



Micro Logistics Hub Trial in Pimlico

Setting up a local micro logistics hub to support low-emission deliveries



Picture credit: CRP

Westminster City Council and Cross River Partnership launched this six-month micro logistics hub trial in Pimlico on 17th April 2023 to support low-emission last-mile deliveries in the City of Westminster.

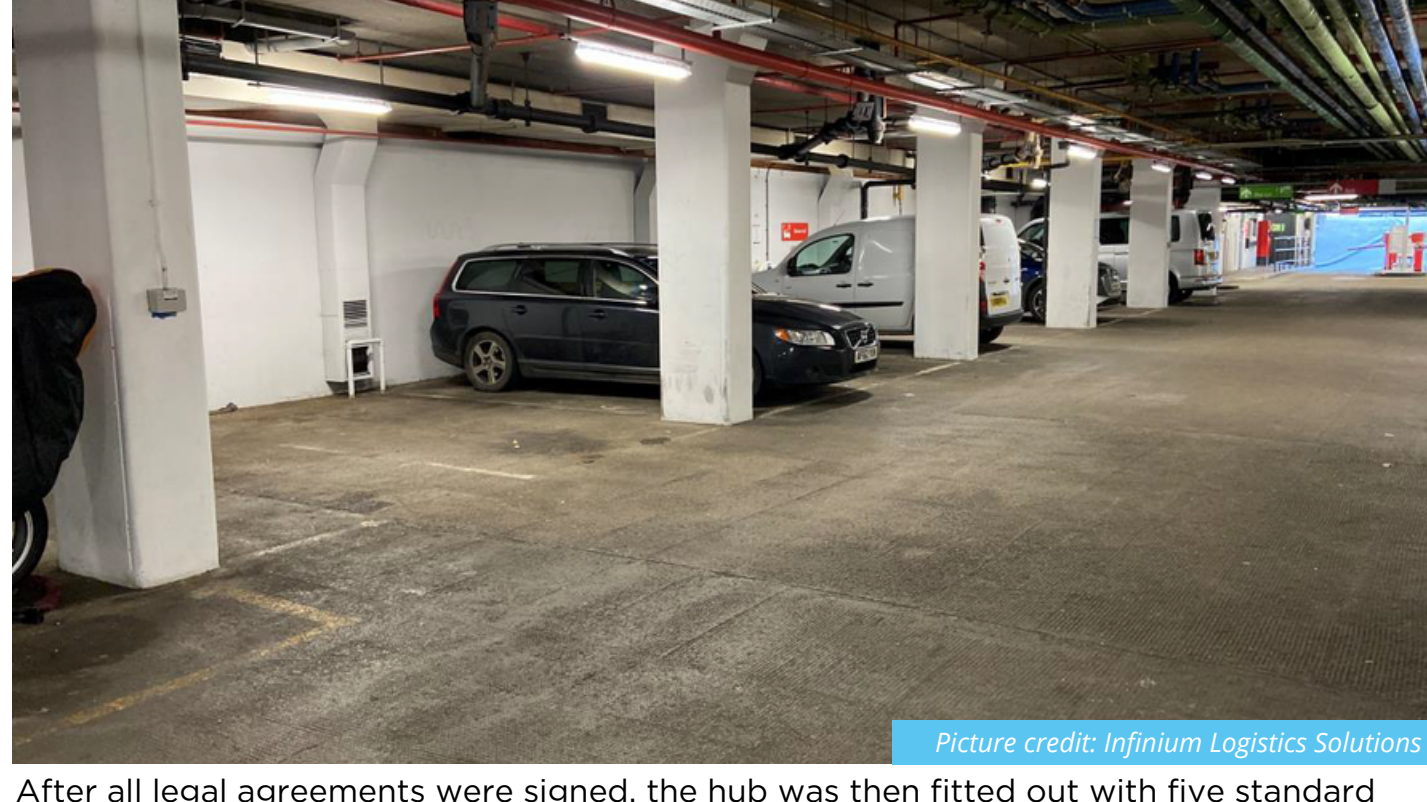
This is a CRP and WCC-funded trial, supported by Infinium Logistics, and carried out by Delivery Mates low-emission couriers.

