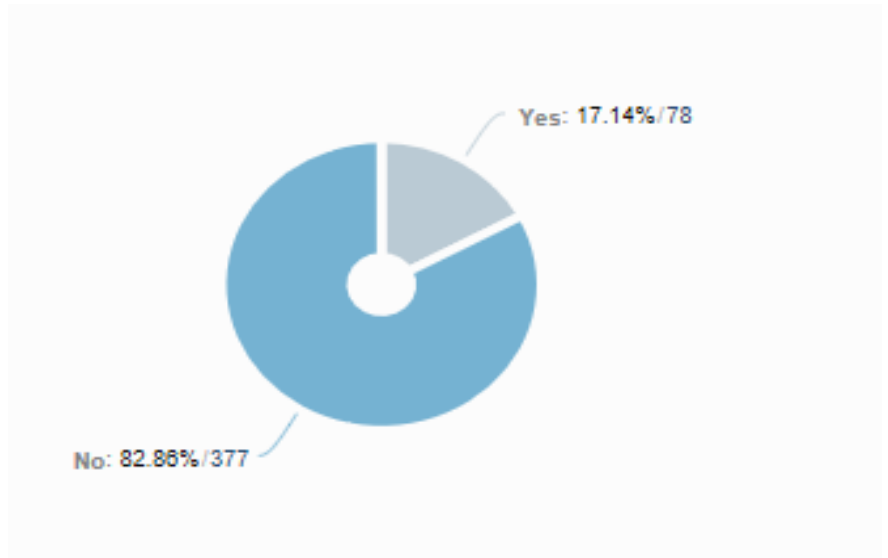
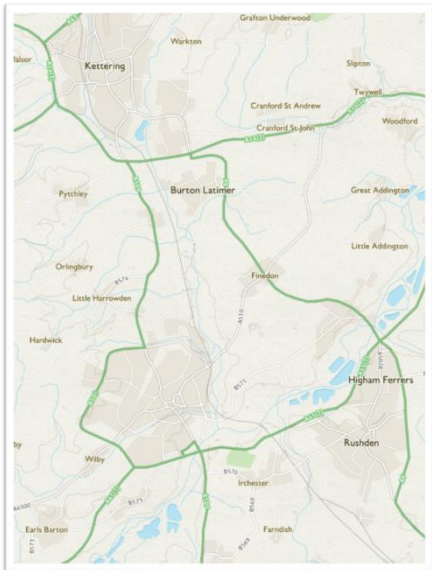
2. The Results

Key Findings

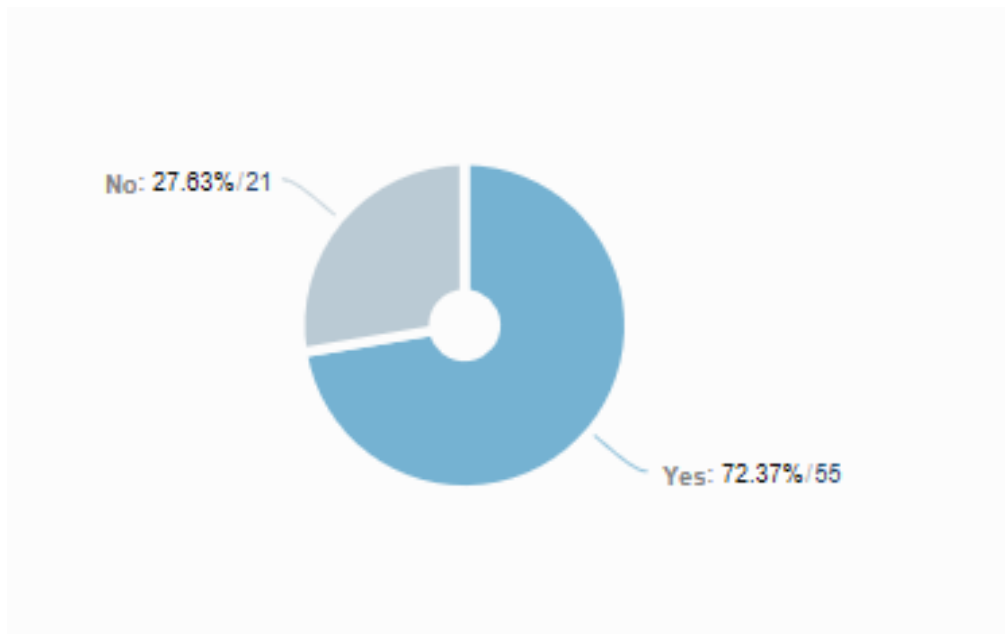
- Significant reduction in travel to campus by Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) - decreasing from 71% in 2019 to 37% in 2020 because of staff working from home during the pandemic.
- Working from home is hugely benefiting our scope 3 carbon emissions - the CO2 equivalent saved in 2020 in comparison to the 2019 data is 393 tonnes of CO2e- this is the equivalent of saving 513 acres of forest.
- As expected, considering COVID-19, bus, train and car share have all decreased from the 2019 results. Numbers for these travel modes were always low at 5% on average. 2019 had seen a slight increase from results at Park Campus, and these have subsequently dropped again.
- Staff that cycle or would consider cycling are largely concerned about the lack of or condition of the town's cycleway and the facilities at UON – improvements requested included: secure bike parking, drying lockers and private showers.
- The main concern with public transport for those who use it was: cost, frequency and reliability.
- The vast majority of staff are enjoying working from home as they feel their work/life balance is improved however they miss the social interaction and hope to combine working from home with working on-site in the long term.

Section 1 (Q1-3): Questions About A Potential New Uno Bus Route

Q1. Is your home in this geographical area? (Map of A45 & A14 covering Earls Barton, Higham Ferrer's, Rushden, Burton Latimer and Kettering). Answered by 455 respondents.

