

**Mobility disadvantage,  
access to training and employment,  
and wellbeing:  
the case of Lawrence Weston in  
Bristol**

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# Outline

- How this research idea came about
- Academic research and policy background
- Research questions & methodology
- Update on progress
- Looking ahead

# The story back in Nov 2012...

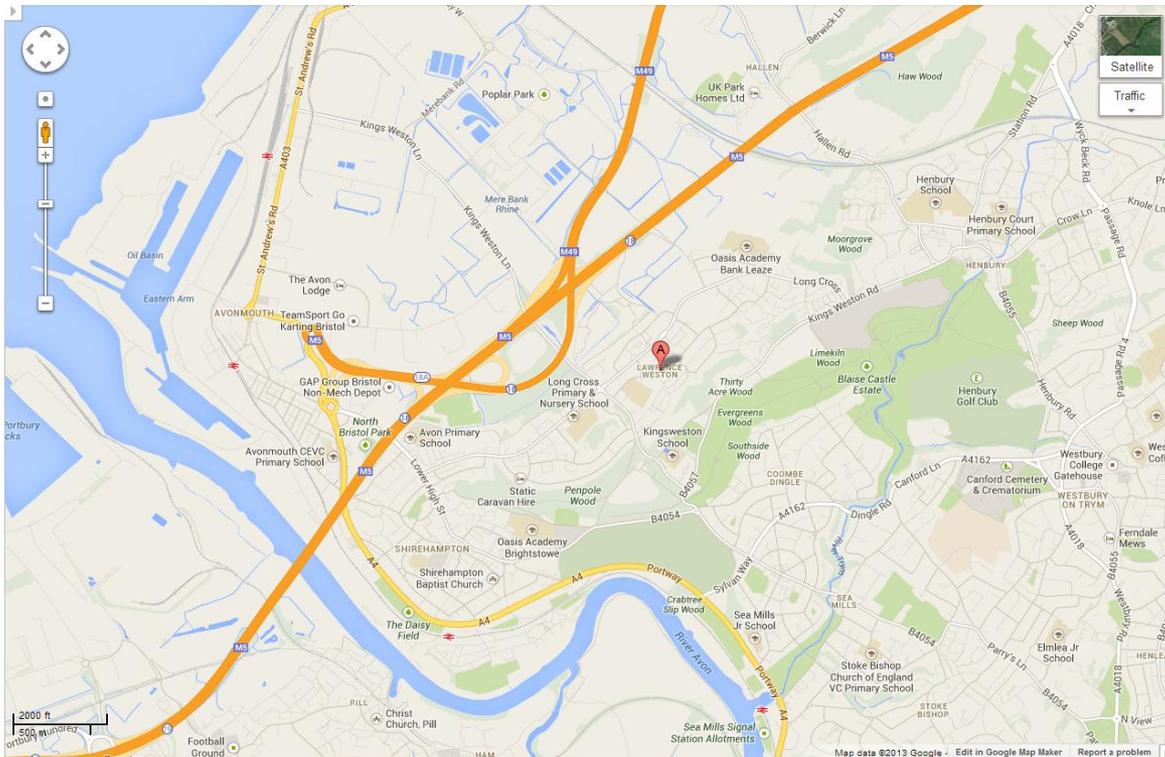
- “If you don’t have your own transport you cannot work here”

Managing director of Avonmouth-based business

- “Transport is a key barrier to education and employment for young people in Lawrence Weston”

BREAD project manager, Lawrence Weston

# Lawrence Weston



- Post-war housing estate in North West fringe of Bristol
- 4 LSO areas across Avonmouth and Kingweston wards
- 6,500+ residents

