

WS2: Urban Logistics Hubs

Wandsworth Micro Logistics Hub Trial



Project Overview

Cross River Partnership (CRP) launched the six-month micro logistics hub trial in the Southside Shopping Centre Car Park, managed by APCOA, in the London Borough of Wandsworth on 31st August 2023. The trial then ended on 21st February 2024. This initiative supports low-emission last-mile deliveries and was subsidised by CRP's Defra-funded Clean Air Logistics for London and Smarter Greener Logistics programmes. The 900 sq ft micro logistics hub was identified, qualified, designed, built and managed by Decarbon Logistics Solutions. The deliveries, which consisted of fresh flowers during the trial period, were carried out by Delivery Mates. The car park has 24/7 access, security patrols, CCTV, 4G WiFi signal, power supply to charge the e-cargo bikes' batteries, as well as access to welfare facilities in the shopping centre. The fresh flowers are received at the hub overnight before being sorted into delivery routes, loaded and distributed by electric cargo bikes and electric vehicles in the local and surrounding areas.

Operations & Insights

The micro logistics hub receives their consolidated fresh flower deliveries from outside London overnight on a van. These are then sorted at the hub in the morning until 10AM. Due to delays in the global supply chain and a shortage of cargo bikes in the UK, the courier couldn't allocate any cargo bikes to operate from the hub in the first two trial months. Instead, 2 e-vans transported the flowers from this hub to the Pimlico hub and their other London hub in SE15. These operations persisted throughout the entire trial period and these 2 e-vans transported 67% of the total flower deliveries to the other two hubs. From the third month onwards, a mix of 3 cargo bikes, 1 e-van, 2 e-mopeds (only in trial month 3), and 1 e-car fulfilled the remaining 33% of the total deliveries from the hub directly to customers in the local area and 15 London boroughs. Since the trial concluded in February 2024, the courier had been renewing their license agreement with Decarbon Logistics Solutions on a monthly rolling basis while they assessed their long-term operations from this hub based on the trial outcomes. They recently decided to vacate the hub by the end of May, potentially making it available for another courier to operate from.



Did you know?

Hubs act as a crucial step for consolidating deliveries, bulk-buying, and a place to sort deliveries, which can reduce the number of polluting vehicle trips and therefore congestion and vehicle emissions.

Impacts



Resulting emissions savings of 7,302kg of CO2, 12,957g of NOx, 190g of PM2.5, and 264g of PM10



Saved CO2 emissions equivalent to emissions from 149 football-pitch sized forest fires



Total of 63,306 fresh flower deliveries transported via the micro logistics hub in six months



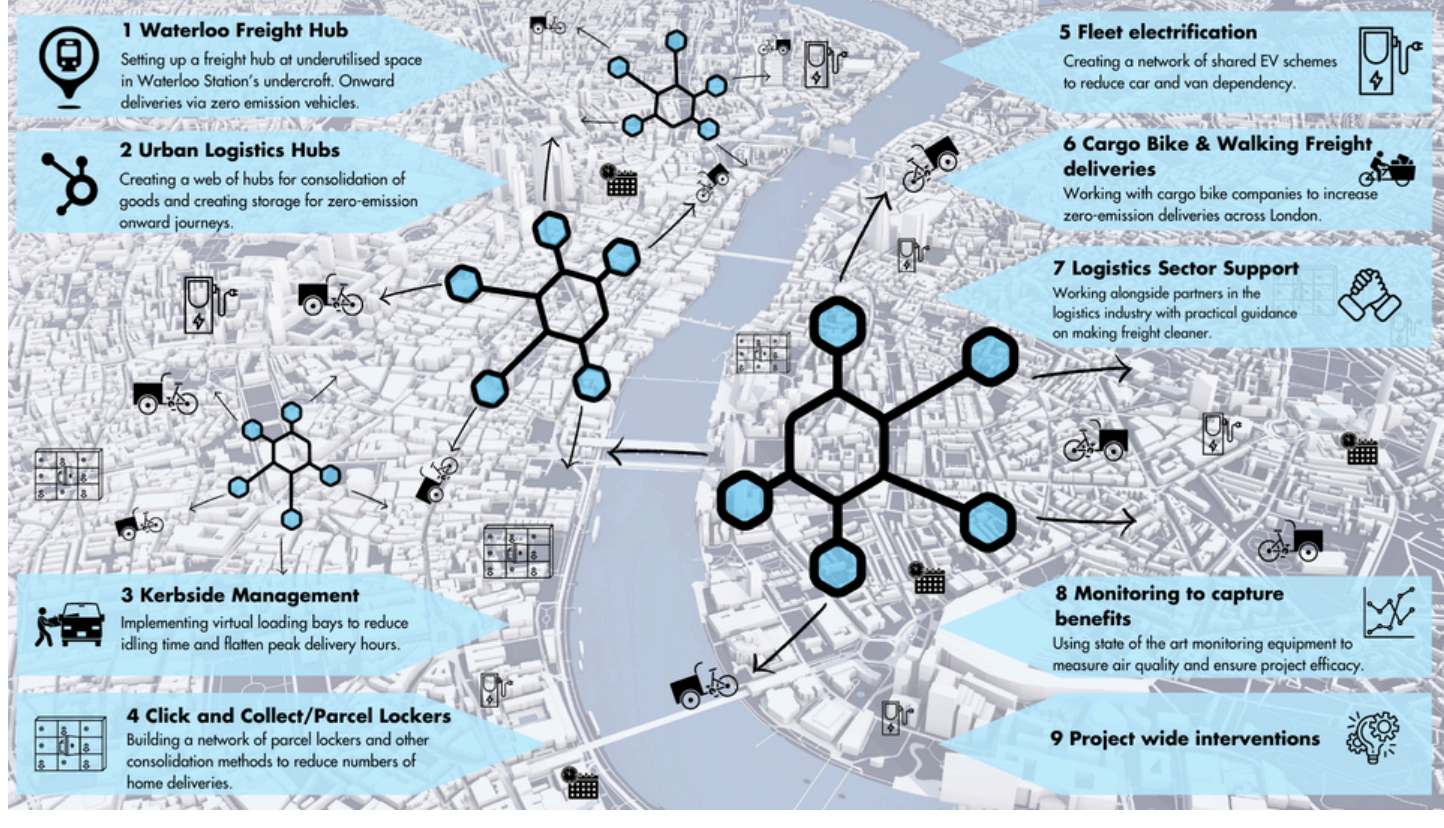
E-cargo bike distance travelled (2,191 miles) equivalent to one-third of the Earth's circumference

What is Smarter Greener Logistics?

Smarter Greener Logistics (SGL) is a Defra-funded project led by Westminster City Council in collaboration with 26 project partners. The project aims to minimise the impact of freight on noise, air quality, traffic and pavement space in London by making improvements across 15 London boroughs and four London Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). SGL will build on the success of CRP's Clean Air Logistics for London (CALL).

SGL forms part of CRP's wider activities to encourage sustainable logistics across London. This includes the development of rail freight and walking freight initiatives, helping to improve London's air quality and supporting CRP's vision to make London a better place to live, work and visit.

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Project Partners

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



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