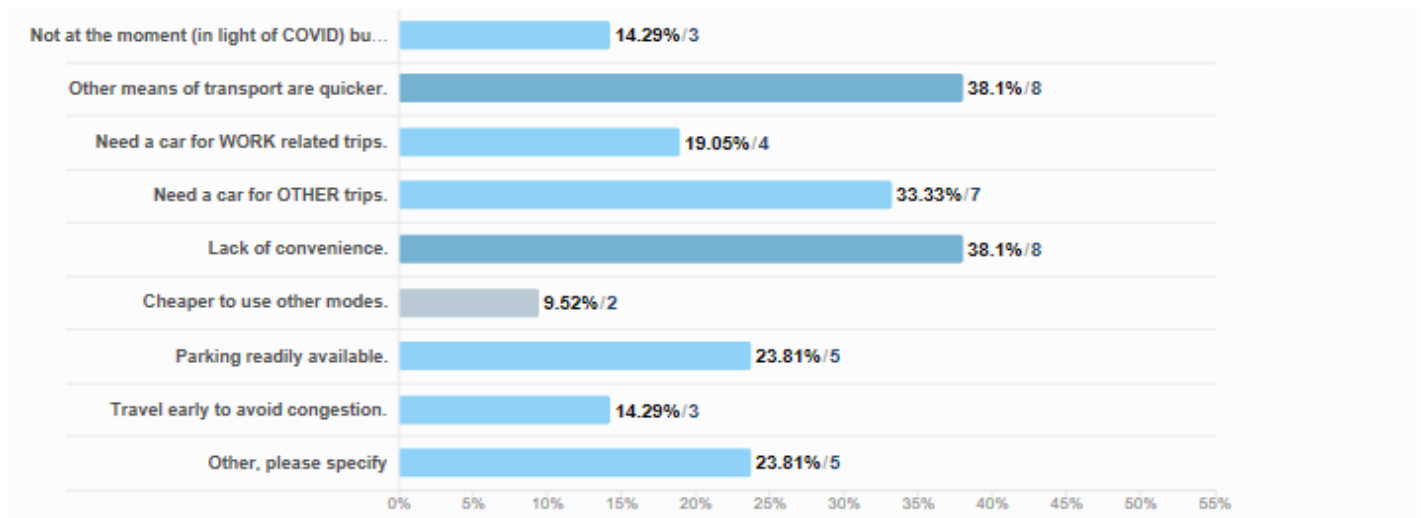


Q2. If yes, would you consider using a newly designed Uno service to travel between your residence and the university if the timetable met your needs. Answered by 76 respondents.



Q3. Please tell us the reason for your choice?

Answered by 21 respondents.



Other, please specify....

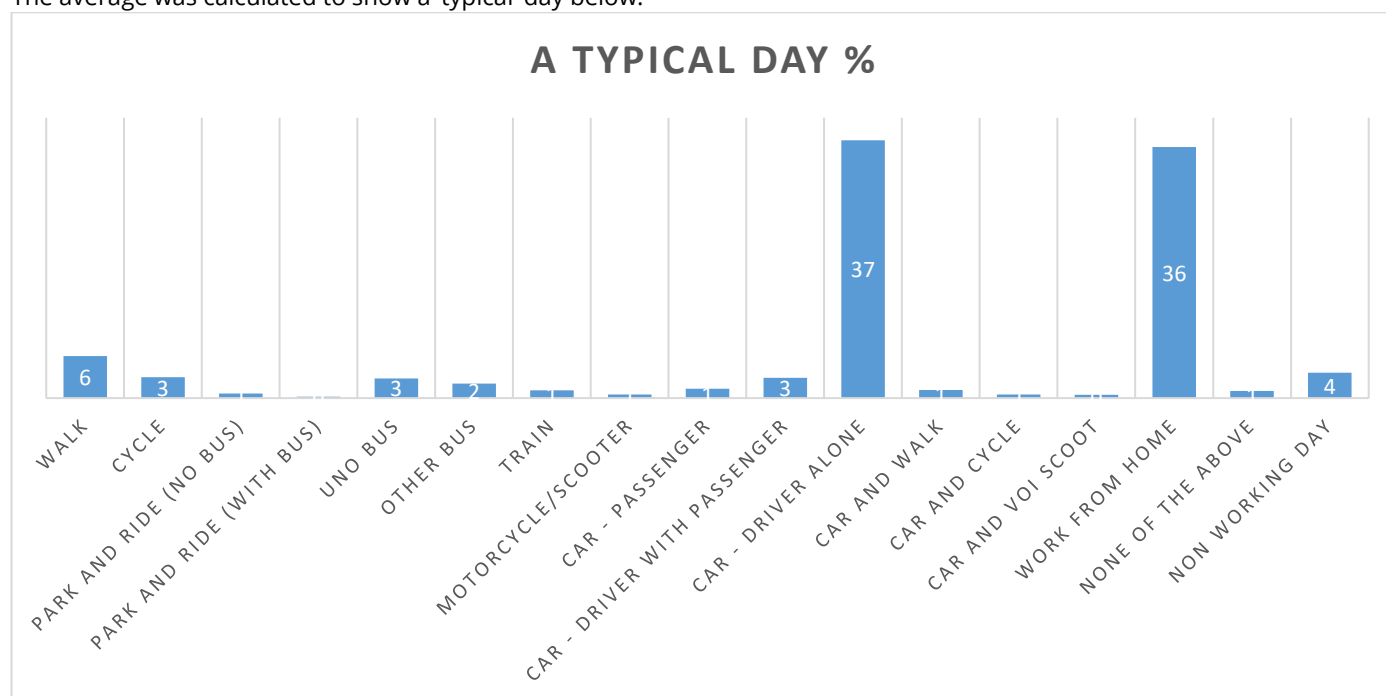
5 responses.

Car share with partner/bubble	40%	2
Childcare/ School pick up	40%	2
Dislike buses	20%	1

Section 2 (Q4-10): Main Survey

Q4. In a typical week, how do you normally travel to the university? Answered by 434 respondents.

