

West of England Joint Local Transport Plan 4

Yatton Parish Council Comments – March 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Joint Local Transport Plan 4 (JLTP4).

We note that there is no mention in the document of the traffic problems facing Yatton. The High Street through the village is frequently impassable, particularly when there has been an incident on the M5. Also, the Smallway junction between Yatton and Congresbury is an accident black spot. We hope that these matters, which are of serious concern to local residents, will be addressed as the Joint Local Transport Plan adds detail to its strategic vision.

The Objectives of JLTP4 can be briefly summarised thus:

1. To support economic growth;
2. To improve equality;
3. To improve air quality;
4. To counter climate change;
5. To improve health and well-being;
6. To improve the environment in all its aspects.

We think that these Objectives need to be rebalanced. We understand that economic growth can be a good way to improve the lives of all citizens, provided that the benefits of growth are shared fairly. However, economic growth has historically come at the cost of environmental degradation, and the effects of the resulting increased atmospheric and noise pollution are suffered disproportionately by the less well-off. The eventual consequences in terms of accelerated climate change will also bear most grievously on the most vulnerable.

We would therefore like to suggest that the Objectives are re-ordered in order to emphasise sustainability and equality. Air quality would be included in environment, giving the following list:

1. Improve the environment in all its aspects;
2. Improve health and well-being;
3. Counter climate change;
4. Improve equality;
5. Support economic growth.

We would also like to add the following Outcomes to those already listed in JLTP4:

Improving the Environment

- Outcome 1. Public transport networks are fully integrated across the region.
- Outcome 2. Bus services across the entire region are frequent and affordable, and follow routes that suit local residents.
- Outcome 3. “Multi-modal” contactless travel payment cards are in use across the region.
- Outcome 4. All villages have points of access to public transport situated so that no resident living within the settlement boundary is more than 0.5km from an access point.

Improving Health and Well-Being

- Outcome 1. Independent public surveys show that West of England citizens rate as “very high” their level of satisfaction with the provision and safety of walking and cycling routes across the region.
- Outcome 2. A full Quiet Lane Network is in place, making walking, cycling and horse-riding safer and more pleasant, and better connected to other routes.

Countering Climate Change

- Outcome 1. Electric vehicles are used by public bodies wherever and whenever possible.
- Outcome 2. Electric vehicle recharging points are numerous and widely available across the region.
- Outcome 3. “Commuting Clubs” that use autonomous driverless vehicles are in use across the region.
- Outcome 4. High-speed wireless broadband is available across the region, supporting home working.