Based in the Q-Park Pimlico parking facility, the hub receives parcels from an electric delivery vehicle and then distributes them by electric cargo bikes in Westminster and the surrounding area.

Setting Up the Hub

Infinium Logistics was able to find a suitable space for the WCC and CRP-funded micro logistics hub in the City of Westminster. The Q-Park Pimlico hub location met the following criteria:

- Suitably-sized hub surface area of 750 sq ft (six car parking bays worth of space)
- Repurposing of an underutilised section of the indoor parking facility
- Space on entry level (level 0), which facilitates easy loading/unloading within the hub and is located out of the way of other Q-Park customers
- Q-Park Pimlico is surrounded by large and wide main roads, which are accessible to larger electric vans (two metre height restriction)
- Entrance / exit does not cause any inconvenience to other road users on Cumberland Street
- Q-Park Pimlico has a precedent for other use cases, as a storage company and another cargo bike courier already operate from this location
- Existing site management and facilities at Q-Park Pimlico, including 24/7 car park access, security patrols, CCTV, toilets, and 4G WiFi signal



Picture credit: Infinium Logistics Solutions

After all legal agreements were signed, the hub was then fitted out with five standard 240V 13Amp single phase weatherproof double sockets, temporary security fencing and gates, additional portable LED lighting, roll cages, industrial shelving, as well as a desk and chair for Delivery Mates staff on-site.

Impacts

“Westminster has some of the worst air quality in London and making improvements to reduce pollution and emissions is a key priority for us. We’re taking steps to reduce petrol or diesel car travel where we can, and this new micro-logistics hub operating in the heart of Westminster has an important part to play in this by promoting healthy, greener and more efficient deliveries in our city and so we can build a fairer environment in Westminster for everyone.”

- Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg, Cabinet Member for City Management and Air Quality, Westminster City Council

6 car parking bays repurposed

170 parcels transported via the hub on average per day

722 kilometres of cargo bike deliveries from the micro logistics hub in the first month

184kg of CO₂, 384g of NO_x, and 17g of PM_{2.5} emissions saved in the first month

How does this Micro Logistics Hub work?

Micro logistics hubs are small, secure spaces that couriers and operators can use to receive, sort, and send deliveries in central locations, ideally by cargo bike or walking porters, to support low-emission last-mile deliveries.

The micro-hub acts as a crucial step for consolidating deliveries, bulk-buying, and a place to sort deliveries, which can reduce the number of polluting vehicle trips, congestion and air pollution.

Delivery Mates, the company appointed to run the hub, receives goods on electric vehicles at the micro logistics hub and then delivers them on electric cargo bikes to the local area. Loading and unloading takes place within the car park to respect residents’ wellbeing and keep noise levels at minimum. Delivery Mates operate five existing hubs in London and will share important data and insights, such as CO₂ emissions savings and the number of parcel collections and deliveries with CRP, throughout the trial.

Do you have the right space for a hub? Find out more [here](#).

What is Clean Air Logistics for London?

Cross River Partnership’s Clean Air Logistics for London Programme (CALL) is a Defra-funded project led by Westminster City Council in collaboration with 12 project partners. The project aims to move more freight into London via river rather than road, supported by zero emission delivery methods in Central London. CALL will build on the success of CRP’s Clean Air Villages 4 programme.

The CALL project will expand river freight in London, reducing both congestion and pollution at the same time. A lack of light freight being moved by river has been highlighted and investment in infrastructure is required to increase the viability of this. CALL locations have been chosen to reflect GLA Air Quality Focus Areas and the importance of the River Thames for freight. The CALL project will support the delivery of Defra’s Clean Air Strategy, Westminster City Council’s Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) and other’s partners air quality objectives.



Project Partners

Cross River Partnership is proud to be working with the following Local Authorities and other partners.