The average was calculated to show a 'typical' day below:



The actual daily data is shown in the table below:

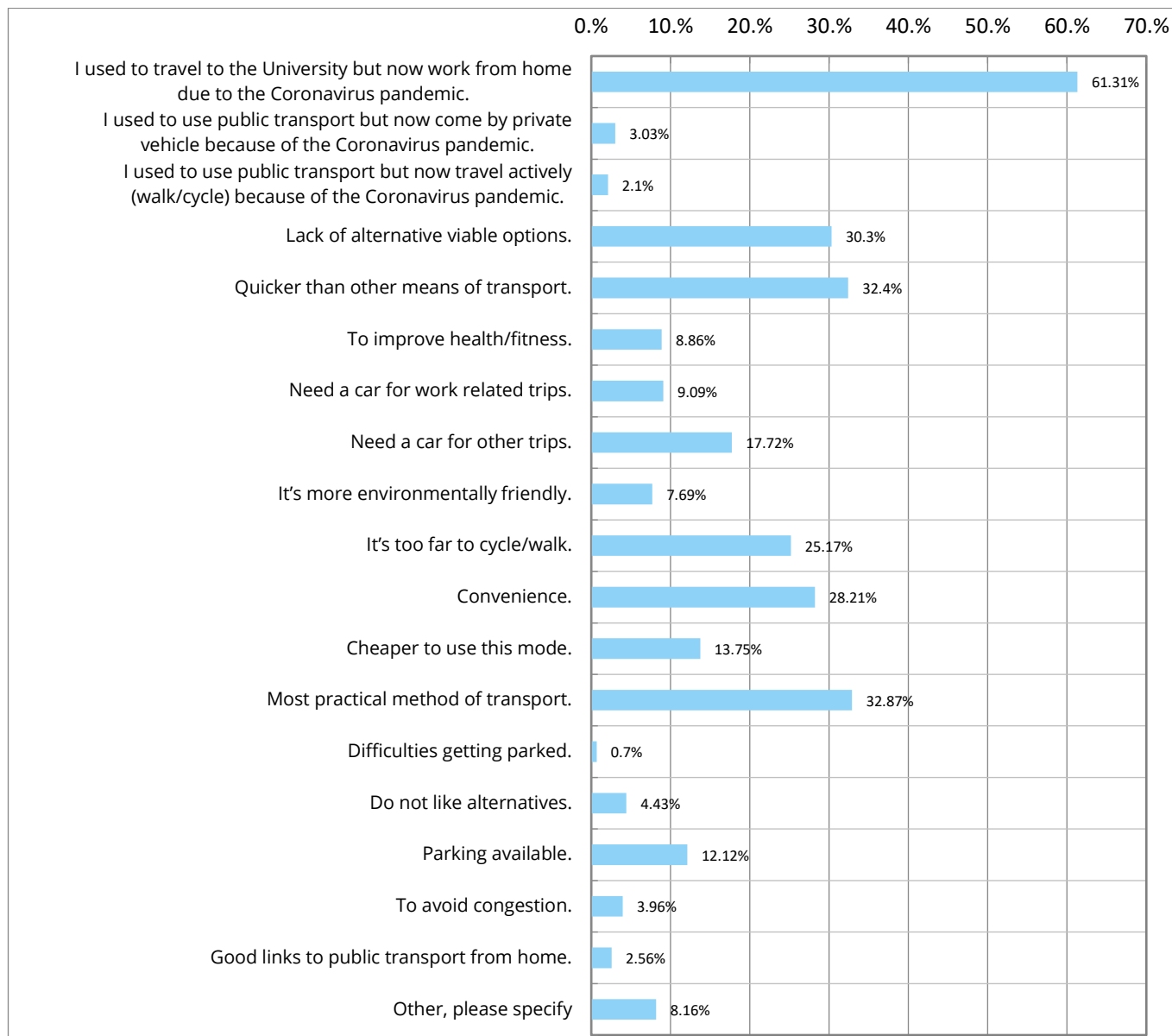
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	On average	%
Walk	30	24	30	29	27	28	6
Cycle	12	16	13	14	15	14	3
Park and ride (no bus)	3	3	3	3	3	3	1
Park and ride (with bus)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Uno Bus	12	14	15	13	12	13	3
Other bus	9	10	10	9	10	10	2
Train	7	4	5	5	5	5	1
Motorcycle/scooter	3	1	4	1	3	2	1
Car - passenger	8	8	6	6	3	6	1
Car - driver with passenger	12	14	17	13	12	14	3
Car - driver alone	170	185	173	179	154	172	37
Car and walk	8	6	5	4	4	5	1
Car and cycle	3	2	3	2	2	2	1
Car and Voi scoot	2	2	3	2	2	2	0
Work from home	162	165	166	169	176	168	36
None of the above	5	5	5	4	5	5	1
Non-working day	19	8	18	13	27	17	4
Totals	466	468	477	467	461	468	100

Travel by Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) has reduced since 2016 and cycling & walking has slightly increased:

Mode	2016 - Park Campus	2019 - Waterside	2020 - Waterside
SOV	75%	71%	37%
Cycling & walking	9%	10%	11%

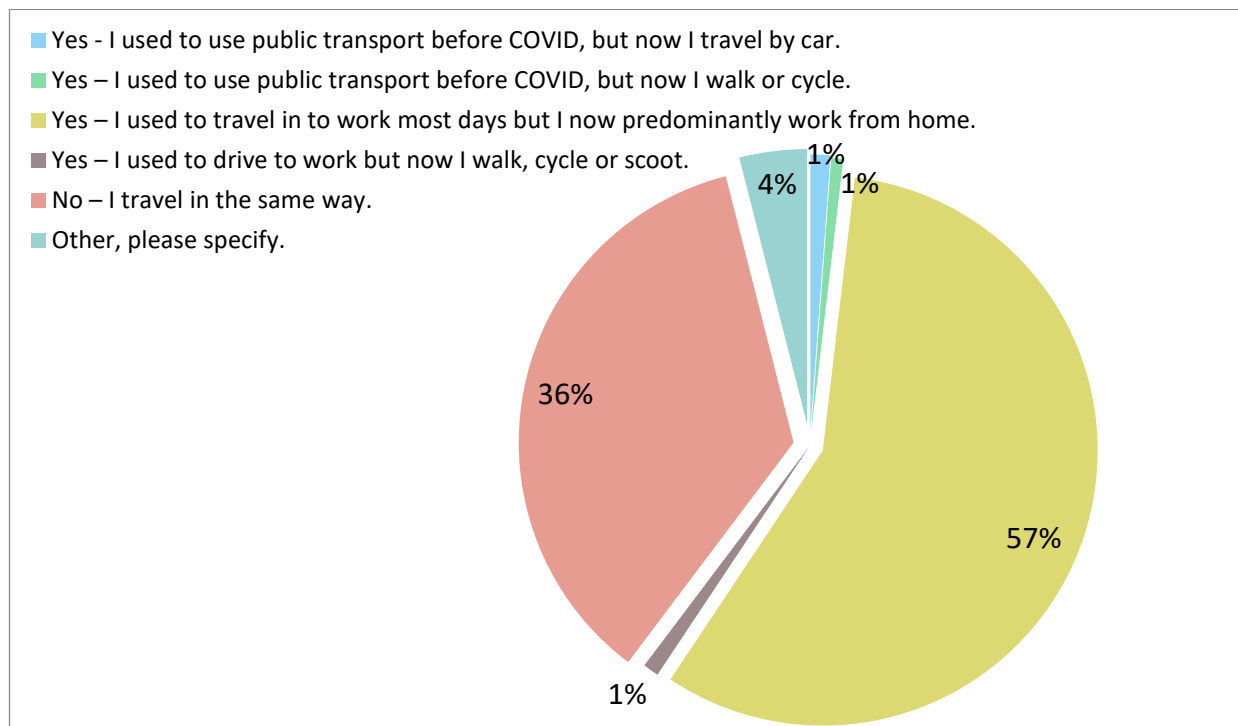
Single Occupancy Vehicle travel has reduced significantly in 2020, this is a direct result of staff working from home due to the pandemic. The IEA suggests working from home is the greener option if your journey to work is more than 4 miles.