# Lawrence Weston



# Lawrence Weston

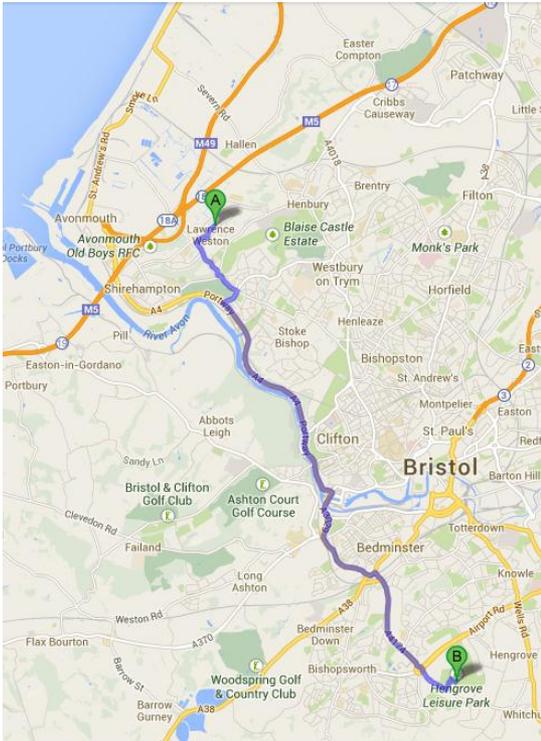
Compared to Bristol city:

- higher % children, young people & young families
- Smaller % local businesses & jobs
- Higher % disadvantaged in relation to employment, education, skills & training, health

In addition:

- Over 50% dwellings are owned by BCC or other social landlords
- Cut off from nearby communities by open space and major roads
- Limited transport links to city centre, education & jobs

# Access to education/skills/training



Dear First Bus

As young people in Bristol, we rely on your buses to get to school, college and work.

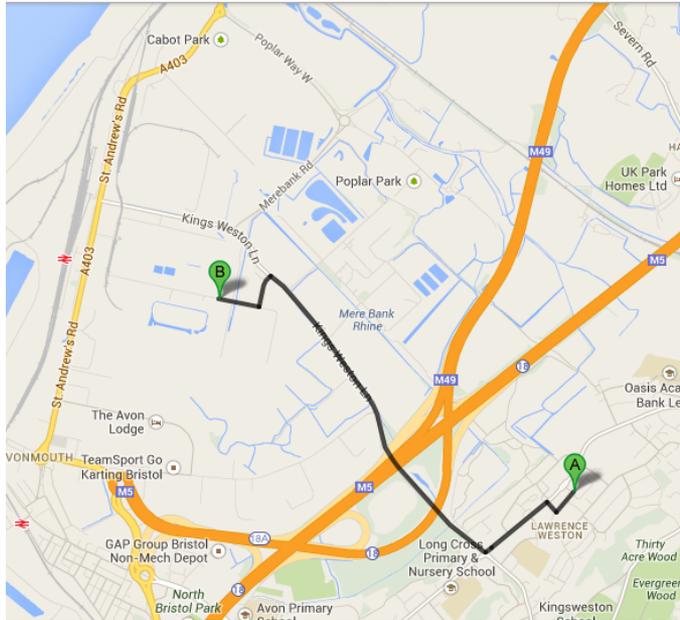
The thing is, the bus fares are really expensive which makes us feel stuck in the area where we live, and unable to access services around Bristol.

We'd like you to give under 19s cheaper tickets so we can afford to travel around the city.

From,

*Blue, Sam, Mersey, VENKA, Emily, Jamie, John, Kieran, Caroline, Conor & Teddy,*  
on behalf of all the young people in Bristol

# Access to employment



## Research study proposal (Feb 2013)

- To understand the **role** transport plays in **accessing education, training & employment** for young people in Lawrence Weston, and the impact this has on their **wellbeing**
- To advance **academic knowledge** as well as inform **policy making**



### SPUR

Research grant for early  
career researchers  
at  
UWE  
(April 2013)

# Key concepts

Social exclusion

Social disadvantage

Social capital

Transport

Young people

Accessibility

Mobility

Wellbeing

Deprivation

Life chances

# Transport & social exclusion



Academic research in UK, Australia, Americas etc.



