

On Friday 30th September 2022, the Inspector requested further details of the Local Transport Plan and bus infrastructure improvements proposed, as they relate to Thornbury and the Appeal proposals.

In addition, the Inspector requested confirmation of the distance to the nearest existing bus stops on the T1 service.

Local Transport Plan

The Joint Local Transport Plan 4 (JLTP4, March 2020)¹ is led by the West of England Combined Authority (WECA), working with Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire councils (SGC), and sets out the vision for transport up to 2036. It sets out *“how the Authorities aim to achieve a well-connected sustainable transport network that works for residents across the region; a network that offers greater, realistic travel choices and makes walking, cycling and public transport the natural way to travel.”*

The JLTP4 sets out the vision and measures for connectivity within the West of England at Section 7. Policy W1 (Provide more public transport options and improve service quality) is supported by the following interventions (Page 50):

- *“Provide high quality and reliable mass and rapid transit*
- *Support and enhance existing public transport services*
- *Improve the availability and accessibility of accurate travel information and ticketing”*

At Page 53, the JLTP4 sets out its proposal for Bus Rapid Transit – metrobus. This states that *“Extensions are proposed to serve the growing communities outside the Bristol urban area...”*, with *“Almondsbury to Thornbury”* identified as a proposed extension.

Local Connectivity is addressed at section 8 of the JLTP4. Policy L1 (Enable walking and cycling, ‘active modes of travel’, to be the preferred choice for shorter journeys). This is supported by the following interventions (Page 84):

- *“Provide an attractive, safe and usable walking and cycling network*
- *Provide schemes to support the uptake of cycling”*

At Page 85, the JLTP4 sets out its regional priorities, which includes *“A38 Corridor improvements between Thornbury and the Bristol boundary.”*

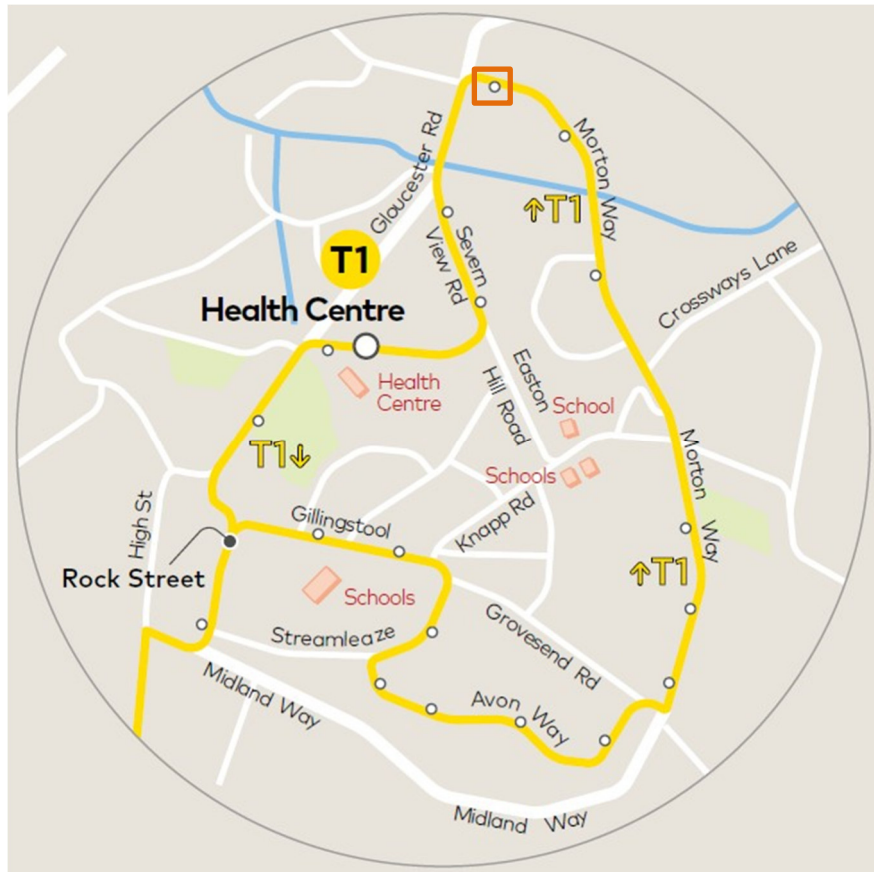
Figure 11.1 of the JLTP4 (pages 128-129) presents, in diagrammatic form, the schemes included in the major schemes programme. This includes the above identified schemes (metrobus and cycle route improvements along the A38 between Bristol and Thornbury).

¹ <https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/JLTP4-Adopted-Joint-Local-Transport-Plan-4.pdf>

The WECA/SGC proposed A38 corridor improvements (see Paras 3.2.10 to 3.2.14 of Mr Thorne’s Statement) are therefore to be delivered in line with the identified JLTP4 regional priorities.

Nearest Bus Stops

The latest timetable and route map for the T1 bus service is included at **Appendix A²**. This becomes effective from 9th October 2022. The route map is included on the last page and includes existing bus stop locations. The Thornbury inset is set out below for information.



The service terminates at Thornbury Health Centre, which is located 1,485 metres (actual walk distance) from the nearest residential area of the Appeal site (see Table 3.1 of Mr Thorne’s Transport Statement Covering Transportation and Highway Matters, Feb 2022).

As set out within the Appended timetable and map, the T1 performs a loop around Thornbury. The nearest bus stop to the Appeal site (which is served by the T1) is ‘Swallow Park’, at the northern end of Morton Way (marked with an orange square on the above insert). This bus stop is located 1,295 metres (actual walk distance) from the nearest residential area of the Appeal site.

It is this T1 bus service which is proposed to be extended to serve the Appeal site, as set out within Mr Thorne’s Statement, and as agreed with South Gloucestershire Council.

² https://www.firstbus.co.uk/sites/default/files/public/maps/T1--Web_0.pdf

Appendix A

T1 Bus Service Timetable and Map