Q5. Thinking about your main mode of transport (the one you use the most), why do you travel by this mode? (Please tick all that apply). Answered by 429 respondents.



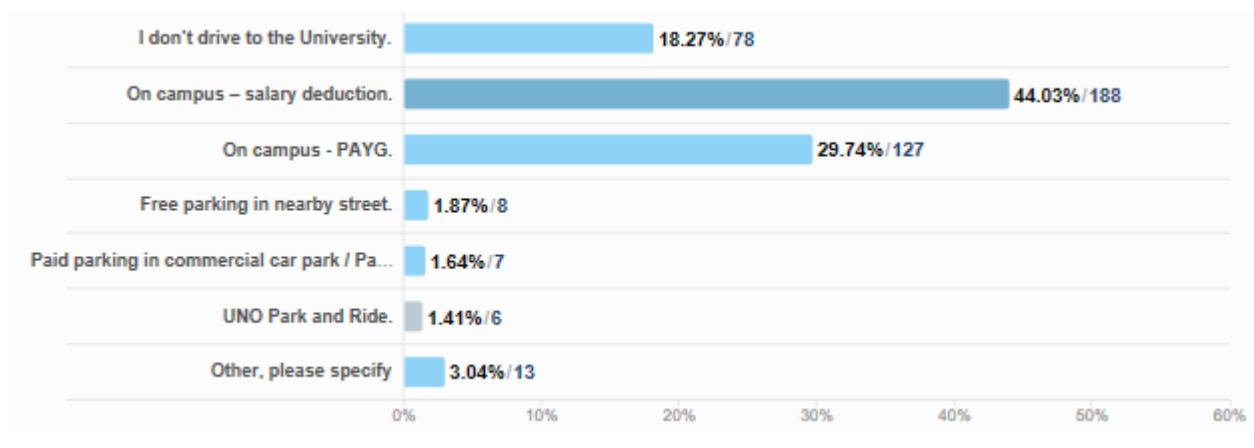
Q6. Has the coronavirus pandemic changed your travel behaviour?

Answered by 428 respondents.



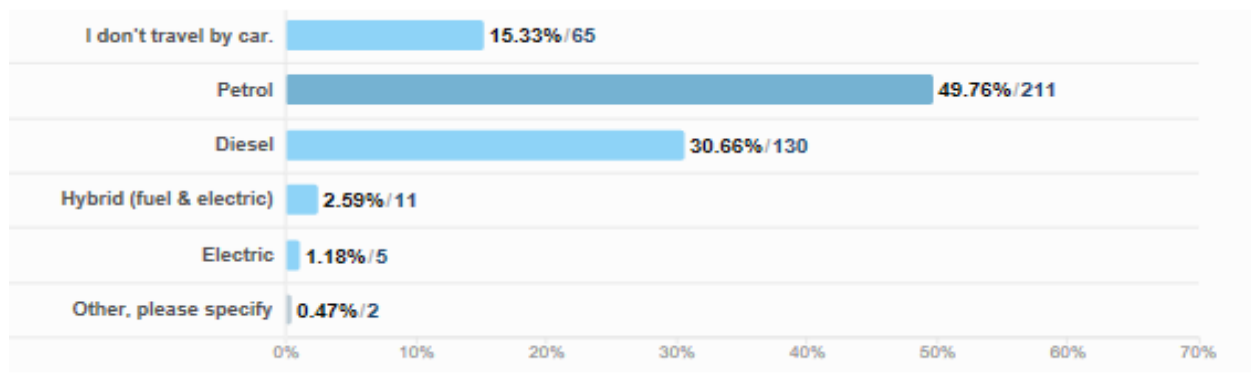
Q7. Where do you park most of the time when at the university?

Answered by 427 respondents.



