



Corporate car pool keeps Dumfries & Galloway Council moving



Easy-to-book pool cars help cut staff travel costs and carbon emissions, and increase vehicle and officer safety.

From grey fleet to corporate car pool

Owing to Dumfries & Galloway's large geographical area and low population density, the council's officers cover a lot of miles in the course of their work every day.

In the past, many of them used their own cars for work. However, removal of the Essential Car User allowance (through implementation of the Single Status agreement), coupled with rising fuel prices, led the council to look for a fairer, more cost-effective alternative to own-car (or 'grey fleet') use.

Hire cars were ruled out because of low availability in remote areas, as well as the challenge of ensuring effective use. Instead, the council implemented a centrally controlled corporate pool of 100 vehicles — mostly small cars, as journeys usually involve only one or two officers. An efficient booking system was essential to making the scheme easy to manage and convenient to use.

Outcomes

- ▶ **12% cost savings on staff travel over two years**
- ▶ **75-tonne reduction in annual carbon emissions**
- ▶ **80% car pool utilisation — exceeding the council's target and reducing grey fleet reliance**
- ▶ **Improved vehicle and driver safety with tracking technology and panic buttons in every pool car**
- ▶ **Easy-to-use online booking system developed in Civica Tranman avoids the need for fleet team involvement.**

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Harry Thomson, Head of Business, Support and Professional Services, Dumfries & Galloway Council

12% savings on staff travel costs

80% pool vehicle utilisation

75 tonnes less CO2 per year

Dumfries & Galloway Council already used Civica Tranman for fleet control and management. Unable to find a suitable solution for corporate car pool bookings, it opted to work with Civica to add the required functionality to Tranman.

Pool car booking made simple

“We looked at several commercially available booking systems but none were designed for running an inhouse pool fleet,” says Harry Thomson, Head of Business, Support & Professional Services at the council. “So we worked with Civica, our fleet management system supplier, to develop a pool car booking system in Tranman.”

The council trialled pool car booking by phone and email, but soon decided that an online app would be more efficient, allowing officers to check availability and book cars at any time, with no need to burden the council’s fleet team.

Now, when an officer needs to book a pool car, they simply search Tranman for the required date, time and location. The officer selects a car from the list that displays, and makes the booking, prompted by Tranman to enter details including their name and employee number, and the date of their last driving licence check. Tranman cross-references the booking details with its driver database to ensure that no-one books a car without a current, valid driving licence.

Tranman automatically produces a booking confirmation for the officer to save or print. Officers can easily review future bookings and cancel them if they’re no longer needed. Car keys are held by council office reception staff, who update the booking records when keys are given out and handed back.

Safety up, staff travel costs and CO2 emissions down

All the vehicles in Dumfries & Galloway Council’s pool fleet are fitted with tracking technology and panic buttons. As well as enabling the council to monitor driver behaviour, these features improve security for vehicles and increase protection for staff, especially lone workers.

The council is seeing a reduced reliance on the grey fleet as pool car utilisation is now at around 80%, exceeding both the council’s own target and the average for pool or hire car usage. A review of the corporate pool and booking system by the council’s internal audit team concluded that: “The scheme is well administered and this is reflected in the high utilisation of cars.”

In the first two years of the pool fleet’s operations, the total cost of staff travel dropped by almost 12%, with further savings made the pool car mileage rate remained stable against an increased rate for own-car use.

The council is also reducing CO2 emissions as the entire fleet – even larger vehicles – has emissions below the minimum cap of 120g/km, set when the pool was established. Sampling the council’s grey fleet vehicles indicated an average of 150g/km in carbon emissions. With the estimated annual mileage of the corporate pool running to 1,500,000, simply replacing the grey fleet mileage with pool cars would lead to an annual reduction in emissions of 75 tonnes.

As further evidence of its commitment to the environment, Dumfries & Galloway was the first UK council to include Nissan Leaf electric cars in its pool.

The success of the corporate car pool and booking system led the council to extend them to cover other vehicles it owns, in order to improve access and increase their utilisation.

“We now have control over employee journeys and can monitor where vehicles are. We have also reduced our grey fleet mileage and staff travel costs, and lowered CO2 emissions by 75 tonnes.”

Harry Thomson, Head of Business, Support and Professional Services, Dumfries & Galloway Council

Find out more about [Tranman here](#)