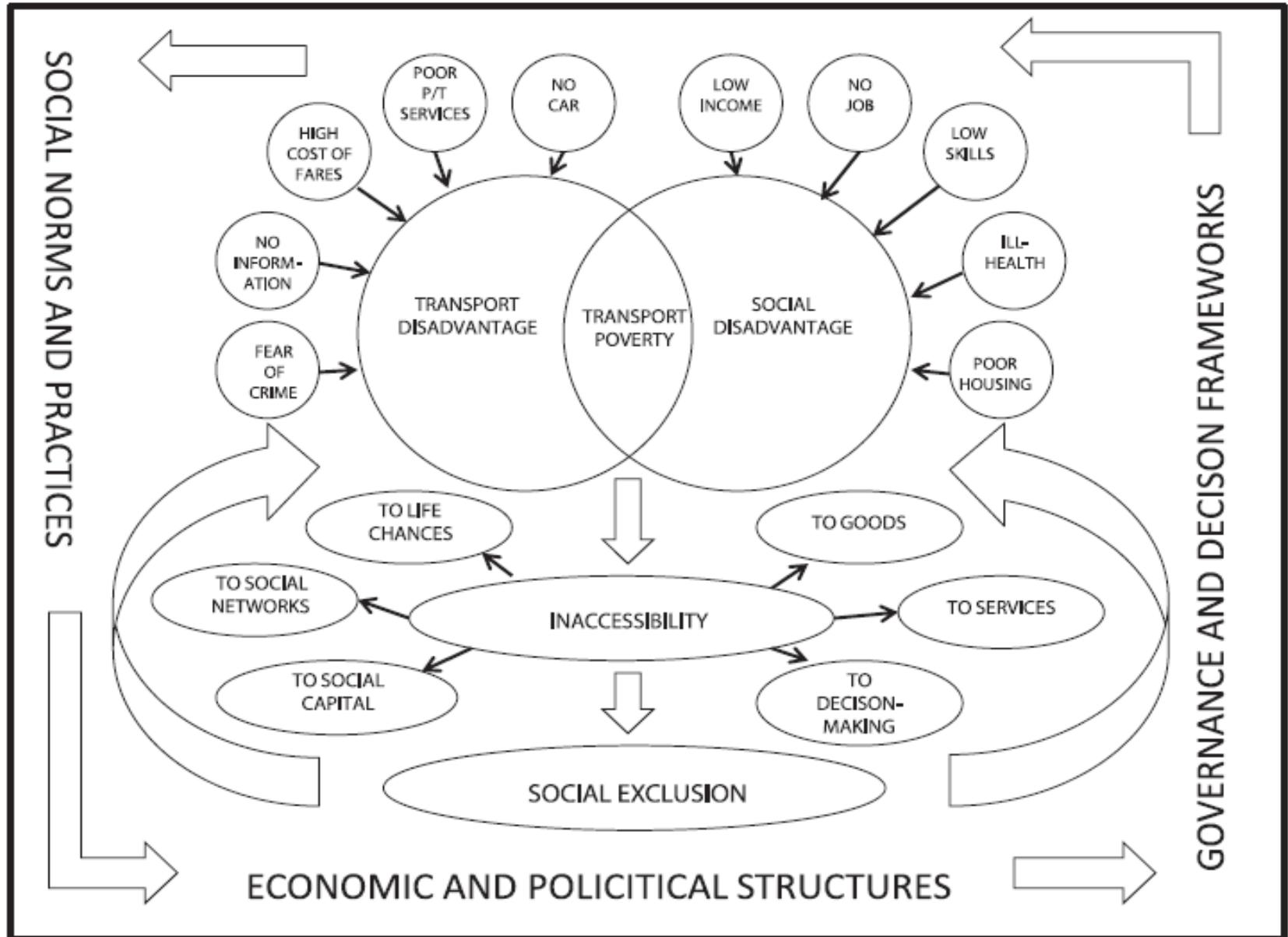


Fig. 1. Diagram to illustrate the relationship between transport disadvantage, social disadvantage and social exclusion.