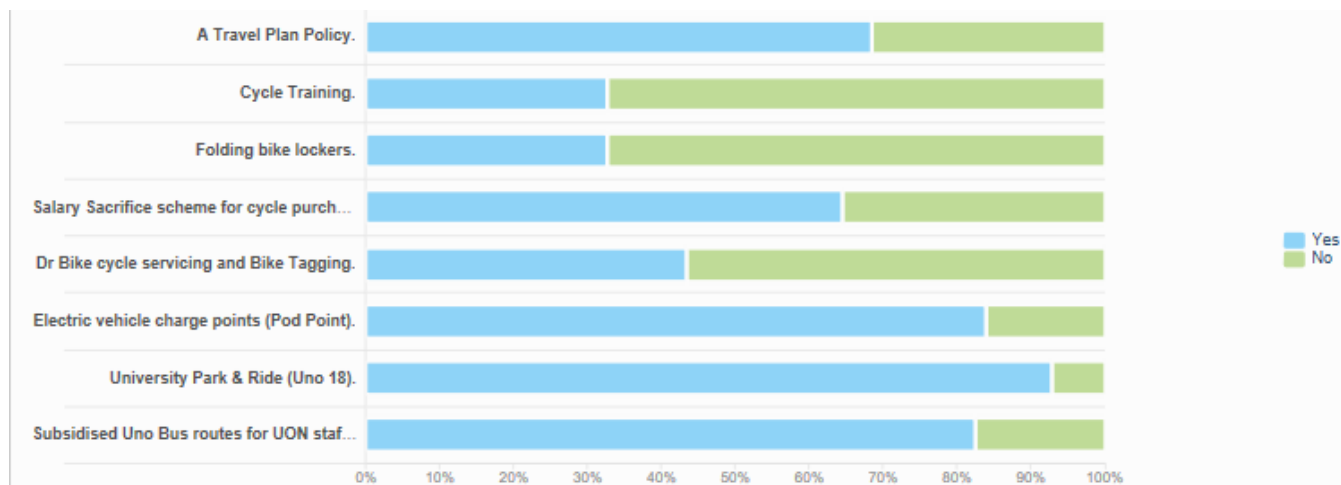
Q8. If you travel to the university by car, please indicate your vehicle fuel type (indicate predominant use, if access to more than one vehicle).

Answered by 424 respondents.



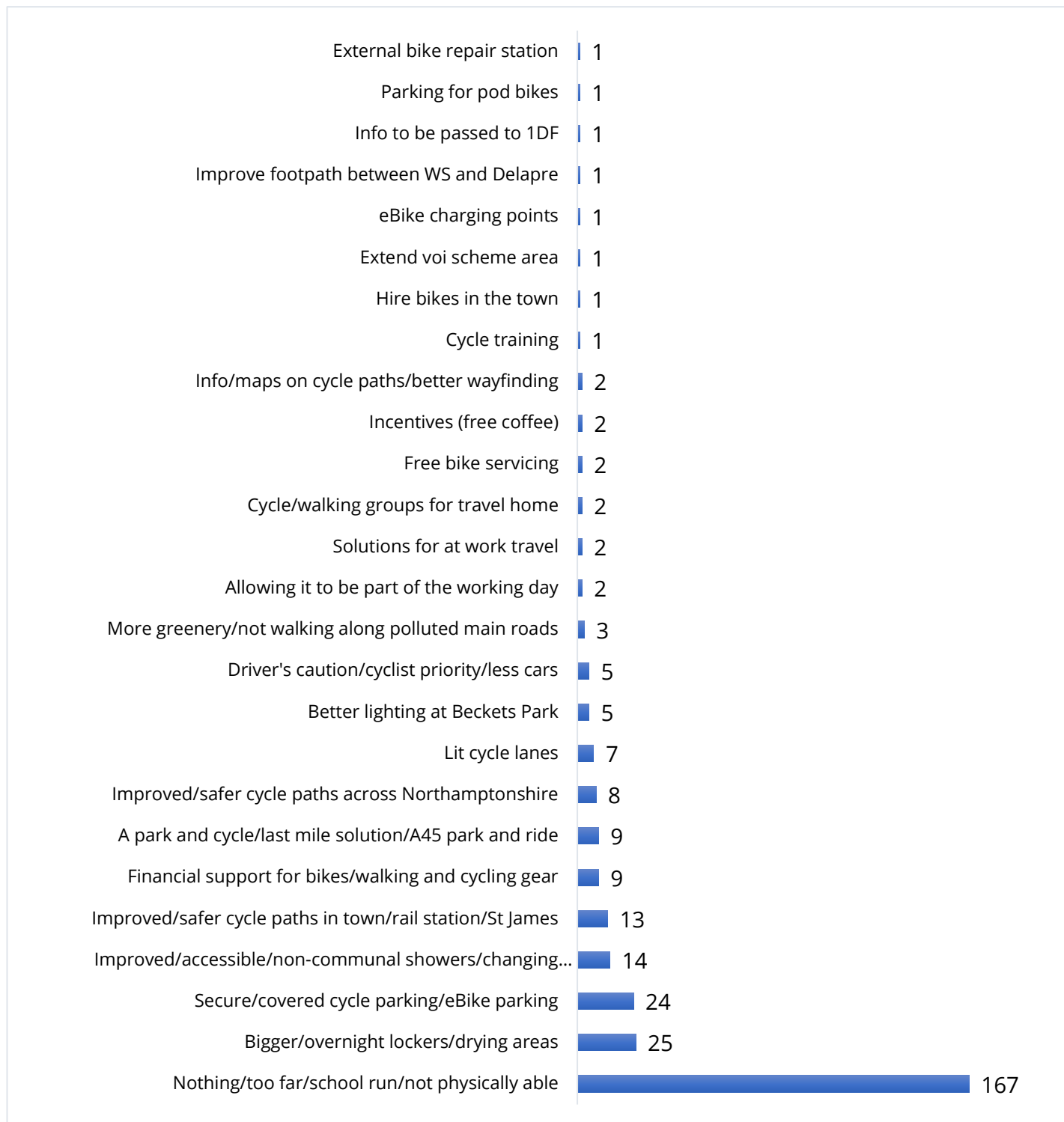
Q9. The university has implemented several measures to support staff in getting to and from the university. Are you aware that the university has the following?

Answered by 424 respondents.



Q10. What would encourage you to walk or cycle to get to/from the University (all or part of the journey)? If you already walk or cycle what improvements would you most like to see?

Answered by 399 respondents. Some responses were not captured below, for example 'I walk to work every day' or 'I often cycle to work and enjoy it'.

