

# Technical Note

<b>Job Title</b>	A2Dominion NW Bicester Exemplar Site		
<b>Job Number</b>	J322413	<b>Date</b>	14/10/2015
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<b>Subject</b>	<b>NW Bicester (Exemplar) Bus Service – Site Meeting for Bus Route &amp; Town Centre Stops</b>		

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 On the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 a site meeting between Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) officers (David Taylor and Will Pedley), Paul Gray from Grayline and mode transport planning was undertaken to discuss and agree the location of the bus stop(s) to serve the new Exemplar Bus Service within the town centre.
- 1.2 The site meeting was arranged to specifically discuss the following:
- Bus stop(s) location in Bicester town centre;
  - Confirmation of route for initial bus service for the Exemplar site (**Appendix A**);
  - Process required to secure formal agreement for bus stop location and any associated infrastructure works.

## 2 Bus Stop(s) location in Bicester town centre

- 2.1 A walk and talk audit was undertaken to identify which existing bus stop would be appropriate to be used by the Exemplar Bus Service. A number of laybys were assessed and considered unsuitable due to the existing bus services that already utilise these areas along Manorsfield Road.
- 2.2 The bus stops and laybys that are located towards Hanover Gardens were considered acceptable in principle by OCC as the frequency and use of these stops by existing bus services is not as high as the bus stops located near the entrance of the shopping centre.
- 2.3 The existing bus stop that has been identified to be used by the Exemplar Bus Service in this location is the Number 6 (No 6) stop, which already has the required public transport

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infrastructure in place.

**Figure 2.1 - Image of Manorsfield Road No 6 bus stop**



Some minor work is required to add the future service number of the Exemplar Bus Service to the existing flag display once it has been decided and the bus service / route has been registered with the Traffic Commissioner. This work would be undertaken by OCC at the appropriate time.



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The issue of a second bus stop was raised by Grayline to aid the proposed 30-minute bus service frequency on the opposite side of Manorsfield Road from the No 6 bus stop.

**Figure 2.2 - Approximate location of second bus stop along Manorsfield Road**



OCC confirmed such a second bus stop is desirable and agreed to the proposed location in principle. However, such a new stop would be subject to a further site meeting with a number of third parties, such as the Police, a Bicester Town Council representative, Local Councillors for the County and District Councils, OCC officers and the bus operator.

- 2.4 It was confirmed on site that OCC would organise this meeting within the next few weeks due to the importance of Grayline having to register the new bus route with the Traffic Commissioner before the bus service starts on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 (need a minimum of 56 days to register the service). The current meeting dates proposed by OCC are 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015.
- 2.5 In terms of the existing highway infrastructure to serve the Exemplar Bus Service within the town centre, OCC confirmed this was considered acceptable to accommodate the future pedestrian / passenger movements for the bus service, apart from the proposed new stop which will require a new flag, pole and timetable case. The cost of a new Premium Route Standard flag, pole and timetable case (using OCC rates) is currently at £1,052.80. OCC schedule of rates attached in **Appendix B**.
- 2.6 There are two options for these minor works to be delivered for the new bus stop. The first option is for the works to be undertaken as part of a s278 legal agreement. However, for such minor works this route is not recommended as it would be timely and costly. The second option that is recommended for consideration, is that A2 Dominion pay £1,052.80 to OCC via a



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Unilateral Undertaking for them to undertake the works. This option is quick and does not include any associated legal costs. It is important to note this legal agreement is not to be altered as it has specifically been written to avoid incurring any legal costs. An example of the OCC paperwork for such a short form legal agreement is included in **Appendix C** for consideration.

## **3 Other items raised**

- 3.1 The number for the bus service is required, currently Grayline have drafted up a timetable showing “EC1” as the dedicated service number (**Appendix D**). This number needs to be confirmed with Grayline to assist in the completion of the timetable and the registration of the service. “EC1” appears acceptable, “E1” for “Exemplar” maybe an alternative service number to consider to promote and advertise the service and development site around Bicester.
- 3.2 OCC continue to remain keen to discuss the long-term strategy and objectives of the bus service for the whole of the NW Bicester development site and the routes for the overall site. As not instructed to carry out this work OCC have been recommended again to take this issue up with A2 Dominion and Hyder.
- 3.3 Grayline remain keen to future proof the Exemplar Bus Service as part of the long term strategy for the overall NW Bicester development site. Grayline are also seeking confirmation on the type of vehicle to use i.e. Euro 6 or Euro 5 specification and the vehicle wrapping details.