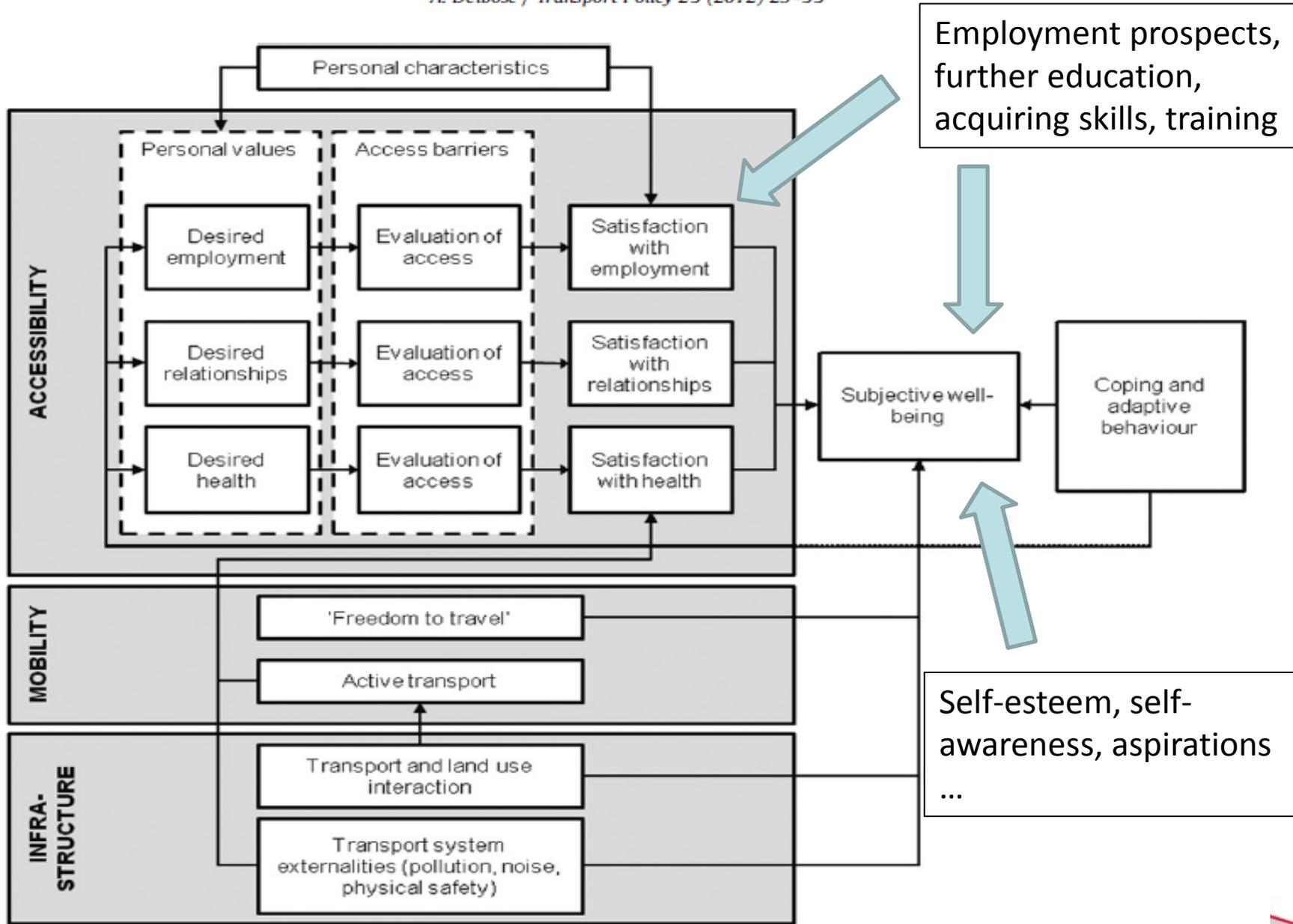


Fig. 1. Theoretical model of transport's influence on subjective well-being. Note: Life domains shown here are not exhaustive.

# Methodology



## Qualitative methods

- Focus groups
- Face to face interviews

About 20 young people  
Securing support from  
local organisations  
acting as 'gate keepers'  
e.g. youth clubs and  
community groups

# Progress

- Application for ethical review submitted
- Site visits undertaken
- Gatekeepers identified and on board
- Fieldwork to take place in January-March 2014
- Analysis and reporting April-June 2014
- Presentation of findings at public workshop in July 2014

# Looking ahead

- Broaden research expertise around transport, social exclusion and wellbeing
- Connect with LSTF interventions
- Look for further funding (UK, EU ...)
- Make a policy impact
- ...???

# Thank you!

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