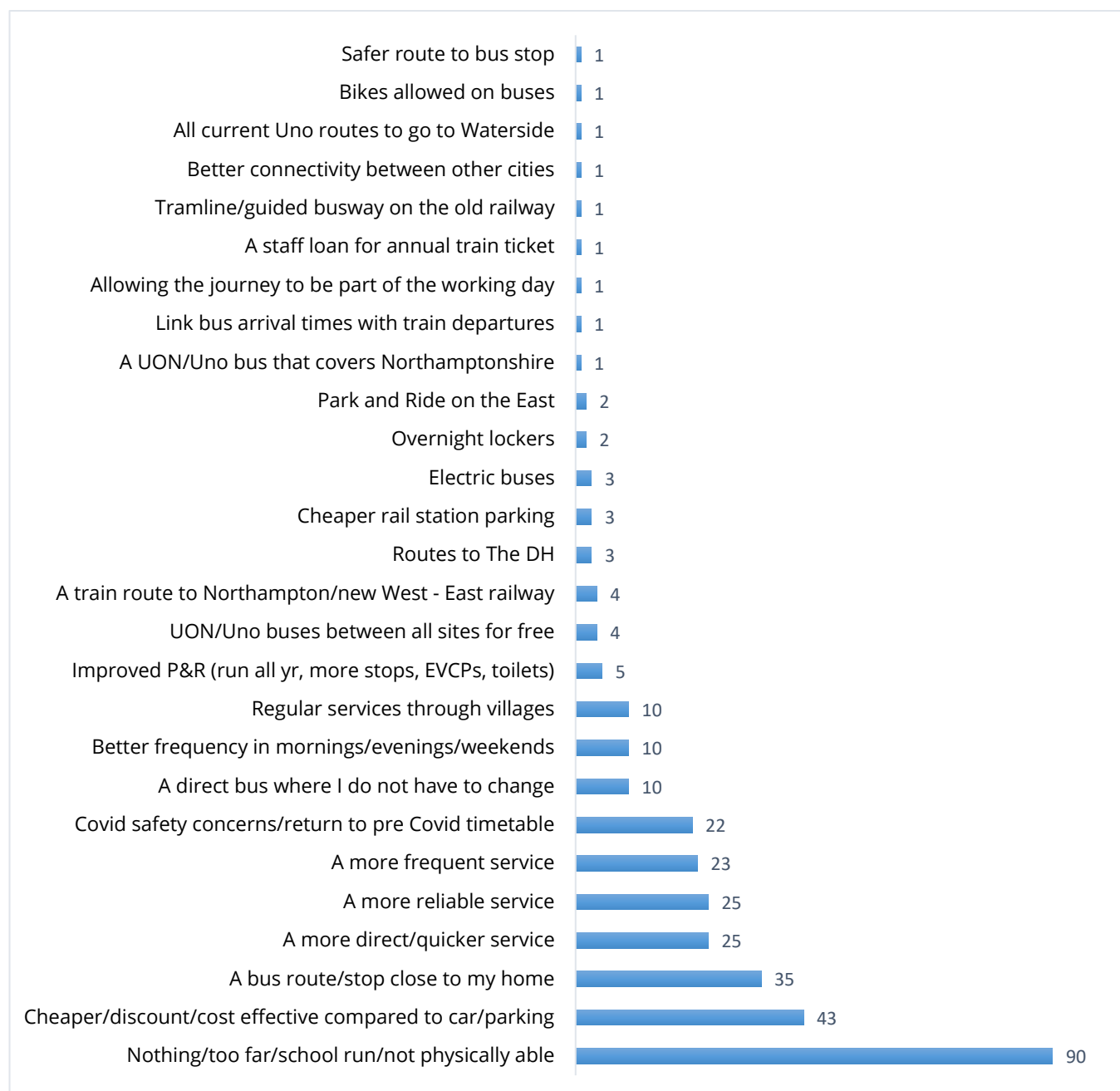


The main response to this question was '*nothing/it's too far/I have other commitments*', this is likely partly due to the culture of travel in the town – active travel is not well embedded – however, for many of us we look at the journey as a whole and not components, it may be a last mile solution would encourage people. This should be considered as a more specific question in future surveys, it was a suggestion by 9 respondents.

Of those that do cycle or would consider it, they were largely concerned about the facilities on offer at UON– lack of secure compound bike storage, showers are communal and not accessible (in term of their location at Waterside) and the lockers are not large enough for equipment or wet clothes, also our lockers are currently promoted as 'day lockers'.

Q11. What would encourage you to use public transport to get to/from the University (all or part of the journey)? If you already use public transport what improvements would you most like to see?

Answered by 399 respondents. Some responses were not captured below, for example 'I always take the bus to work'.



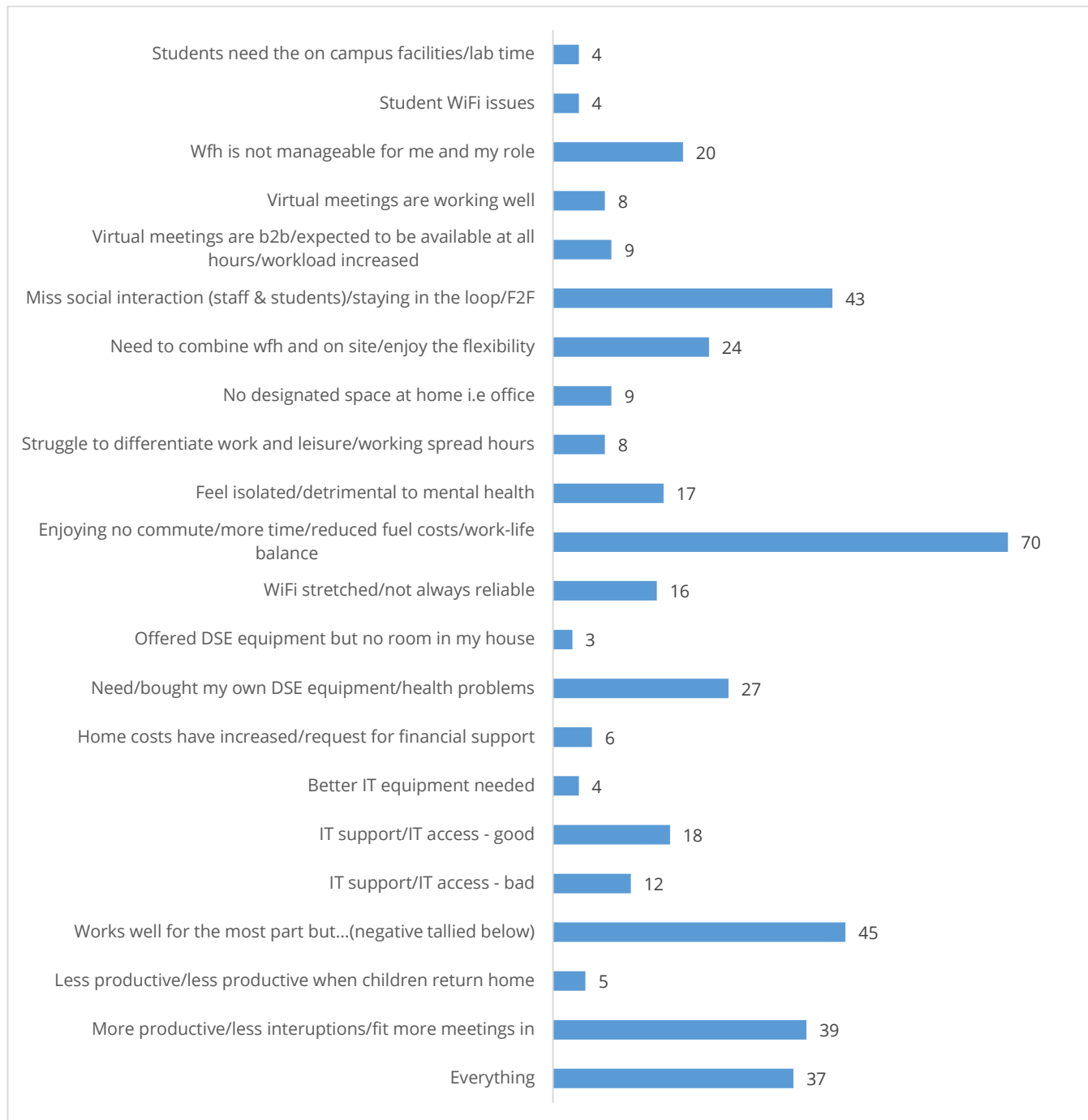
Again, the main response for public transport improvement was '*nothing/too far/other commitments*', again this could be linked to the private vehicle culture in Northamptonshire and looking at the journey as a whole component; a last mile solution may also work here.

The other top concerns were around needing a route close to home but also wanting it to be direct and fast – which is difficult, express buses usually have few stops in order to be quick, so this involves a longer walk to the bus stop. Additionally, respondents were concerned about frequency, including off peak, and reliability. There were COVID-19 concerns but also requests for normal timetables to resume – which may refer more to rail services.

Cost was also raised, for rail this appeared to be the cost of a ticket and the station parking, for bus this referenced a discount on Stagecoach buses and free travel for Uno. It was also mentioned that public transport is not viable when you have a car, if you pay to keep a car this becomes the better value choice because you are comparing the cost of petrol only versus a bus/rail ticket.

Q12. Are you able to work from home? If so, what has worked well and what has not worked well?

Answered by 350 respondents.



The top response for positives of working from home was around the lack of commute and the number of benefits this brings including: better work/life balance, time for exercise in the morning, less stress (missing rush hour), savings on fuel/rail tickets and comments about feeling they are contributing positively to the environment.

Several staff members did comment on missing the social interaction with staff and students, this included: social comradery, being kept in the loop, solving things more easily when face to face, spurring new ideas.

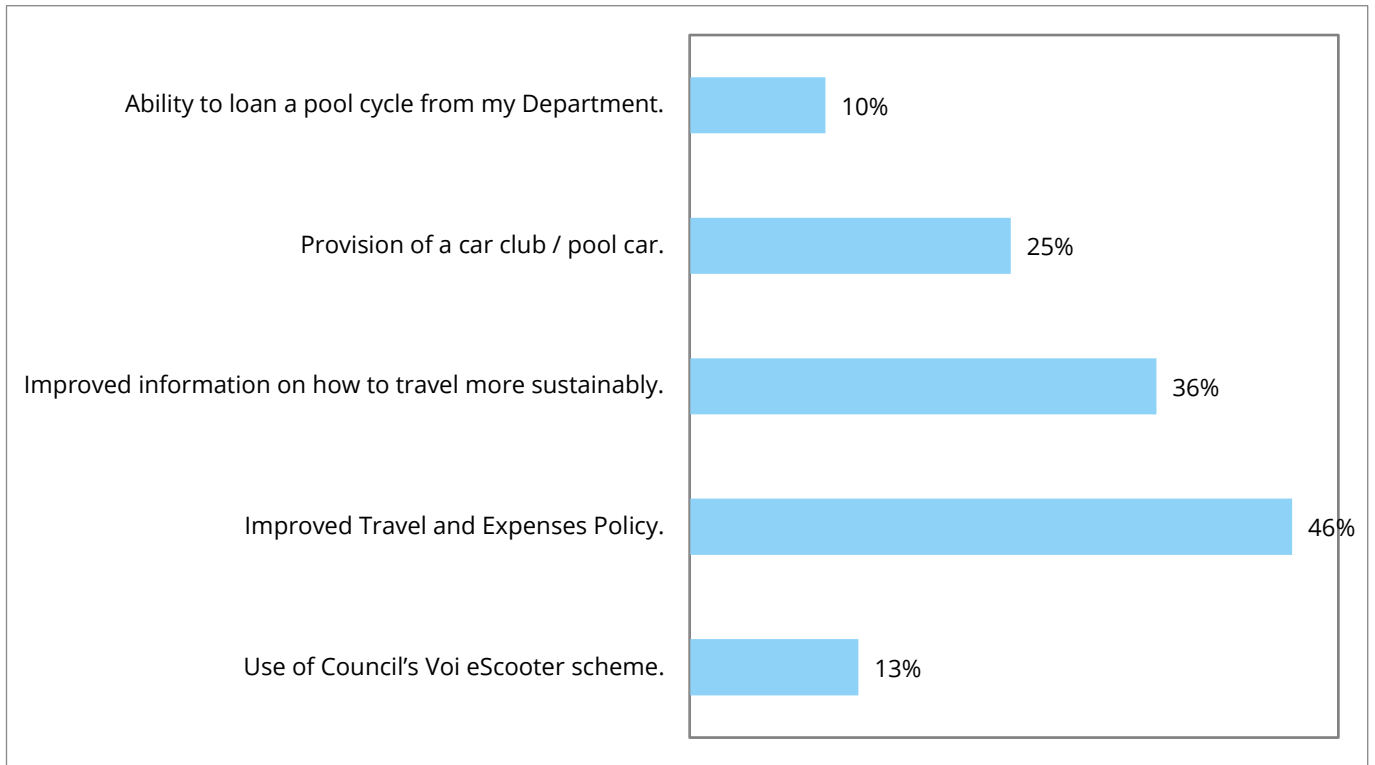
However, the vast majority of staff commented working from home was 'largely positive but...' and then gave a negative, the negative tended to be social interaction, see the example below:

'I am able to work from home. I miss the daily interaction with colleagues but all in all working at home has worked very well for me. i have had access to everything so to date everything has worked well. i am in no rush to get back to driving through all the traffic that the delights of rush hour bring.'

Q14. Whilst travelling at/for work, would any of the following help you travel sustainably? (Please tick all that apply).

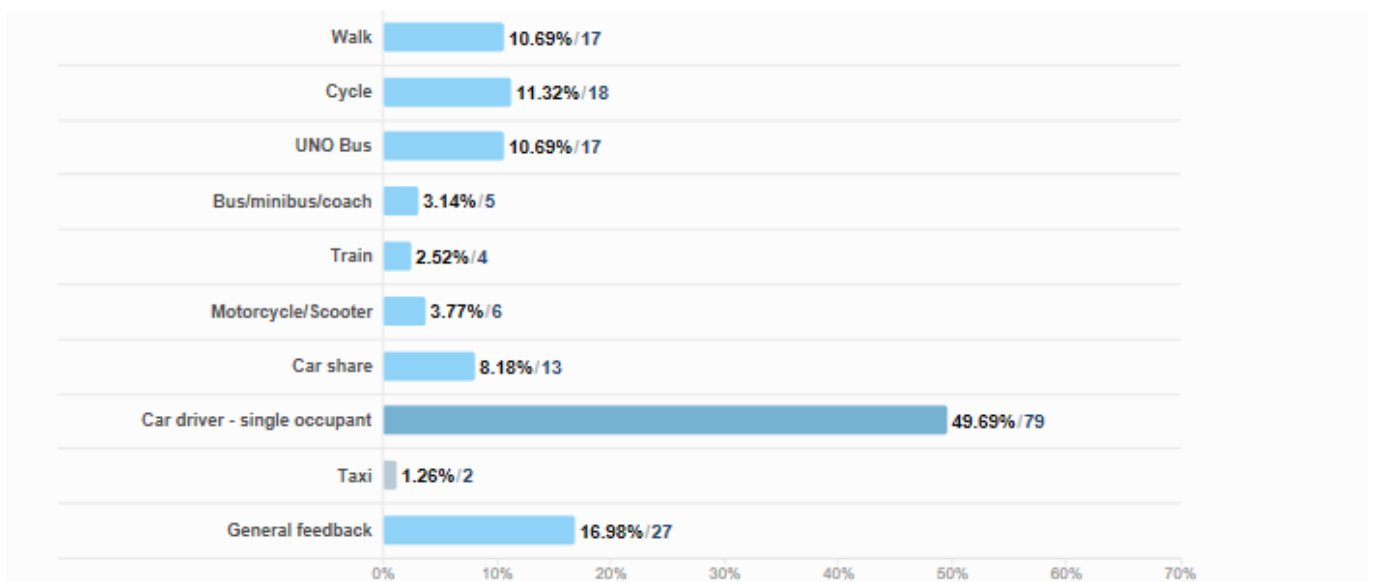
Answered by 350 respondents.

Caveat: survey failed to present a 'none of the above' option, which must be taken in to consideration when looking at the results.



Q15/16. If you would like to make a comment regarding travel, please do so below. Please select the travel mode your comment belongs to?

Answered by 159 respondents.



The comments...

Car share	App to see live lift requests	1
	Cover expenses in emergency scenarios	1
	Have a UON car share site	1
Motorbikes	Motorbike details should not be requested on U4BW	2
Cycling/ Walking	Improve facilities (storage, showers, secure parking)	8
	Improved/new/safer cycling routes	5
	Promote the Cycle to Work Scheme more	1
Bus	Overnight lockers	1
	Subsidised local buses	1
	Uno Express covering A45/Well'boro'/R. Lakes	5
	Timetables to start earlier/finish later	2
	More frequent/reliable buses	2
	Uno to cover NN4 area	1
	Uno to cover Wellingborough Road	1
	Add foliage to the bus stop roofs (Bee Stops)	1
Working from home	Permanent plans for wfh to continue	5
Car	More EVCPs on site	4
	Free use of EVCPs	1
	Financial incentives for electric car purchase	3
	Pool car available for meetings	2
	University minibus for trips	1

Parking	Park and ride on the East of town	3
	Connect the car parks	1
	Concerns of space post-Covid19 now students are parking	1
	More parking in car park 1 and 2	1
	ANPR barriers do not work for me	3
	Payment machines are unreliable	1
	Make the salary deduction opt in monthly	3
	More flexible payment approach for cyclists/pedestrians	4
	Disagree with parking charges	2
	Monthly deductions should not relate to pay scale	1
	Hourly paid monthly parking pass is too expensive	1
	Free parking for electric cars	2
	Free evening parking for night staff	1

Conclusion

In conclusion, 2020 has encouraged new ways of working that consequently promote a flexible travel approach. For many this is well received with aspirations of it continuing long term to benefit their work/life balance and overall productivity.

This will also allow UON to continue with its low SOV rates, impacting positively on Travel Plan targets and plans to decarbonise the university.

Less travel to site will however affect the current parking situation at Waterside and the Development Hub and the effects should be considered.

There are a number of tangible staff requests that the university can implement with the necessary budget, including: cycling and walking facilities on campus and potentially the Park and Ride. Other quick wins requiring less budget include: registering motorbikes via email (not U4BW) and updated Travel Expenses Policy.

This report does not conclude all findings, there is more that can be done with the data and the Student Travel Survey results are still to follow. Moreover, actions from this survey can be used to inform the 2021 Staff Travel Survey and the types of questions we need to ask to drive the travel plan forward.